

## Orientation 2 – Representation and Partnerships

### Context:

The purpose of advocacy activities is to achieve the vision of the FNEC and fulfill its mission to promote and defend the interests of member communities. The FNEC is always on the lookout for opportunities to ensure that the collective interests of member communities are respected, and to make known their current and future needs. The FNEC takes part in discussions and negotiations with governmental and other institutions on behalf of the communities and promotes the outreach of First Nations in the sphere of education. Much like the Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche which represents the provincial school system, the FNEC represents the collective voice of the member communities' educational systems.

School funding, adult education, vocational training, and post-secondary training issues play a preponderant role in representing the interests of communities. The FNEC is very attentive to any new development having, or that may have, an impact on First Nations education.

Through its advocacy and lobbying activities, the FNEC maintains and develops relations with First Nations organizations, educational establishments, public organizations, foundations, and the provincial and federal governments. In the course of its mission, the FNEC also carries out awareness-raising activities to draw attention to realities facing First Nations in the Quebec school system.

Likewise, through deliberative assemblies, the FNEC promotes the full participation of member communities and discussions on innovative practices.

Finally, the establishment of a communications component within the FNEC will contribute to supporting advocacy activities by promoting the organization's message and clearly showcasing the organization's image. Communications support will be offered to all sectors within the FNEC and activities might be presented to the member communities.

### Implementation considerations:

- The FNEC serves the collective voice of 22 communities, 24 elementary and secondary schools and Kiuna Institution;
- The FNEC's expertise and credibility is widely recognized;
- The FNEC's mission is to promote and defend the interests of the communities in the exercise of their legal jurisdiction over education while supporting local and regional development of quality education systems and programs;
- The FNEC provides third-level services to member communities;
- The FNEC gives priority to effective communications with member communities and partners.

Objectives	Methods	Results
<p>2.1 The FNEC represents the collective interests of member communities and carries out awareness-raising activities to draw attention to realities facing First Nations in education.</p> <p>The FNEC demonstrates that the service offering in First Nations education must be expanded to meet current needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act in the capacity of regional contact on behalf of the member communities to present needs related to our issues.</li> <li>• Develop and document shared positions.</li> <li>• Increase the number of meetings with governments and other decision-making bodies to make them aware of the urgent need for action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member communities will have a collective voice to defend their interests.</li> <li>• The reality and needs of First Nations will be taken into consideration in the development of public policies, legislation and programs.</li> <li>• The communities will have increased resources to provide better educational services.</li> </ul>

<p>2.2 Sharing best practices is encouraged through consensus-building and networking activities organized by the FNEC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring together the member communities by holding general meetings twice a year.</li> <li>• Encourage member community involvement through the exchange of practices and innovative experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member community representatives will have the opportunity to share their expertise.</li> </ul>
<p>2.3 The FNEC encourages partnerships with various decision-making bodies to share expertise, raise awareness to our reality, and provide communities with new opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be on the lookout for potential partnerships and seize opportunities that could be beneficial for the communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member communities will benefit from partnerships.</li> <li>• New partnerships will be established.</li> </ul>
<p>2.4 The FNEC conducts targeted studies related to the issues and growing needs, and does so in a constantly changing environment. Conducting targeted studies helps determine the conditions needed to ensure success in the communities and enables the FNEC to defend their collective interests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the themes of the studies.</li> <li>• Define the purpose and methodology.</li> <li>• Conduct the studies and publish the results.</li> <li>• Formulate recommendations.</li> <li>• Publish reports.</li> <li>• Prepare briefs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The member communities and the FNEC will be equipped to defend their interests.</li> </ul>
<p>2.5 The FNEC supports revitalizing and passing on language and culture which represent identity reference points for First Nations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness among governments and the general public to the cultural diversity and needs of First Nations.</li> <li>• Keep abreast of funding opportunities.</li> <li>• Call attention to the need for funding of culture and languages.</li> <li>• Produce material to promote First Nations cultures and languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The communities will have tools to protect, support and preserve First Nations languages and traditions.</li> <li>• Governments will have a better understanding of First Nations realities, cultures and languages.</li> </ul>
<p>2.6 The FNEC ensures a strategic communication to enable the organization's messages to be disseminated.</p> <p>Information is sent to member communities through this component.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess needs in terms of internal and external communications.</li> <li>• Develop an action plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments and the communities will have a better understanding of the collective interests.</li> </ul>
<p>2.7 The FNEC is on the lookout for and intervenes when slanderous or racial comments that harm the reputation of First Nations are made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program alerts in media publications.</li> <li>• Develop an intervention process to inform the communities and respond to the allegations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The general public will be better informed of the Aboriginal reality.</li> </ul>