

**FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AUTHORITY
RULES REGARDING COURSES REQUIRED TO GRADUATE FROM A PFN SCHOOL**

BACKGROUND

- A. The First Nations Education Authority (FNEA) has authority to approve courses required for graduation at PFN Schools as set out in section 19(2) of the federal *First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act* which states that FNEA shall, as provided by a Co-Management Agreement:

“(a) establish standards that are applicable to education provided by a participating First Nation on First Nation land for curriculum and examinations for courses necessary to meet graduation requirements;”

- B. First Nation Authorized Courses for grades 10, 11 and 12 must be approved in order to qualify as elective credits toward the BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood), or the FNEA Graduation Certificate, and may need to be approved to qualify for a PFN Graduation Certificate;

- C. The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care *Board/Authority Authorized Courses and First Nation Authorized Courses Policy* sets out how students may earn elective credits toward graduation by successfully completing Board/Authority Authorized Courses (BAA Courses) and First Nation Authorized Courses (FNA Courses). The policy states:

“Students may earn elective credits toward graduation by successfully completing BAA or FNA Courses. There is no limit to the number of BAA or FNA Courses which may be used to satisfy the 28 credits of electives required for graduation. In some cases, at the Grade 11 level only, BAA or FNA Courses may be used to satisfy the Arts Education and/or Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (ADST) requirement towards graduation. Grade 12-level BAA Courses and FNA Courses may count towards the 16 Grade 12-level credits required for graduation.”

- D. In order for the Ministry of Education and Child Care to recognize FNA Courses for elective credit for the BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood), a form jointly developed by representatives of the Ministry and First Nations must be submitted to the Ministry by FNEA; and
- E. The purpose of these Rules is to set out the requirements for courses required for graduation from a PFN School, including the process for approving First Nation developed courses that will be required for graduation from a PFN School.

1.0 Definitions

1.1 Subject to section 1.2, the definitions set out in the Canada-First Nation Education Jurisdiction Agreements entered into by each of the Participating First Nations and Canada apply to these Rules.

1.2 In these Rules,

- a) “FNEA Graduation Certificate” means a graduation certificate issued by FNEA;
- b) “PFN Graduation Certificate” means a graduation certificate issued by a Participating First Nation in accordance with PFN Graduation Requirements;
- c) “PFN Graduation Requirements” means the graduation requirements established by a Participating First Nation or a Community Education Authority; and
- d) “PFN School” means a school operated by or on behalf of a Participating First Nation on First Nation Land, including an online school, alternate education centre, or adult education centre offering an Education program.

2.0 Approval of Courses Developed by a Participating First Nation or Community Education Authority

2.1 If a Participating First Nation or Community Education Authority has developed a course that will be used to satisfy the requirements for:

- a) an FNEA Graduation Certificate for a required or elective course; or
- b) a PFN Graduation Certificate (depending on the PFN Graduation Requirements),

it will seek FNEA’s approval of that course in accordance with FNEA’s policies and procedures referred to in section 4.1.

3.0 Recognition of Courses Authorized by British Columbia

3.1 The following courses are recognized by FNEA as meeting its requirements for courses required to graduate from a PFN School:

- a) courses that have been developed and authorized by the Ministry of Education and Child Care for BC Public Schools and BC Independent Schools;
- b) courses that have been developed by a First Nation other than a Participating First Nation and that have been authorized in accordance with the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care *Board/Authority Authorized Courses and First Nation Authorized Courses Policy*; and

- c) courses that have been developed by a Participating First Nation or Community Education Authority and approved by FNEA in accordance with section 2.1.

4.0 Policies and Procedures

- 4.1 The Board will establish policies and procedures for the implementation of the First Nation Authorized Course approval process, which may be amended from time to time.

5.0 Amendment of these Rules

- 5.1 The Board may amend these Rules by resolution passed in accordance with:
 - a) the process provided for in any co-management agreement between a Participating First Nation and FNEA; and
 - b) any process adopted by the Board regarding the development and approval of FNEA policies.