

British Columbia First Nations Coordinator Council

Jurisdiction: British Columbia

Contact: Janice Nakamura

Level: Post-Secondary

Theme: Community Based Practice

Description of Practice:

The British Columbia First Nations Coordinators Council (BCFNCC):

- Represents the voices of First Nations Coordinators and Advisors working within the public post-secondary system in British Columbia, including colleges, institutes, agencies, and universities
- Acts as an advisory and advocacy group to the BC Ministry of Advanced Education to enhance success among First Nations students in the public post secondary system in British Columbia
- Plans and coordinates training sessions for British Columbia First Nations Coordinators

The Council includes five positions. Four of these positions are held by members of the BCFNC. The fifth position is an advisory position and is held by the Manager of Aboriginal Education in the Ministry of Advanced Education or designate. Council members serve two-year terms. The Chair has an additional year added to his or her term to ensure continuity.

Background:

The British Columbia First Nations Coordinators Council has been in existence since 1992 and represents the First Nations Coordinators and Advisors working within the public post-secondary system in British Columbia, including colleges, university colleges, institutes and universities.

In 1995, the BC Ministry of Advanced Education developed an Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework. One of the Policy Framework's recommended steps identified for public post-secondary institutions was the employment of Aboriginal education coordinators. Today, all but one of BC's 26 public post-secondary institutions employ an Aboriginal education coordinator.

Development:

The work of the BCFNCC have been supported by the Ministry of Advanced Education by the provision of annual funding for training events, and the facilitation of partnerships with other government ministries and agencies as required.

Evidence:

The BCFNCC promotes the development of strategies to increase the access, retention, and success rates of Aboriginal learners within the British Columbia public post-secondary system. The Council also advises the Ministry of Advanced Education on policy development and the implementation of Aboriginal post-secondary education initiatives.

Adaptability:

Other jurisdictions would be able to tailor the concept of a First Nations Coordinators Council to fit their own needs.

Further information:

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