
SPEAKING NOTES FPD I AGM– OCTOBER 12, 2018

Greetings Elders, Chiefs, Training Coordinators, Guests.

FPDI is pleased to provide you with an update on the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). The existing ASETS agreements have been extended until March 31, 2019 and all existing terms and conditions continue to apply throughout this fiscal year.

Fiscal year 2018-19 is considered a transition year to the new strategy titled “Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ISETS), announced in Budget 2018.

The ISETS is intended to replace and build on the success of the ASETS. Based on Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and Service Canada’s engagement with First Nations, ASETS Agreement Holders, Provinces and Territories, Industry and Academic Institutions, the Strategy will introduce several key changes:

1. A distinctions-based stream, with its own funding envelope, to allow for greater coordination and specialization to respond to the unique circumstances, needs and priorities of First Nations peoples. ISETS will fund First Nation agreement holders under the First Nation funding stream to reflect different cultural contexts, priorities and needs.
2. Allow for greater flexibility for service providers to respond to the unique, and often complex needs of clients – through providing longer-term interventions and wrap-around supports to move clients along the skills continuum. ISETS will pay for essential skills, skills upgrading, and longer term support for post-secondary students.
3. Place greater emphasis on reporting outcomes and results that are meaningful to First Nations rather than administrative oversight. ASETS was measured only on employment results or returned to school. ISETS is exploring other measurable such as increase in skills levels of First Nations, increased capacity of First Nations service delivery organizations to provide customized, culturally-appropriate services that better support clients in moving along the skills development and employment continuum.

FPDI participates in the AFN’s Interim Transition Working Group meetings. We will continue to keep all of our Sub Agreement Holders informed of ESDC and the AFN’s work on the new ISET agreement. Ideally the ISET agreements under the new Strategy would be in effect until 2028; providing the funding, planning stability and predictability the First Nations expected, but it’s more likely the new agreements will initially be a five-year agreement.

The new ISETS eligible activities encompass a wide range of labour market activities including locally designed programs in support of the First Nations Labour Market Strategy and aim to provide:

- employment-related and career development assistance and outreach, including youth and people with disabilities (e.g. client assessment, case management, job search, job retention assistance, summer jobs, work experience);
- wrap-around services by providing expanded social supports to contribute to client success, including dependent care costs, child care, living expenses, transportation, counselling;
- providing financial incentives to individuals to encourage them to accept employment;
- providing financial assistance to individuals to help them obtain skills for employment, ranging from basic to advanced skills;
- supporting projects to help individuals create jobs for themselves by starting a business (including mentorship, coaching, support in advancing an action plan);
- early interventions with youth by offering career exploration, mentorship and services complementary to the K-12 education system to increase graduation rates of First Nations students;
- activities in support of capacity building of First Nations service delivery to deliver enhanced employment-related programs and services by providing human resource training to improve case management and client support;
- strengthening and/or enhancing organizational capacity, e.g. governance, business planning, financial reporting, compliance, performance measurement;
- supporting labour market information, research and analysis projects that support the design and delivery of labour market services;
- initiating and sustaining partnerships with government departments, provinces and territories, and/or private sector;
- enhancing existing and building potential new employer linkages, enhanced labour market information, skills inventories to enable organizations to forecast employment opportunities and recommend relevant training programs, and to connect workers to available jobs matching their qualifications; and
- marketing and promoting First Nations service delivery organizations and First Nations clients.

FPDI Additional Programs this Fiscal Year:

- The Licenced Practical Nurse Graduation was May, 2018 with 16 participants graduating. A Dakota Tipi student was honored at the “One to Watch” event and another student was honored with a scholarship for the highest marks in a provincial program. All of the students have secured employment in the health sector.
- The Lake MB Outlet Channel Project ran four Class 1 programs with 30 clients in total. 14 found employment with various employers.
- Enbridge Welding Program – There were three 1 week camps held at the Piping Industry Training Centre to introduce students to the welding field. 36 students took part. Some students have an opportunity to move onto a 2-year welding program. The tuition is funded. The participant allowances needs to be provided by ASETS. The students will be indentured apprentices with an employer placement. Please call Derek at FPDI if anyone is interested. The program starts October 22, 2018.

Thank you,
Ethel Anderson, President