

**FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
RULES REGARDING GRADUATION CERTIFICATES**

**BACKGROUND**

- A. Under the Education Co-Management Agreement entered into with each Participating First Nation (PFN), FNEA agreed that, where students meet the requirements established for each certificate, each PFN will have the option of:
- (i) providing a PFN Graduation Certificate consistent with the standards set out in FNEA's rules establishing graduation requirements;
  - (ii) requesting that FNEA issue an FNEA Graduation Certificate under FNEA's rules establishing graduation requirements;
  - (iii) requesting that British Columbia issue a BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) or a BC Adult Graduation Diploma (Adult Dogwood); or
  - (iv) providing or requesting two or more of the certificates set out in (i) to (iii).
- B. The purpose of these Rules is to address the graduation requirements for the FNEA Graduation Certificates and PFN Graduation Certificates.

**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 PFNs and Canada apply to these Rules.

1.2 For the purposes of these Rules:

- a) "Eligible Student" means a student who:
  - i. attends a PFN School; or
  - ii. attends a public school, independent school, or a school operated by another First Nation and either:
    - A. is a member of the PFN; or
    - B. is identified by the PFN, in accordance with that PFN's laws or policies as having a close affiliation with the PFN.
- b) "FNEA Graduation Certificate" means a graduation certificate issued by FNEA;
- c) "PFN Graduation Certificate" means a graduation certificate issued by a PFN in accordance with PFN Graduation Requirements;

- d) “PFN Graduation Requirements” means the graduation requirements established by a PFN or a Community Education Authority; and
- e) “PFN School” means a school operated by or on behalf of a PFN 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 Issuance of FNEA Graduation Certificate**

2.1 At the request of a PFN or Community Education Authority, FNEA may issue an FNEA Graduation Certificate to an Eligible Student who has completed a minimum of 80 credits, including the following:

<b>Required Courses (64 credits)</b>	<b>Minimum Credits</b>
First Nations Language and Culture 10	4
First Nations Language and Culture 11	4
First Nations Language and Culture 12	4
English First Peoples 10 *	4
English First Peoples 11 *	4
English First Peoples 12 *	4
A Mathematics 10 *	4
A Mathematics 11 or 12 *	4
Arts Education OR Applied Design, Skills, and Tech 10, 11 or 12 *	4
Social Studies 10 *	4
BC First Peoples 12 or Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12 *	4
Career-Life Education AND Career-Life Connections *	8
Science 10 *	4
A Science 11 or 12 *	4
Physical and Health Education 10 *	4

**Elective Courses (16 credits)**

Four additional Grade 10-12 courses.

\* Explanatory Note: In order for a student to be granted both the FNEA Graduation Certificate and the Ministry of Education Dogwood Diploma, the courses indicated with an \* above must be BC Ministry of

Education Courses. Additionally, the student must complete a minimum of 16 credits at the Grade 12 level, including a required Language Arts 12 course and Career Life Connections. For the Dogwood Diploma, at least 4 credits must have an Indigenous focus, and the student also must write the Ministry of Education Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment and Grades 10 and 12 Literacy Assessments.

- 2.2 Students enrolled in a PFN school can earn some of the credits required under section 2.1 for the FNEA Graduation Certificate using equivalency, prior learning assessment, independent directed study, external credentials, dual credit or First Nations Authorized Courses, as set out in the FNEA rules regarding courses required to graduate from a PFN School, the FNEA policy for equivalency, prior learning assessment, and independent directed studies, the FNEA policy for dual credit and the FNEA policy for external credentials.
- 2.3 Students enrolled in a public school, independent school, or a school operated by another First Nation can earn some of the credits required under section 2.1 for the FNEA Graduation Certificate using equivalency, prior learning assessment, independent directed study, external credentials, dual credit, Board Authority Authorized (BAA) courses, or First Nations Authorized Courses as set out in applicable policies.

\* Note: at present, the applicable policies include the Ministry of Education policies on Board/Authority Authorized Courses, Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit and Independent Directed Studies.

### **3.0 Standards for Issuance of a PFN Graduation Certificate**

- 3.1 If a PFN or Community Education Authority for a PFN wishes to issue its own PFN Graduation Certificate, it must provide FNEA with a copy of the PFN Graduation Requirements for issuing its PFN Graduation Certificate.
- 3.2 FNEA will review the proposed PFN Graduation Requirements, in a timely and collaborative way, to determine if they meet FNEA's standards set out in FNEA policy and procedures.
- 3.3 If FNEA determines that the proposed PFN Graduation Requirements are consistent with FNEA's standards, they will approve the PFN Graduation Requirements. If FNEA does not approve the PFN Graduation Requirements, FNEA will provide constructive and timely feedback so that the PFN or Community Education Authority for a PFN may revise and resubmit the PFN Graduation Requirements to FNEA for review.
- 3.4 Despite section 3.3, students who have qualified for a PFN Graduation Certificate will only be entitled to receive an FNEA Graduation Certificate in accordance with section 2.

#### **4.0 Issuance of a PFN Graduation Certificate**

4.1 If the PFN Graduation Requirements have been approved by FNEA, the PFN or Community Education Authority may issue a PFN Graduation Certificate to an Eligible Student who has met the PFN Graduation Requirements.

#### **5.0 Recognition of Certificates of Graduation Issued by British Columbia**

5.1 The BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) and the BC Adult Graduation Diploma (Adult Dogwood) issued by British Columbia are recognized by FNEA as meeting FNEA graduation requirements. PFNs are responsible for requesting, on behalf of Eligible Students, that the Ministry of Education issue the Dogwood or Adult Dogwood to those students.

5.2 Despite section 5.1, students who have qualified for a Dogwood Certificate or an Adult Dogwood Certificate will only be entitled to receive an FNEA Graduation Certificate or a PFN Graduation Certificate in accordance with section 2 or 4.

#### **6.0 Policies and Procedures**

6.1 The Board will establish policies and procedures regarding the establishment and implementation of FNEA's graduation requirements, the standards for reviewing a PFN's Graduation Requirements and the issuance of an FNEA Graduation Certificate, which may be amended from time to time.

#### **7.0 Amendment of these Rules**

7.1 The Board may amend these Rules by resolution passed in accordance with:

- a) the process provided for in any co-management agreement between a PFN and FNEA; and
- b) any process adopted by the Board regarding the development and approval of FNEA policies.