



March 15, 2016

Grant Manager
First Nations Education Initiatives Branch
First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Division
Alberta Education
11th Floor 44 Capital Boulevard
10044 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6

Attention Grant Manager:

Please find enclosed Northland School Division's application for the Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education Grant Program.

Northland School Division is applying for this grant in partnership with Bigstone Cree First Nation.

If you have any questions please contact me at 780-624-2060 Ext. 6102.

Respectfully,

Donna Barrett
Superintends of Schools
Northland School Division No. 61

DB:kp

Enclosure (1)



March 15, 2016

Grant Manager
First Nations Education Initiatives Branch
First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Division
Alberta Education
11th Floor 44 Capital Boulevard
10044 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6

Attention Grant Manager:

Re: Letter of Support from Northland School Division On behalf of St. Theresa School, Mistassiniy School, Career Pathways, Pelican Mountain School, Calling Lake School, and Chipewyan Lake School

Please accept this letter as a formal commitment to participate in project under the *Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education Grant Program* through the Ministry of Education and the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Division for the 2015/2016 to 2017/2018 fiscal years.

Our First Nation/school(s) will work with Bigstone Cree Nation & Northland School Division to undertake the planned activities described and outlined in the Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education Grant Proposal Template (or Section E of the Grant Application). Bigstone Cree Nation & Northland School Division will ensure schools are prepared to undertake the planned activities, achieve the stated milestones, and adhere to expected timelines.

Bigstone Cree Nation and Northland School Division will ensure the *Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education Grant Program* guidelines are followed and will provide appropriate coordination and support services, including project management, sharing of information, training, specialist/ technical support, monitoring, compliance, evaluation and reporting. Our First Nation schools will ensure that Bigstone Cree Nation & Northland School Division is provided with the necessary input required to complete the application/proposal and reporting requirements related to the project.

.../2

March 15, 2016

Page Two

Grant Manager

By participating with Bigstone Cree Nation and Northland School Division in the *Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education* project until March 31, 2018, we will encourage greater efficiencies, economies of scale and reinforce the ongoing efforts for collaboration and capacity building that our First Nation/school is undertaking.

Sincerely,



Colin J. Kelly

Official Trustee

Northland School Division No. 61

LCR:kp



Bigstone Cree Nation - Education Authority

P.O. Box # 870, Wabasca, Alberta, Canada T0G-2K0

Phone: (780) 891-3825

Fax: (780) 891-2178

Toll-Free: 1-877-458-2447

March 14, 2016

Northland School Division
Bag 1400
9809-77th Ave.
Peace River, AB. T8S 1V2

Attention: Donna Barrett – Superintendent of NSD # 61

RE: Letter of Support
Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education

Bigstone Cree Nation Education Authority is pleased to collaborate with you on improving outcomes for our students.

The BCCE Grant will allow us to begin the process of developing a signed Education Service Agreement that better serves our students attending your schools.

We are excited to begin this journey and hope that the end result of this collaboration is increased success for Bigstone Cree Nation youth.

Sincerely,

for Chester Auger
Director of Education

File

Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education

Bigstone Cree First Nation Northland School Division #61

Partnership Proposal



Executive Summary

Northland School Division and Bigstone Cree Nation operate schools that serve both provincial and federal students in the communities of Wabasca, Desmarais, Chipewyan Lake, Calling Lake, Sandy Lake, and on Bigstone Cree Nation Land. Federal students attending provincial schools and provincial students attending school on reserve are funded by a tuition agreement between Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Northland School Division. A new Education Service Agreement between Northland School Division and Bigstone Cree First Nation, that is seen as fair and acceptable to both parties is urgently needed.

Northland School Division and Bigstone Cree Nation are seeking grant funding to enable the parties to work together to develop an Education Service Agreement which will support improved, culturally responsive learning opportunities for Bigstone students who attend provincial schools operated by Northland School Division and for Northland students who attend school on reserve. Our goal is to increase the number of students who successfully graduate from high school prepared to transition to postsecondary or work as their career plans dictate.

As we move forward to develop a new education services agreement we propose to work together to identify initiatives that will improve education for the students we collectively serve. We plan to work with Elders and community leaders through this process and believe that all students in the Wabasca Desmarais area will be the beneficiaries of this educational improvement partnership.

