

---

SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION  
FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS EDUCATION ACTION PLAN  
2010-2012

---





Thanks is extended to Shelley Brown and Shelley Daye for providing the artwork. The bear paw is symbolic of power & protection and the colours yellow, red, white & black represent the spiritual, emotional, mental & physical health of First Nations people. The Métis sash symbolizes the pride of the Métis people. And we used the dream catcher to unite both First nations & Métis people & to show that nations united are stronger than any one alone and that they can support each other in power, health & friendship.

Boards of education are committed to narrowing the achievement gap for students and fully engaging First Nations and Métis peoples in all aspects of the school system. A significant measure of the success of the Saskatchewan education system will be our success in strengthening First Nations and Métis education.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association supports boards of education and provides significant leadership in addressing these challenges for First Nations and Métis education.

## **BACKGROUND**

In scanning the environment, the following internal and external forces regarding First Nations and Métis education inform Association action:

A significant achievement gap exists for students of Aboriginal ancestry. The Ministry of Education has commitment to eliminate this gap before 2020. To effectively respond to this challenge, significant action by the Ministry of Education and boards of education is necessary.

Boards of education and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association are working to strengthen 'Public Engagement' in the publically funded education system. Strategies and supports are needed for engaging First Nations and Métis peoples at every level of the publicly funded school system: as parents, with school community councils, and with boards of education.

Funding for the initial phase of the Association Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP) in supporting boards of education is winding up. Continued efforts in support of the AEDP for boards of education are desirable.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association's Aboriginal Council is growing and serving an increasingly important role in informing Association efforts for First Nations and Métis education.





## FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS EDUCATION ACTION PLAN 2010-2012

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association has identified a leadership plan for strengthening First Nations and Métis education with specific strategic results and strategic actions.

The proposed three-year action plan provides for continuity and sustained action. As each year of the plan is completed, the plan should be revised and renewed to respond to changes and the emerging realities. The planning framework ensures sustained action that is responsive to emerging needs.

A multi-year budget commitment is necessary to sustain this work.

The plan is organized around two essential elements: strategic results and strategic actions:

**Strategic Results** define the desired outcomes and serve as coordinates, which provide clear direction for actions and expenditures until the coordinates are changed. This plan is based on the belief that the strategic results identified are the most worthwhile outcomes for boards of education to achieve over the next three years.

**Strategic Actions** describe the activities and deliverables that will ensure scarce resources are being used in the most effective and efficient manner to move towards the desired results.

This plan is designed to build on previous success of boards of education and our Association in a manner which is financially feasible and which addresses the priorities identified for the next three years.

### STRATEGIC RESULT #1

*To ensure that Saskatchewan school boards are supported in establishing a representative workforce (AEDP).*

#### STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- 1.1 Support Aboriginal awareness training;
- 1.2 Provide coaching and networking support for the school board leadership teams;
- 1.3 Promote the realization of a “representative workforce” for all Saskatchewan boards of education;
- 1.4 Serve boards of education as a clearinghouse of information and resources in support of Aboriginal employment development; and,
- 1.5 Monitor and report on progress.

## STRATEGIC RESULT #2

*To ensure that Saskatchewan school boards are succeeding in eliminating the achievement gap for children of Aboriginal ancestry.*

### STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- 2.1 Support the strategies identified by the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement to strengthen the Saskatchewan culture of learning;
- 2.2 Support boards of education and the Ministry of Education to actualize the policy First Nation and Métis Education Policy Framework *Inspiring Success: Building Towards Student Achievement* (2009); and,
- 2.3 Support the northern boards of education in identifying a “northern strategy” to strengthen student learning and success.

## STRATEGIC RESULT #3

*To ensure that Saskatchewan school boards are establishing effective practices for engaging First Nations and Métis peoples in the publicly funded education system.*

### STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- 3.1 Identify the barriers to engaging First Nations and Métis peoples in the public education system as parents, members of school community councils and serving on boards of education;
- 3.2 Identify effective practices for engaging First Nations and Métis peoples; and,
- 3.3 Develop resources and networking opportunities to support boards of education in better engaging First Nations and Métis peoples.

## STRATEGIC RESULT #4

*To ensure that the Aboriginal Council is advancing work within the Saskatchewan School Boards Association to support engagement of First Nations and Métis peoples and to strengthen student achievement.*

### STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- 4.1 Support the Aboriginal Council as a forum and clearinghouse for leadership in advancing First Nations and Métis education; and,
- 4.2 Engage the Aboriginal Council as a working advisory group to provide guidance in overseeing research projects and initiatives for First Nations and Métis education.

