



Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
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## Request for Proposals Financial Analysis Consultant(s)

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) represents the political, social, and economic interests of 49 First Nation communities in northern Ontario, stretching from the Quebec border to the Manitoba border, and from the Hudson Bay and James Bay coasts to the 50th parallel. Thirty-four of these communities are remote and accessible only by air. NAN territory occupies approximately two-thirds of Ontario.

Cree, Ojibway, and Oji-Cree are the three distinct languages spoken throughout Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Within these languages, there are many dialects associated with each First Nation and region. The total population within the NAN territory is 40,000 with approximately 65% being under the age of 30.

Through this Request for Proposal (RFP) NAN is seeking to hire a consultant or consultant group that has demonstrated experience conducting micro-analysis research and creating detailed financial analysis statements and reports, as well as working with First Nations community education authorities. Specific deliverables include but are not limited to:

- Research, review and evaluate current and historical fiscal education models, agreements and formulas from the various jurisdictions in Canada
- Detailed micro-costing and financial analysis of the contemplated NAN Territory Wide Education System and Territory Wide Education Body;
- Consult and participate in the fiscal negotiations process and provide fiscal research, information, and resources to the Education Jurisdiction negotiations team;
- Meet with the Participating First Nation (PFN) community members (both virtually and in-person) to gather detailed information regarding their education funding needs and again to share the final results of the research.

Please refer to the attached RFP package for more detailed information regarding the scope of work and proposal requirements.

The deadline for RFP submissions is **November 29, 2024**

All questions can be directed to:

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Education Jurisdiction Manager  
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[www.nan.ca](http://www.nan.ca)

## Background

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada (now known as Indigenous Services Canada) signed the Framework Agreements on Governance and Education Jurisdiction on October 16, 1999. In December 2018, the Agreement in Principle (AIP) was signed by NAN's Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development for Canada.

Participating First Nation communities (PFNs) within the NAN territory are in the process of negotiating for self-jurisdiction over their education system. Fiscal negotiations have recently commenced as the Education Jurisdiction Agreement has been substantively completed.

## Scope of Work

1. Provide reports that will support the negotiation team. These reports include:
  - Analysis of fiscal chapter and principles with recommendations;
  - Summary of other fiscal agreements from other jurisdictions in North America;
  - Outline the details of fiscal implications of contemplated modules – i.e. relationship between Territory Wide Education Body (TWEB), Second Level Service Providers and Participating First Nations;
  - Assess education capabilities in Participating First Nations (PFNs) and the financial capacity of each to implement agreements (detailed report outlining actual funding needs of each community);
  - Build understanding with the PFN's regarding how the fiscal agreement will impact First Nations in the contemplated TWEB (to ensure that all communities understand the outcome from voting to ratify the Education Agreement - opting out of section 35 of the Indian Act, which covers education provisions).
  
2. Provide reports to be shared with Participating First Nation Community members that:
  - Are simple and contain language that non-financial experts can understand,
  - Contain infographics that are simple to understand for PFNs,
  - Explains each First Nation's role and responsibility regarding the funding for the governance of the TWEB.
  
3. Provide negotiation support by:
  - Providing regular updates (monthly or as needed by the negotiations team)
  - Supporting the fiscal negotiation process and the negotiations team,
  - Being involved and going into PFN communities.

## Stakeholders

The consultant or consulting firm will work directly with community members, Education Authorities, Chief and Councils, administrators, the NAN Education Jurisdiction and negotiation teams and the NAN Education Director, as well as any other parties that may assist in the development of a finely detailed education jurisdiction fiscal model.

## Schedule of Deliverables

<b>First contact with all Participating First Nation communities</b> in NAN Territory to be completed by:	<b>May 31, 2025</b>
<b>Conduct an initial analysis</b> of the state of the Fiscal Agreement, the Fiscal Chapter, Sectoral Governance Agreement Funding Principals and Templates/Guidelines to provide recommendations to Education Jurisdiction team to be completed by:	sept 31, 2025
<b>Historical summary of other fiscal agreements</b> from other jurisdictions in North America to be completed by:	<b>Oct 31, 2025</b>
<b>Funding Compatibility model</b> for First Nations Education System before and after ratification of the Education Agreement to be completed by:	July 31, 2026
<b>Needs Based Report and Cost Analysis for a First Nations Education System</b> in NAN territory to be completed by:	End of Fiscal March 31, 2027
<b>Submission of Final Project Due:</b>	End of Fiscal March 31, 2027
	*Timelines may be extended based on community engagement and other external factors

## Submission Requirements

All proposals should contain the following information:

- Cover Letter
  - Outlining the understanding of the project objectives and requirements and a statement of participation interest from the firm.
- Background and Overview
  - Name and contact information for the Consultant or Consulting Firm, Project Lead, and any other Internal Resources;
  - A brief overview of the Consultant or Consulting Firm; and
  - A description of any current or past projects, programs, research, or plans the Proponent has undertaken related to education;
- Project Team
  - Identification of a Project Lead;
  - Relevant experience and qualifications of the proposed team; and
  - Resumes for each project team member.
- Work Plan and Budget:
  - Provision of a work plan that encompasses the work to be done including milestones, final deliverables and budgeted costs.

**Your response to the RFP should not exceed 10 pages. Curricula vitae are additional to this page count but should not exceed 2 pages for each individual member of the team.**