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
\$109,700.00	\$188,000.00	\$188,000.00	\$485,700.00

Introduction

Northland School Division and Bigstone Cree Nation operate schools that serve both provincial and federal students in the communities of Wabasca, Desmarais, Chipewyan Lake, Calling Lake, Sandy Lake, and on Bigstone Cree Nation Land. Federal students attending provincial schools and provincial students attending school on reserve are funded by a tuition agreement between Bigstone Cree First Nation and Northland School Division. A new Education Service Agreement between Northland School Division and Bigstone Cree Nation, that is seen as fair and acceptable to both parties is urgently needed.

Purpose of the Proposal

Northland School Division and Bigstone Cree Nation are seeking funding to enable the parties to work together to develop an Education Service Agreement which will support improved, culturally responsive learning opportunities for Bigstone students who attend provincial schools operated by Northland School Division and for Northland students who attend school on reserve. As we move forward to develop a new education services agreement we propose to work together to identify initiatives that will improve education for the students we collectively serve.

Increasing the Number of Students Who Successfully Complete High School

An urgent and current concern shared by all parties is that too few secondary students are graduating from high school. As well those who do often have to upgrade in order to pursue postsecondary studies achieving success.

There appear to be multiple and likely interrelated factors that contribute to this situation. Working collaboratively to identify issues that impede student success and working together to create and implement, monitor and refine plans to support increased educational success for students is the primary purpose of the Educational Service Agreement.

Partners in the Project

Bigstone Cree Nation and Northland School Division are the partners who have the mandate to provide education. The representatives from Bigstone Cree, Northland School Division and the Municipal District of Opportunity currently meet together several times a year to share information and discuss issues related to education. It would be our intent to continue this partnership. Our proposal would further deepen our relationships and support the development of a shared plan for improvement that we would implement, monitor and adjust together.

Through this process we would also involve community Elders, community leaders, agencies, and expert sources such as the University of Calgary to provide guidance advice and assistance as we work together.

The project would be co-led by Bigstone Cree Nation, Northland School Division and representative from the MD of Opportunity. Each partner organization would identify a governance representative to oversee and guide the project. Elders will be included in all planning.

The Bigstone Education Director and the Northland School Division Superintendent would work together to administrate the project.

Goals, Activities Timelines Indicators of Success/Outcome Measures

Goal 1: Establish and Identify a Terms of Reference for a Collaborative Planning Group (March to August 2016)

Activities

Identify purpose, membership, responsibilities, structure and frequency of meetings, communication and decision making processes

Indicators of Success/Outcome Measures

Record of meetings, membership, agreed upon, terms of reference established

Goal 2: Determine common vision or programming focus, identify needs, set priorities and develop a collaborative plan (September to December 2016)

Example: to integrate First Nations cultures and perspectives into education programs, provide opportunities for students to learn an indigenous language, establish processes for improving student attendance and addressing attendance issues,

Activities

Facilitated engagement sessions to identify priorities, to develop and communicate the action plan

Indicators of Success/Outcome Measures

Key priorities are identified and a written plan of action is developed

Goal 3: Implement, Monitor and Adapt the Collaborative Plan (January 2017-June 2018)

Identify management processes to monitor implementation of the plan, to share results on a regular basis to involve the group in adjusting the plan as necessary.

Activities

Plan is implemented and regular monitoring of implementation occurs

Indicators of Success/Outcome Measures

Elements of the plan are implemented

Goal 4: Establish a process and timeline for the development of an Education Service Agreement between Bigstone Cree Nation and Northland School Division (March –Fall 2016)

Activities

Meetings are held to identify key elements of the Education Service Agreement and a timeline for development of the agreement is established

Indicators of Success/Outcome Measures

Agreement on the key standards for the agreement and a timeline for development by fall of 2016

Goal 5: Develop the Education Service Agreement

Elements of the collaborative plans identified in goals one through three could be incorporated into the Education Service Agreement (September 2016- June 2017)

Activities

Meetings occur to develop a new education service agreement between Bigstone Cree Nation and Northland School Division

Funding

Northland School Division is requesting Partnership Grant funding at the rate of \$335 per student per year based on the nominal role for a period of three years to plan and implement this project.

Funding Breakdown

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Total
Meetings and Community Gatherings	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Travel & Subsistence	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Consultant	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Legal Fees	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Admin Support	\$ 14,700.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 60,700.00
Honoraria	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
Professional Development and Training (In-servicing, teacher mentoring and coaching)	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 235,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 109,700.00	\$ 188,000.00	\$ 188,000.00	\$ 485,700.00