

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AUTHORITY (FNEA)
RULES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATING FIRST NATION SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND

- A. A *First Nation Schools Assessment and Certification Process* that is implemented jointly by the First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) and First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEC) was established over two decades ago.
- B. The *First Nation Schools Assessment and Certification Process* is a school-, parent- and community-based approach to school review and improvement planning.
- C. The process involves a five-year cycle, beginning in year one with a comprehensive-year long internal review of school programs and services, as well as an external visit to verify that a school meets a set of collectively defined standards and certification criteria established by and for First Nation schools in BC. Years two to five of the cycle involve implementing school growth plan activities identified through the school review.
- D. Under section 19(2) of the federal *First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act*, FNEA is required to:

“(d) provide a process for certifying schools that are operated by a participating First Nation on First Nation land;” and
- E. The purpose of these Rules is to address the school certification requirements applicable to PFN Schools, building on the process for school certification already established for First Nation schools in BC.

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) “*First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process*” means the process as set out in the Handbook prepared by FNEC and FNSA, which may be amended from time to time; and
- b) “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, adult education centre, or early childhood learning centre offering an Education program.

2.0 Certification of PFN Schools

2.1 All PFN Schools must be certified in accordance with these Rules.

3.0 Adoption of the First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process

3.1 FNEA adopts the *First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process* as the process by which PFN Schools will be certified.

3.2 FNEA will recognize the certification of any PFN School certified through the *First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process* until their current certification expires.

3.3 Following the expiry of a PFN School's current certification, the PFN School will be certified in accordance with the *First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process* and any policies and procedures adopted by FNEA, which are built on the *First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process*.

4.0 Policies and Procedures

4.1 The Board may establish policies and procedures for the certification of PFN Schools under the *First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process*.

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.