

(Adapted from a pamphlet produced by the Assembly of First Nations, 2010)

Why do First Nations children on reserve get inequitable education and many get poor quality schools?

Provincial/Territorial education laws apply on and off reserves but the federal government is supposed to pay for education on reserves. If the federal government provides less money for schools and education then the provinces/territories typically do not top it up. This means First Nations children and youth across Canada get inequitable education just because they are First Nations and living on a reserve. This is not fair.

What this funding inequality means for First Nations students:

- A First Nations child's education is funded between \$2000 to \$3000 less than another child in a nearby provincial school.
- Unlike provincial schools, the federal government does not provide any funding for:
 - \$0 for libraries
 - \$0 for computers, software and teacher training
 - \$0 for extracurricular activities
 - \$0 for First Nations data management systems
 - \$0 for 2nd and 3rd level services (including core funding for special education, school boards, governance and education research)
 - \$0 for endangered languages
 - \$0 for principals, directors, pedagogical support, and the development of culturally-appropriate curricula.
- According to the federal government, as of 2010, 48 new schools are needed in First Nations communities nationally, and an additional 29 schools are in need of expansion and major renovations.
- Health concerns in First Nations schools include: Overcrowding, extreme mould, high carbon dioxide levels, sewage fumes in school, frozen pipes, unheated portables, students suffering from cold and frost bite, and schools being abandoned despite a lack of alternative infrastructure.

There are solutions to resolve the funding inequalities and give First Nations children a chance to get a good education.

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