



Pikangikum Education Authority and Queens University



***Indigenous Teacher Education Program
Partnership (2024-2027)***



Background

- In 2023 the PEA started looking for ways to increase their community representation in their teaching compliment.
- Several options were investigated but all required students to leave the community for a substantial portion of their training.
- Landed on ITEP from Queens University.
- It has existed for a few years and has partnered with 7 First Nation communities or organizations, and this looked promising!



Other Partners



- Akwesasna
- Lambton-Kent
- Manitoulin-North Shore (Kenjgewin Teg)
- Pikangikum
- Tyendinaga
- Mushkegowuk Territory (Pending)



How it Started?



- In the winter of 2023, a team from Pikangikum met with Peter Chin, the associate Dean of the faculty of Education in Kingston
- We realized that the option was a realistic goal once we had Queens on Board
- In June of 2024 representation from Queens came and signed a MOA with the Chief from Pikangikum!
- This officially started the partnership!





Program Summary



- ▶ We needed to recruit a minimum of 12 students to start the first cohort for May of 2024.
- ▶ Students needed their Grade 12 diploma and be from the community or another Indigenous community.
- ▶ They applied through Queens and a selection committee was established consisting of community representation.
- ▶ Students received funding for tuition, books and any travel needed through NNEC and the PEA.



Summary Continued...



- The PEA has contributed an amount for each cohort to offset costs and make the partnership happen.
- Queens contributed funding to hire a part time coordinator, and the PEA topped it up to full time.
- Students in each cohort are required to travel to Queens at the beginning of the program for an orientation at their Queens campus.



Structure of Program



- Students do 6 semesters over the two years.
- They can work while they complete their program.
- They have face to face classes once a month in the community with their instructor for the weekend.
- Once they complete their orientation, they receive a provisional certificate from OCT which can possibly increase their pay rate.
- Elders contribute to a local community passport which are local priorities the students need to complete in to graduate along with their required courses.



Other Important Information!



- Pikangikum will be having its first Queens Cohort graduation in June of 2026.
- A second cohort is completing its first year.
- A couple students joined the Pikangikum program from other communities. This may be a way forward to have future community partnerships in programs where community numbers cannot support a full cohort.
- Pikangikum is very open to supporting other First Nations develop locally trained and qualified teachers for their communities!



Other Post Secondary PEA Programs



- ▶ Personnel Support Worker (**PSW**): We started a PSW training program in the fall of 2024 and had a graduation in June. We are currently in our second cohort. This is totally delivered by the PEA. We have quality assurance by CESBA and the Ontario Ministry of Health.
- ▶ Early Childhood Education Program (**ECE**): We will be starting an ECE program in January in partnership with OSHKI. The PEA is opening a 100-seat daycare and cultural learning center in 2027 and are preparing to have it staffed with trained ECE graduates.



Miigwech!



If you would any additional information, feel free to contact Kyle or I at:

darrinpotter@ebs-school.org, kylepeterts57@gmail.com

You can also reach out to Queens University under their ITEP program. The Associate Dean is Dr. Peter Chin

chinp@queensu.ca and our contact is Faleshia Finn
f.finn@queensu.ca