

Students First!

NATIONAL PANEL ON FIRST NATION ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



September 26, 2011

National Panel on First Nation Elementary and Secondary Education
255 Albert Street, Room 900
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H4

Dear Sir or Madam:

Improving education outcomes for First Nation children living on reserves is an urgent national priority. This is why Shawn Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, created the National Panel on First Nation Elementary and Secondary Education. They have asked us to explore ideas and advise them on ways to help First Nation students achieve better results.

First Nation students, parents, elders, teachers, school administrators, chiefs, community leaders, and others in every region across the country have an important role to play in helping us generate realistic, actionable solutions. Over the coming weeks and months, we will be visiting schools in First Nation communities, holding roundtable discussions and meeting with key members to seek innovative and practical ideas to help these students overcome the obstacles to their success.

We have also established a dedicated website that allows anyone with an interest and a view on First Nation elementary and secondary education to post and vote on ideas, and to make submissions. What we hear and learn through our person-to-person engagement and through the website will help shape our recommendations to National Chief Atleo and Minister Duncan.

You can help us shape that advice and we ask you to encourage other people to do the same.

The posters, postcards and display holders in this package invite people to offer their ideas and take part in the conversation about First Nation education. When you put up the posters and make the postcards available, you let more people know about this important opportunity to share their views.

To learn more about the National Panel and the engagement process, please read the information attached to this letter. You can also visit our website at www.firstnationeducation.ca.

Your opinion matters. Please be part of the discussion.

Sincerely,

Scott Haldane
Panel Chair

Caroline Krause
Panel Member

George E. Laford
Panel Member

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