



GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 BULLETIN

Education Conference; Wauzhushk Onigum, Sept 3 & 4, 2009

The Grand Council Treaty #3 Education Research Project held a conference on education in Wauzhushk Onigum on September 3 & 4, 2009. The focus of the gathering was to bring educational stakeholders together to discuss mutual and or unique concerns about education. Ogichidaakwe Diane Kelly and Chief Gary Allen were in attendance.



Education Conference September 3-4, 2009
Wauzhushk Onigum

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Presentations

The presentations included information on Immersion Programs by Dorothy Lazore of Tyendinaga;

Alternatives to boarding and billeting high school students was presented by Irene Linklater, principal of Southeast Collegiate. Southeast Collegiate is located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is a private high school and a residence for students from northern Manitoba. Issues with racism and billeting or boarding in mainstream homes prompted

the Southeast Tribal Council to buy and operate their own private school with residential facilities.

A panel of INAC funding officers from Thunder Bay and a panel from the Catholic School Division in Kenora provided some information about funding and answered questions from the participants.

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FUNDING

A major outcome from the research and the conference is that INAC's funding is inadequate compared to the funding that INAC provides to school divisions that offer educational services to First Nation students. The graph below shows that INAC funding also varies with each First Nation. For example, the information from the 3 surveys that were returned highlights that First Nation 1 receives \$4,900 to educate one elementary student. First Nation 2 receives \$5,600 and First Nation 3 receives \$8,500.

The Ontario Ministry of Education estimates that it costs approximately \$10,000 to educate one child, annually. From the data that has been collected, not one First Nation school received that amount. The Catholic School Division in Kenora receives \$12,000 from INAC to educate one First Nation student in elementary school.

INAC funds between \$12,000 and \$14,000 to provincial school divi-

sions to educate one First Nation student who attends a provincial high school; however, INAC funds between \$4,900 and \$6,900 for a First Nation student attending high school in his or her own community.

The Catholic School Division in Kenora receives 18 million a year for the entire student population of approximately 13,000 students; which amounts to an estimated \$14,000 per student. The Catholic School Division Director stated that they charge approximately 1 million in tuition a year for First Nation students who attend their school. The completed survey from the Catholic School Division shows that they have a current total enrolment of 420 First Nation students from K-12.

The Provincial School Divisions are able to apply for significant amounts of funding from Special Purpose Grants such as Native as a Second Language. First Nations must allocate funding from their

overall budget for Ojibway Language programs which is essentially the salary for an Ojibway language teacher. Ojibway language teachers still have to 1) develop the curriculum, 2) create resource materials and 3) teach Anishinabemowin.

There are many grants available to provincial schools that First Nations cannot access and they include legislative grants, special purpose grants, open-ended grants, second language grants, Native language grants and capital grants. The total budgets for First Nation schools are based solely on the nominal roll. The funding varies for each First Nation as the graph below indicates.

