

# Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government Order-In-Council



<b>Chronological no.:</b> 2732	<b>Subject:</b> Regional Education Agreement (REA) 2022-26	<b>Originated by:</b> Lorna Sook
<b>The Council of the</b> Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government		<b>District</b> Gespe'gewa'gi
<b>Date of duly convened meeting</b>	<b>D</b> 1   <b>M</b> 07   <b>Y</b> 22	<b>Province</b> Gepeg

**WHEREAS:** Mi'gmaq of Listuguj (Gespe'gewa'gi, Mi'gma'gi) have an inherent right to govern its own affairs pertaining to education;

**WHEREAS:** Mi'gmaq of Listuguj have maintained and asserted an inherent right to govern its own affairs pertaining to education despite the imposition of colonial forms of schooling, including (but not limited to) the Restigouche Indian Day School;

**WHEREAS:** Mi'gmaq of Listuguj remain committed to meet the real needs and aspirations of Mi'gmaq learners, their families, and the community for their wellbeing and academic success, along holistic and lifelong learning pathways;

**WHEREAS:** the Government of Canada is committed to the spirit of reconciliation through renewed, Nation-to-Nation and government-to-government relationship based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership as the foundation for transformative change.

**WHEREAS:** the Government of Canada recognizes that enhancing First Nations education is a fundamental part of renewing the relationship with Indigenous peoples. First Nations children and youth deserve culturally appropriate, high-quality education that meets their needs, while respecting the principle of First Nations Control of First Nation's education.

**WHEREAS:** Canada is working in partnership with First Nations to develop regional educational agreements that respond to education goals and priorities set by First Nations.

**WHEREAS:** Languages are central to Indigenous identity and are deeply connected to Indigenous cultures, laws, values and relationships with the land. In the past, the Government of Canada implemented policies intended to suppress Indigenous languages and culture, such as Indian residential, as well as day schools, which children were forced to attend and where they were forbidden to speak their own languages. Bill C-91, An Act respecting Indigenous languages, recognizes Indigenous language rights protected under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

**WHEREAS:** the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government is a member of the First Nation Education Council (the "FNEC"), which is comprised of twenty-one other First Nations;

**Moved:** Wendell Metallic

**Seconded:** Annette Barnaby

**Abstain:** -

**Opposed:** -

**Status:**  Passed  Defeated  Tabled

**Quorum** 7

 Councillor Ali Barnaby	 Chief Darcy Gray	 Councillor Wendell Metallic
 Councillor Annette Barnaby	 Councillor Gordon Jr. Isaac	 Councillor Kevin Methot
 Councillor Brian Jr. Caplin	 Councillor Dr. Cathy Martin	 Councillor Alexander Morrison
 Councillor Chad Gedeon	 Councillor George Martin	 Councillor Sky Metallic
	 Councillor Shella Swasson	

**Mi'gmaq Nation**

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**WHEREAS:** The First Nations Education Council (FNEC) contributes to the control of education by its members. The FNEC represents and defends the interests of this collective strength by promoting the realities of each First Nation and respecting their identity, culture and traditions. Excellence, student success, cultural pride and control of education by and for First Nations are at the heart of its mission;

**WHEREAS:** the FNEC has been developing its own funding formula (the “Funding Model”) based on the real and specific needs of our members with the collaboration of the education representatives since 2007 and the unanimous support of the FNEC Chiefs (resolutions FNEC/R19-002 and AFNQL/11-2017);

**WHEREAS:** the Funding Model has been developed in consideration of the substantive equality principle, which in the context of First Nations education means that the services provided should:

- i. Be culturally appropriate and what this means may vary from one First Nation Community to next;
- ii. Not perpetuate historical disadvantages in the field of First Nations education, including the legacy of colonialism and residential and day schools;
- iii. Aim to remedy intergenerational trauma caused by residential and day schools;
- iv. Meet the real and particular needs and circumstances of First Nations children including their historical, geographical, cultural, linguistics needs and circumstances;
- v. Improve educational outcomes for First Nations students and eliminate the educational gap between First Nations students and non-First Nations students;
- vi. Be at minimum comparable in quality and accessibility to educational services offered to other Canadian students.

**WHEREAS:** each component of the Funding Model has been approved by resolution of the FNEC General Assembly;

**WHEREAS:** the FNEC and Canada have negotiated a Regional Education Agreement (“REA”) annexed to the present resolution that establishes a new fiscal relationship between Canada and First Nations by providing predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding that is based on the real and specific needs of the First Nations, and supports First Nations control of First Nations education;

**WHEREAS:** the REA provides that the First Nation's Education Funding for preschool, elementary and secondary education will be updated each year by the FNEC in accordance with the Funding Model's annual adjustments;

**WHEREAS:** second level service funding is directly allocated to the FNEC and constitutes a distinct funding from that provided by the Funding Model;

**WHEREAS:** the REA outlines clear roles and responsibilities for First Nations Signatories, the FNEC and Canada reflecting the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education, the autonomy of each First Nation Community, and the FNEC's expertise and mandate as a support and decentralized organization;

**WHEREAS:** Canada is committed to provide equitable, predictable and sustainable funding in accordance with the Funding Model in the REA;

**WHEREAS:** the REA provides a mutual accountability mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of education programs in improving educational outcomes, to ensure First Nations and FNEC intervene collaboratively on issues of education service delivery and that measures taken are responsive to real needs;

**WHEREAS:** unless provided otherwise in the REA, the Individual Funding Agreements between Canada and our community continue to apply, and remain the mechanism through which education funding is transferred to First Nations;

**WHEREAS:** the REA promotes stronger First Nation's control of First Nation's education and better education outcomes for our students, which is essential to ensure that Listugujewag know and grow through their Mi'gmaq worldview, culture, history, identity and Mi'gmawei Tli'suti (language).

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT:** The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government

1. Delegates Chief Darcy Gray to sign the final version of the REA for its full term of five (5) years;
2. Mandates the FNEC to deliver second level services;
3. Delegates to the FNEC its responsibility to annually fill out and transmit to Canada, after review and verification by the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, its Elementary and Secondary Education Advancement Report and any other indicators developed by the FNEC.
4. Agrees to fulfill its obligations under the REA, including:
  - a. Providing education services that reflect Mi'gmaw worldview, culture, history and values.
  - b. Maintaining a curriculum that will enable our students to transfer to an equivalent grade in a provincial system.
  - c. Providing to the FNEC in a timely manner the necessary data in order to annually update the Funding Model and to provide Canada every year an FNEC aggregate advancement report;
  - d. Continuing to annually send Canada its consolidated financial statements, as provided in its Individual Funding Agreement.