

Ministry of Advanced Education

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Service Plans

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2007
4:00 pm PST

Please send electronic and hard copies of the Expression of Interest to:

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BACKGROUND:

Over recent years, the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) has engaged in several initiatives aimed at identifying the major challenges facing Aboriginal post-secondary learners and providing opportunity for province-wide discussion of recommendations to address these issues. The proposed Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Action Plan (see Appendix 1: Action Plan Overview) is a responsive document that was developed as a result of provincial consultation and initiatives.

A variety of initiatives are outlined in the Action Plan, intended to close the gap for Aboriginal learners and ensure effective and accountable program and service implementation and delivery. A key aspect of the Action Plan is the Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP) initiative. Under this initiative, AVED will provide funding to selected public post-secondary institutions to develop ASPs in collaboration with Aboriginal communities (see Appendix 2: ASP Overview), and fund their implementation for three years.

Due to funding and timeline limitations, AVED plans a phased-in implementation of ASPs. Phase 1 will focus on selected institutions demonstrating 'readiness' to develop and implement an ASP in collaboration with the Aboriginal community. The selected institutions will receive \$150,000 in February 2007 to develop the ASPs, along with a finalized "guidelines" document regarding ASP content. ASPs will be developed and based on their content, institutions will also receive between \$200,000 and \$700,000 for each of the three years of the plan, for implementation and reporting. Subject to budget and demonstrated success of Phase 1, additional institutions may be invited to participate in this process.

INTRODUCTION:

AVED is seeking proposals from public post-secondary institutions to develop and implement an ASP in partnership with their Aboriginal community. Proposals must be received before 4:00 pm Pacific Standard Time (PST) on January 31, 2007.

The Expressions of Interest (EOI) will identify the institutions most able to undertake the timely development and implementation of an ASP. It is expected that the EOI process will identify between eight to ten institutions to participate in Phase 1 of the ASP initiative.

Due to compressed timelines and funding restrictions, the Ministry will not consider EOIs submitted after January 31, 2007. By submitting an EOI, your institution is committing to an ability to develop an ASP (by July 2007) and begin to implement the plan (in 2007/08) in collaboration with your Aboriginal community.

We request that all proposals include a completed EOI cover page (identifying contact information), adapted for consortia as appropriate, and respond to the evaluation criteria in the order listed. This will provide consistency of the responses and ensure each proposal receives full consideration.

The body of the proposal should be **four to eight pages** (plus appendices where appropriate), outlining why an institution should be considered for funding to develop an ASP. The purpose of this EOI is to demonstrate readiness to develop and implement an ASP.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

EOI's will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Rationale
- Partnerships
- Commitment
- Success

In addition, it should be noted that:

- AVED will consider regional demographic data (i.e., number of Aboriginal learners in region, total population of region).
- Preference may be given to Northern institutions.
- Preference and a funding premium may be given to consortium submissions.
- If possible, the selected institutions will include at least one institution from each sector (university-college, college, university, and institutes).

COMMITMENT (20 percent):

In this section, institutions will demonstrate their:

- commitment to Aboriginal post-secondary education, e.g.:
 - Evidence of existing efforts and investment (including fiscal resources) in Aboriginal post-secondary education (programs, services, initiatives, etc.).
- commitment to Aboriginal decision makers and role models.
 - indication of the role of an Aboriginal Advisory Council, and the Aboriginal Education Coordinator in the institution, and in the development/review of the EOI.
 - Aboriginal role models, Aboriginal people in decision making roles/positions.
- ability to implement a plan beginning in 07/08.

SUCCESS (20 percent):

In this section, institutions will provide evidence of success, e.g.:

- current (and trend data) on enrolment of Aboriginal learners at the post-secondary institution, targets set by the institution and utilization rates.
- examples of success in areas such as recruitment, retention, completion.
- innovative practices that have demonstrated success.

RESPONSE DEADLINE:

EOI's will be submitted to Emily Hutchison before 4:00 pm PST, on January 31, 2007.

Appendix 1: Aboriginal Post-Secondary Action Plan Overview

The Government of British Columbia is forging a new government-to-government relationship with Aboriginal people based on reconciliation, recognition and respect. This **New Relationship** will reshape our social and economic landscape and create a more inclusive and prosperous future for all British Columbians. A key piece of the New Relationship is the engagement of Aboriginal people and communities in the planning of social and economic policy and programs that shape their lives and choices.

The Proposed Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Action Plan is a responsive document that was developed as a result of provincial consultation and initiatives including:

- Three Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education FORUMS.
- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (2005).
- External Review of Programs and Services.
- Spring/summer 2006 consultation on proposed strategy with key stakeholders.

The Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Action Plan outlines the vision, goals, objectives, and action for Aboriginal post-secondary education as follows:

VISION:

Aboriginal post-secondary education outcomes are comparable to those of non-Aboriginal learners, and that public institutions and Aboriginal organizations and institutions play appropriate roles and are supported by the combined resources of the federal and provincial governments.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- **Goal #1: Close the educational gap for Aboriginal learners.**
 - Increase the access, retention, completion and transitions opportunities for Aboriginal learners.
 - Increase the receptivity and relevance of post-secondary institutions and programs for Aboriginal learners.
 - Strengthen partnerships and collaboration in Aboriginal post-secondary education.
- **Goal #2: Effective and accountable programs and services implementation and delivery.**
 - Ensure effective measurement and progress monitoring.

A variety of initiatives are outlined in the Action Plan, intended to support the overall goals and objectives. These include:

- Aboriginal Service Plans.
- Language and culture curriculum.
- Transition projects.
- Increased Aboriginal Special Projects Fund.
- Scholarships for Aboriginal learners.
- Gathering places.
- Encouraging enrolment in specific programs.
- Enhanced data management, performance monitoring.

APPENDIX 2: Aboriginal Service Plan Overview

An Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP) is a three year post-secondary education plan developed by a post-secondary institution and Aboriginal communities, outlining goals for Aboriginal learners in terms of access, participation, and success and articulates specific actions to be implemented to meet these goals. Actions may include the development or enhancement of programs, student support services, outreach activities, partnership agreements, alternative program delivery models, etc.

The plans will demonstrate how partners will build on existing successes, ensuring that funding for the ASP does not resource practices and programs already in place, but will support the development of new initiatives and the enrichment of existing programs/services.

THE OBJECTIVES OF ASPs:

- Provide a framework and resources that will enable the shared decision-making of communities, learners and institutions to develop vision, goals, policy, and action for Aboriginal post-secondary education.
- Institutions and Aboriginal communities will implement programs and services and maximize partnerships to increase access, retention, and success for Aboriginal learners.
- Enhanced outcomes for Aboriginal learners

DRAFT ASP CONTENT:

The following is a draft of the content to be included in ASP's. Institutions selected for Phase I will receive a final "guidelines" document, in February along with funding.

It is expected that each ASP will be unique; however, it is anticipated that the following key aspects will be included:

Partnerships, Roles and Responsibilities: Plans will outline roles and responsibilities for action and reporting. The intent is to ensure that communities and institutions are mutually accountable.

The ASPs will outline the process and protocol for ongoing communication, reporting and collective implementation.

Environmental Scan: Current data and emerging trends set the context. Institutions will conduct a needs assessment of the learners/communities in the region. Demographic data along with a thorough consultation will allow stakeholders to identify the key needs of the community (i.e., literacy; developmental programming; Grade 12 completion; college and university preparation; language and culture revitalization; trades access; skill development to meet community and local labour markets requirements; alternate program delivery; and, student services).

Inventory of Programs and Services: A comprehensive review of programming and services currently being offered to Aboriginal students. This will help establish an inventory and identify gaps that can be addressed through the subsequent plan.

Identify Successes to Date: Leading practices as defined by community and institution and key milestones achieved.

Conduct a Gap Analysis: Identify gaps in programs and services. This analysis will justify the priorities outlined in the ASPs and Actions.

Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Priorities linked to provincial objectives: The plan will outline vision, goals, and objectives. Partners will identify the key priorities for action based on gap-analysis and supporting evidence to address increased access, participation, retention and completion for Aboriginal learners.

Action Plan: Outline actions for implementation to address plan objectives.

Performance Measures: The plans will outline baseline data and performance targets for the overall plan objectives. Measures will include input, output and outcome measures.

Timeline: Outline implementation, measurement, and reporting over the three-year service plan.

Budget proposal: Provide a detailed budget, specifying what can be implemented with varying levels of funding.

APPENDIX 3: Proposed Three Year Timeline

Expression of Interest (EOI) – Institutions submit proposals outlining eligibility to receive Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP) planning funding	EOI call December 21, 2006 EOI due January 31, 2007
Review proposals and decision of which institutions will be in Phase 1	January 31, 2007 – Feb 28, 2007
Allocation of Planning Funding to institutions for ASPs	February 2007
Development of ASPs - institutions, learners, communities develop plans	February 2007 – June 2007
Institutions submit ASP's to Ministry for review	June 2007
Review of ASPs and associated implementation budgets. Year One funding issued	July 2007
Institutions and communities begin Year One of ASP implementation	September 2007
Report status of plan and review by Ministry	June 2008
Ministry will review status reports and determine Year Two Funding	July 2008
Report status of Plan and review by Ministry	June 2009
Ministry will review status reports and determine Year Three Funding	July 2009
Final Phase 1 Evaluation: Decision on ongoing funding for plan renewal/base funding, additional implementation	