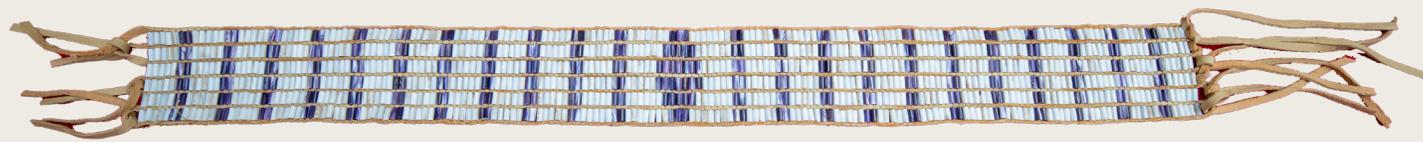




GENERAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT



REGIONAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY

FNEC member community chiefs and grand chiefs gathered in Kahnawà:ke with the Honourable Patty Hajdu, minister of Indigenous Services, on July 14 to sign a regional education agreement. Kahnawà:ke Chief, Harry Rice, Gesgapegiag Chief and Chief Responsible for Education, John Martin, AFNQL Chief Ghislain Picard, as well as FNEC Director General Denis Gros-Louis, were also present to celebrate this historic event.

This five-year \$1.1 billion agreement between the FNEC, its 22 member communities and Indigenous Services Canada will enable communities to implement education programs that will support the academic success of First Nations students.

The result of ten years of hard work, this agreement is based on a funding formula entirely designed by and for First Nations members of the FNEC. The agreement will ensure that the education needs of students, from kindergarten to Grade 12, are fully funded and based on community models, priorities, and realities.

According to FNEC Director General, Denis Gros-Louis, the signing of the agreement is the completion, after more than 35 years, of the founding members' vision. It clearly demonstrates the expertise and determination of education professionals from the 22 FNEC member communities. The climate of reconciliation in which the agreement was negotiated was based on the funding formula developed by the FNEC. This agreement reflects the potential for economic and cultural sustainability that our future graduates will bring to their community.

NEW LOCATION

Our move to 50 Boulevard Bastien in Wendake took place during the week of August 15. With the newly signed Regional Education Agreement and the arrival of new employees, more office space was needed to optimize services to our member communities. This year will be full of new challenges, but we are ready and looking forward to facing them!

UNIVERSITY CENTRE PROJECT

One of the goals identified in our 2021-2026 strategic plan is to establish an Indigenous education system extending all the way from kindergarten to university. A foundation has been laid by Kiuna Institution at the college level, and the next building block will be a First Nations-led university. Concept and project site development has already received approval from Minister of Higher Education, Danielle McCann. The FNEC has begun mobilizing leaders in the university community and working with Laval University administrators toward the implementation of our model by 2027.

PAPAL VISIT

The FNEC took part in the July 28 meeting of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops held at the Séminaire de Québec. Bishop Poisson and Cardinal Cyprien-Lacroix welcomed Indigenous community leaders and stakeholders for a discussion on how the Catholic Church can work toward genuine reconciliation with residential school survivors. Chiefs from as far away as Manitoba and Nova Scotia were also in attendance along with legal counsel who put forward recommendations that will be examined by the Assembly of First Nations.