



First Nations Parents Club A Guide for Club Coordinators and New Clubs

The First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) and First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) appreciate your interest in the First Nations Parents Club. For simplicity, the First Nations Parents Club uses the term “parents,” but the Club intends the term to be inclusive of grandparents, family members, and other caregivers who contribute to the lives of First Nations children.

The First Nations Parents Club was established to recognize and support the important role that parents play in their children’s education.

Eligibility

The First Nations Parents Club involves locally-based Clubs across British Columbia. Any group of First Nations parents based in British Columbia can register with the First Nations Parents Club.

For example, local Clubs may include a group of parents from a particular First Nations community, First Nations parents associated with a specific school (either First Nations school, public school or independent school), parents who are enrolled in a First Nations controlled adult education program, or First Nations parents who live in a particular town or city.

Registering a New Club

Registering a new Club requires that you have a local person who is willing to take responsibility for registration and meeting organization. This person is the Club Coordinator and primary contact person.

The Club Coordinator completes the attached registration form and returns it by fax or email to the FNESC office. Once registered, Clubs receive a welcome package that includes start-up materials and incentive items.

Parents Clubs can be structured according to local needs. Most Clubs are informal; they often involve regular opportunities for members to share their support and ideas. Some Clubs hold meetings focused on particular themes, inviting guest speakers to provide information on topics of interest. Clubs may occasionally organize field trips to places such as post-secondary institutions, educational toy stores, or cultural centres.

The registration form asks for an estimate of the number of parents in your club. You are welcome to estimate that number and if it changes, we just ask that you please send an update to FNESC. There is no minimum or maximum number of members for enrollment; some Clubs begin with only two or three members and expand as interest grows.

Resources

Once registered, local Parents Clubs receive a variety of materials and incentives, which may vary year to year.

- Each Club receives regular newsletters that share tips related to home-learning activities, nutrition, physical fitness, and school involvement.
- Clubs also receive copies of a customized First Nations Parents Club calendar.
- Clubs are provided a variety of incentive prizes and gifts to support Club activities.
- Club members may be eligible to attend special events, including workshops on important parenting issues as well as a bi-annual First Nations Parents Club Conference. Travel costs may be provided to support parent participation.

Annual Club Update

Each fall, your Club will be sent a form asking you to confirm and update your Club's contact information and membership numbers.

This annual update is required for Parents Club Grant eligibility.

Photos and News from Clubs

We appreciate receiving photos and news of your Club activities for use in the Parent Calendar, newsletters and other FNEC and FNSA publications.

The provided consent forms must accompany all submitted photos/art. Please include first names in the file name, so that photos and consent forms can be easily matched.

This year, there will be two calls for news and photos. Prizes draws will be held to recognize those contributions.

Contact

For questions, Club registrations and annual updates, and sharing photos and news, please contact us:

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