MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Alayne Bigwin
Director
Aboriginal Education Office

DATE: May 5, 2009

SUBJECT: Funding Opportunities for Aboriginal Education

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has made significant progress in increasing our support for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in Ontario. Since the release of the *First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* in January 2007, the government has invested $28 million to date in ongoing funding in Aboriginal education. This includes the $19.1 million First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement in the 2009-2010 Grants for Students Needs to provide increased support for Native Studies and Native Languages, as well as targeted supports for Aboriginal students.

Over the past two school years, the Aboriginal Education Office (AEO) made funding available to school boards for initiatives in support of Aboriginal student achievement. I am pleased to advise that the AEO is once again providing funding to school boards to support their capacity to implement the Framework, including building and enhancing partnerships with First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities and organizations, to support student achievement. The funding is aligned with the strategic direction of the Framework and supports the ministry’s three core priorities of high levels of student achievement, reduced gaps in student achievement and high levels of public confidence.

**Call for Proposals for Funding Opportunities in Aboriginal Education:**
The AEO is accepting proposals from school boards to support projects in the following areas.

**Aboriginal Student Mentorship and Leadership Development Projects**
- Projects are to recognize and celebrate the successes and achievements of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples as role models, and bring them together with Aboriginal students (elementary and secondary) to provide mentorship and support. This could include matching students with mentors, organizing career events or developing resources that promote the achievements of Aboriginal people and Aboriginal students within the school community.
Projects must include a focus on student leadership. This could include the creation of Aboriginal student ambassadors, student leadership councils, forums or symposia, as a way of building capacity among Aboriginal youth as role models and leaders within their communities.

**Maximum funding per project is $10,000.**

**Transitions Projects**
- Projects are to focus on developing transitional supports for Aboriginal students. This may include support for First Nation students transitioning from First Nation schools to the provincial school system as well as other transition points Aboriginal students encounter, including challenges students face due to issues of high mobility.
- Projects could include the development of teaching and learning resources for teachers and/or for students, to support transitioning students.
- **Maximum funding per project is $20,000.**

**Increasing Knowledge and Awareness Among All Students and Educators**
- Projects are to promote an increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the rich histories, cultures and perspectives of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples among all students and educators.
- Projects could include providing first hand experiences for students, either inside or outside the school setting.
- Projects could include the development of locally developed resources to support the inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives, cultures and histories in the Ontario Curriculum.
- **Maximum funding per project is $35,000.**
- Funding is also available for targeted professional development for teachers. Funding may be used for activities such as conferences, courses, or seminars. Boards must demonstrate how the knowledge gained through these activities will be shared and disseminated back to other educators within the board.
- **Maximum funding for targeted professional development for teachers is $10,000.**

**School Board Symposia**
- Funding to support regional symposia for school boards to build and enhance partnerships with First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities and organizations, share information and resources, and engage in strategic planning to support the implementation of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework.
- **Maximum funding for regional symposia (according to regions as served by the Ministry of Education Regional Offices), is $50,000 (proposal to be submitted by one lead school board).**
- Funding is also available for symposia at the local level, for instance between two coterminous school boards. Boards are encouraged to consider partnerships with their local First Nation communities as a means of integrating joint professional development activities with First Nation schools into their symposia.
- **Maximum funding for local board-level symposia is $20,000 (proposal to be submitted by one lead school board).**
Native Languages/Native Studies Professional Learning Communities

- Funding to support capacity building for Native Studies/Native Languages Professional Learning Communities. Types of activities could include training, professional development and resource development.
- Proposals will be accepted from one lead board for each region (as served by the Ministry of Education Regional Offices).
- **Maximum funding per region is $20,000.**

For all of the above projects, boards are required to demonstrate the following:

- engagement and partnership with First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities and organizations in the development and implementation of initiatives;
- how the projects are aligned with overall board improvement planning related to Literacy and Numeracy, Student Success, and the ministry’s Leadership Strategy;
- respective roles of teachers, principals, students, families/communities and board staff; and
- clearly defined expected outcomes and mechanisms for measuring and tracking success.

**The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2009, for projects commencing September 2009 and ending June 2010.** Please submit your proposals using the attached template. Proposals will be assessed and approved based on merit and availability of funding. Funding for salaries for permanent positions will not be considered.

Proposals are to be sent to the attention of:

Tao Li  
Aboriginal Education Office  
Ministry of Education and  
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
12th Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2  
tao.li@ontario.ca

For further clarification on the contents of this memo, please contact the AEO Education Officer for your region (see attached contact list).

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Alayne Bigwin

C: Mary-Jean Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat  
Kirsten Parker, Director, Student Success/Learning to 18 Implementation, Training and Evaluation Branch  
Sue Durst, Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch  
Marg Connor, Director, Leadership Development Branch  
Ginnette Plourde, Director, French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch  
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch  
Regional Managers
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