

Post -Secondary Education Program

General Information	
Lead Department	Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
Partners	First Nation and Inuit communities and/or regional representative organisations, and several post-secondary institutions.
Effective Date	Introduced in 1977 as the Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program - Ongoing.
Expiry Date	Not applicable ¹ - Program is ongoing.
Web Site(s)	http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/edu/ense_e.html
Purpose	<p>To increase access to and enrolment in post-secondary studies for status Indian and Inuit students.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP): Financial support to eligible students to pursue university and college studies. • University and College Entrance Program (UCEP): Financial support to eligible students to ensure readiness in meeting entrance requirements to pursue college or university studies. • Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP): Financial support to post-secondary institutions to develop and deliver college and university level studies for Indian and Inuit students. Financial support to the development and delivery of programs to First Nation students attending the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.
Roles and Contributions	Funded entirely by the federal government and administered almost entirely by First Nation and Inuit communities or their regional representative organisations (e.g., Tribal Councils).
Resources	
Funding	\$292 million in 2001-2002 (Estimates)
Tracking and Reporting	<p>Publicly available reports on the departmental web site http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/edu/ense_e.html include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations Report Guide available on the departmental web site. • Expenditures are reported in the Main Estimates - Report on Plans and Priorities. • Departmental Performance Report. • Basic Departmental Data. • Periodic Reports such as "Socio-Economic Indicators in Indian Reserves"

	<p>and Comparable Communities: 1971-1991”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of Post-Secondary Students and Register of Post-Secondary/ Graduates/Funded Students.
Measurement and Reporting	
Outcomes / Outputs	Increased post-secondary educational attainment of eligible First Nation students and realized associated gains in employment and income.
Indicators	Annual number of graduates funded through the program, labour force activity and earnings associated with post-secondary attainment
Comparable Indicators	<p>SEPP continues to follow the CMEC Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program model as closely as possible to achieve comparable reporting.</p> <p>Census-based analysis allows for comparison to the non-aboriginal population from 1986 to 1996.</p> <p>Monitoring and analysis of trends in (i) number of graduates recorded in the PSE data base and (ii) key Census variables-educational attainment, labour force activity income.</p>
Evaluation/ Third Party Assessments	<p>First Nation communities and organisations also undertake periodic program evaluations or reviews and provide information.</p> <p>Some information is also collected through the Census of Canada and post-censusal surveys, which involve Statistics Canada and a consortium of governments and Aboriginal organisations.</p> <p>Following the preparation of a report on Post-Secondary Education by the Assembly of First Nations in 2000-2001, INAC working on a joint work plan to address, over the next two years, concerns raised through a re-designed program.</p>
Shared Information and Best Practices	Not applicable ¹
Public Reporting	Departmental Performance Report and other departmental publications, e.g., Basic Departmental Data, Highlights or Aboriginal Conditions, Facts from Stats, Statistical Hotline - departmental kiosk, library services.
Involving Canadians	
Provisions for Citizens to Participate in Developing Social Priorities and Reviewing Outcomes	Headquarter’s Learning, Employ and Human Development (LEHD) program sector works closely with the AFN, INAC regions work closely with regional First Nation and Inuit organisations involved in the review and re-design of the PSSSP program.
Feedback Mechanisms to the	Some anecdotal/qualitative reporting in the Departmental Performance Report.

Public	
Service Commitments	
Public Availability of Eligibility Criteria	<p>No specific service commitments.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria are explained in the Post-Secondary Education Policy available from the First Nation or Inuit administering organisations and INAC regional offices.</p>
Existence and Availability of Service Commitments	<p>Ensure funding availability to support First Nations and Inuit students and institutions.</p>
Measurement and Public Reporting	<p>Not applicable¹ - This has not been a standard practice.</p>
Appeals and Complaints	
Existence, Availability and Communication of Mechanisms	<p>An accountability framework is established in the model funding frameworks.</p> <p>First Nation/Inuit administering organisations must make guidelines/policies available to members.</p> <p>Administrative decisions are subject to appeal through an established process, established by administering organisations, to ensure equitable management of the program.</p>
Tracking and Public Reporting	<p>Some INAC regions have staff designated to receive and respond to appeals/allegations.</p> <p>There is no national registry of appeals/complaints. Regional information collection is fortuitous.</p> <p>There are no national guidelines for outreach to community members; that is left principally to the band councils. When individuals contact the department directly, program officers in Headquarters/region will explain the generally applied practice and refer them back to their band council/administering organisation.</p>
Mobility	
Existence of Measure	<p>The program design, reflecting INAC-based program delivery has been adapted to devolved First Nation delivery. The program itself does not have systemic barriers to mobility.</p> <p>S.9 of policy directives allows First Nations to develop community-based guidelines, within the program framework, for the administration of this program.</p> <p>There may be instances where priority is given to applicants residing in the local community or there is weighting based on the location of PSE institutions. The following actions are envisioned:</p> <p>Compliance issues will continue to be addressed on a case-by-case basis</p>

with the First Nation administering organization.

Requests for ministerial or departmental intervention will be referred to the First Nation administering authority for review under the appeal processes that are required in the program guidelines.

Following on the AFN Report on PSE in 2000-2001, INAC is undertaking with AFN the development of a joint work plan to address the concerns identified in the report in order to meet contemporary needs of First Nation communities (including the integration of SUFA principles in the re-designed program). This review will begin in 2001 and is expected to continue for two years.