



BC College of Teachers



FNSA

April 24, 2009

College and First Nations Schools Association agree to bring First Nations Schools into online fold

VANCOUVER — The College and the First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) today signed a memorandum of understanding which will ensure that First Nations schools across BC contribute and have access to the College's online Employers' List, a secure and confidential system that allows employers to verify the employment history of potential teacher hires.

"First Nations schools are not under the jurisdiction of the provincial government so their teacher employment history was not included when the Employers' List was first created," said Marie Crowther, Registrar of the College. "This MOU ends that situation and includes First Nations schools, ensuring that their students are protected with the same safeguards as students anywhere else in the province."

Greg Louie, President of the FNSA stated, "We know that many teachers in First Nations schools have previously worked in the BC public system, and it is important to ensure that our schools have access to the same tools that help ensure student safety in other school systems. The last thing we want is for our students to be put at risk because something fell through the cracks."

The Employers' List was created by *Teaching Profession Act* amendments passed by the legislature in 2007. Starting in 2006-07, it lists employment history for any teacher employed in the public and independent systems in BC. The College and First Nations schools have worked together for many years on a number of projects and regulatory matters. This MOU solidifies and strengthens that strong relationship.

The College is the self-regulatory body for educators in BC. The College's responsibilities include licensing, disciplining and setting standards for educators. The College has 70,000 members. Members of the College include classroom teachers, principals and vice-principals, district administrators and superintendents in the public, independent and First Nations systems.

The FNSA collaborates with First Nations schools to create nurturing environments that develop learners' pride and competence in their First Nations language and heritage and equips them to realize their full potential, within self-governing First Nations communities. The FNSA is a registered society and charity that is directed by First Nations schools in BC.

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