



Dear Partner organizations:

The legacy of the Seven Fallen Feathers are a solemn reminder of the personal, profound implications of continuing the vital work of reconciliation. We all want to see the success and safety of First Nations children, and the Department knows the importance of your work in preventing the tragic loss of students.

Over the past year, we have continued working towards meeting the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations amidst a changing landscape. ISC continues to support the education, safety, and wellness priorities of communities, working to ensure students are able to learn and thrive in First Nations school systems with culturally appropriate education programming.

As part of this commitment, ISC is working on Education Transformation, which aims to support First Nation education through regional approaches and sufficient, predictable, and sustainable funding. ISC also continues to collaborate at the Ontario Technical Table for an Interim Funding Approach, which engages partners toward a provincially-comparable funding model for K-12.

In addition, we have seen increases in the Education Funding Formula throughout the past year. These changes are a direct reflection of the 2016 Seven Youth Inquest recommendations, as they support the success of students through everything from instructional and administrative services, to technology and the maintenance of education buildings. For students that leave their community to attend school in urban settings, boarding home rates have increased substantially from \$400 to \$1200 per student each month. Additional funding is also provided for a variety of supports, wrap-around services, and seasonal transportation for students to return home during the holidays. Jointly, we have generated direct funding supports for students' success and safety as they work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

The Department also recognizes that student success is not only achieved through education supports; it also requires a holistic approach to student wellbeing. In 2024-2025, 67 Choose Life applications were approved, with approximately \$80.7 million in funding to Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities. This included just over \$33 million for projects directly connected to the Seven Youth Inquest. We are committed to continue working with partners to support Indigenous-led, culturally relevant, and community-based mental wellness programming.

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The Department recognizes the challenges that have emerged since our last report, and that it is time for change. Canada remains dedicated to working together on our shared priorities, while realizing that moving forward will require joint efforts to think creatively and dynamically as changes emerge.

We look forward to continuing conversations to see progress for the safety and success of First Nations students.

Sincerely,



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