

**Preamble:**

**As of December 2007 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, as required by Canada has submitted a cabinet document that proposes to change Indian Education Policy without the proper consultation and involvement of the Assembly of First Nations. Canada is ignoring its fundamental responsibility and accountability of a transparent process that the government demands of First Nations in its funding arrangements. In the absence of consultation, it is expected that the cabinet document will have sweeping changes that ignores historical barriers to aboriginal student success.**

**FACT SHEET**

1. Aboriginal Education has been historically under funded by government and is in **Crisis**.
2. First Nation Education Counsellors provide essential support and services for Aboriginal students and are critical to ongoing student success.
3. The Office of the Auditor General states it will take 28 years to bridge the high school attainment gap between First Nation Students and the Canadian Population. The Assembly of First Nation suggests without adequate funding it will take 60 years to close the gap.
4. First Nation Schools have not been indexed for an increase in funding for 20 years.(education price index)
5. Current INAC Band Operated Funding Formula (BOFF) completely ignores the following costs.
  - Costs related to running school libraries
  - Costs related to vocational training
  - Costs related to extra curricular sports and recreational activities
  - Costs related to follow-up of provincial reforms which have significant impact on the curriculum teaching hours and support measures such as literacy, numeracy, character education, oral language, music, and homework assistance.
  - Costs related to programs for protection, revitalization and conservation of Aboriginal languages.
6. Funding for transportation has not kept pace with the increase of fuel prices and maintenance
7. First Nation schools have the highest proportion of students at risk in Canada. In 2001, census reports that 44 % of Aboriginal people 15 years and older had not completed high school.
8. Canada is failing our neediest children. There is a shortfall of 105 million dollars in the special education. (Study on Educational Cost Drivers Simon Mgt Group 2007)
9. First Nation Elementary Teachers receive up to 30% less salary than their provincial counter parts.
10. There is a 2% cap on post secondary funding since 1996/1997.
11. 2,858 Aboriginal students have been denied funding for post secondary education in 2007/08(nationally).
12. First Nation Post Secondary Institutions are being forced to close their doors.
13. Post Secondary Education Gap between First Nations and Canadian Population increased from 14% - 17% in the period between 1991 – 2001.
14. “Aboriginal Language Programming is 1/5 the value of an English as a Second Language”. Funding for Native Language courses in First Nation schools occurs at \$215.00 per student (BOFF) vs. \$1000.00 per student in the provincial schools providing English as a Second Language.
15. Canada’s First Nation Population is increasing at 2.6 %the rate of the Non-Aboriginal Population.
16. By 2018 Canada will lose billions of lost productivity and labour growth.(2001) census 52% of Aboriginal students graduate compared to 70% Non Aboriginals.
17. According to United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) First Nations ranked 64<sup>th</sup> in the world while Canada ranked #1.
18. The population of Aboriginal People in Federal Penal Institutions has risen from 18%-21% in one year.
19. Welfare is 20 times more expensive than a university education.

20. Aboriginal students are supported in Aboriginal Post-Secondary institutions by the Ontario Government at 1/7 the level that students are supported in colleges and universities. (In 2007/08, as little as \$1527/student at Aboriginal Institute as compared to an average of \$9669/student in colleges and universities).

### **Conclusions:**

**The lack of funds means thousands more First Nations students have been unable to attend a post secondary institution due to a lack of funding while First Nation talent goes untapped. By 2018 based on current trends, Canada will lose billions in lost productivity and labour growth. Ottawa's Centre for the Study of Living (GDP) concluded that First Nations educational attainment could benefit 71 billion dollars by 2017 only if First Nations have the same graduation rates of all other Canadians.**

**The federal government of Canada has a fiduciary responsibility for First Nations which includes First Nations educational system responsive to new and growing trends of improved education outcomes. Indian and Northern Affairs has not modified its educational policies for First Nation education for over two generations.**

**Canada is obligated to implement a First Nations education policy that recognizes First Nations right to self-determination and fully involve First Nations as the final authority in decision making that directly affects their lives.**

**Federal funding for elementary education has not kept pace with education costs for over 20 years. The funding shortfall is estimated at 172 million. The funding shortfall for post secondary students is 724 million in 2008-2009. The funding shortfall for First Nations post secondary institution is 110 million in 2008-2009.**

**Band Operated Funding Formula introduced over 20 years ago has not changed and today, the funding shortfall is estimated at 172 million. The cost for delivery of an education formula must include First Nations language and culture, socio-economic determinates, technology, program diversity, school size, class size and composition, needs of school administration, adequate funding for educational authorities, geographic indexes.**

**It is necessary that Canada continue to support the development of First Nations Institutions of higher learning that are controlled by First Nation authorities.**

**The successes that have been demonstrated by First Nations educations systems with respect to the educational outcomes of First Nations learner's, cannot be mirrored by mainstream public education systems.**

**Success for aboriginal people means that a substantial intervention in First Nations education is required now to build upon the successes that have been achieved. We need the voice of all Canadians to demand positive change in First Nations Education.**

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