

## **Facts About...**

### **Aboriginal Institute Partnerships with Colleges and Universities in Ontario**

#### The Issue

Aboriginal controlled post-secondary institutions are not formally recognized by the province of Ontario to grant certificates, diplomas and degrees. They also do not have access to the resources that are available to provincially recognized colleges and universities.

Aboriginal institutions require operating revenue to support program delivery. At the present time, Aboriginal institutions negotiate partnership agreements with colleges to increase the recognition and portability of credentials earned at Aboriginal institutions. Some of these partnerships have led to securing a share of the operating grants available to provincially recognized colleges. A similar arrangement has not been achieved across the board with respect to the college sector and similarly, has not been achieved within the university sector.

#### Partnership Agreements

Aboriginal institutions have had some success in negotiating partnership agreements with colleges that have enabled them access to a portion of the Basic Operating Grants that MTCU provides to Ontario colleges. The best of these agreements have yielded an Aboriginal institution funding of up to 90% of the Basic Operating Grant and up to 90% of tuition revenues. St. Lawrence College was the first college to permit Aboriginal institutions a flow through of Basic Operating Grants based on enrolled students in post-secondary programs covered by the partnership agreement.

Aboriginal institutions are currently partnered with eight provincially recognized colleges. Other examples of negotiated partnership agreements with colleges include:

##### Scenario 1 – four year agreement to be reviewed annually

- 85% of the monies, net of the 30% student set-aside tuition fees generation from the total tuition and MTCU funding revenues payable to the Aboriginal institute per semester
- Areas of cooperation include: marketing and promotion; development and modification of curricula; and the issuance of joint credentials.
- The Aboriginal institute partner must: hire faculty; conduct program and curriculum review annually; ensure the Advisory Committee meets once a year; hold and conduct promotional meetings and mid-grade reviews of students, instructors and staff; ensure appropriate copyright release for training manuals; provide space and technology to deliver the program; assume College staff or faculty travel costs; facilitate student applications; collaborate with the College on quality support measures.

##### Scenario 2 – four year agreement to be reviewed annually

- The agreement was established solely for the purpose of accessing funding for student support services.

- This agreement yields the college 12% of project costs as MTCU does not flow funding directly to Aboriginal institutions.

#### Scenario 3 – 3 year agreement

- The College will revise existing curriculum to address the needs and shall remain the sole owner of all copyright in the program materials.
- The Aboriginal institute in partnership with the College will recruit and employ faculty.
- The College will flow the Aboriginal institutes share of approved funding as per agreement.
- Staff members will be employees of the College and Aboriginal institute however all costs will be covered by the Aboriginal institute.
- The Aboriginal institute also pays the College the salary and administrative costs associated with faculty members.
- The Aboriginal institute will make the necessary support staff, offices, teaching space, hardware, software and other components of the teaching infrastructure available to the College at no cost.
- This agreement makes no mention of sharing operating grants received by the college for the students in the program.

Unfortunately, Aboriginal institutions have not been able to secure similar access to the Basic Income Unit provided to universities. It should also be noted that all tuition fees are paid to the mainstream university.

Currently, Aboriginal institutions have partnership agreements with the following universities in the following programs.

Ryerson University	Bachelor of Social Work Public Administration and Governance Bachelor of Arts
Queen's University	Aboriginal Teacher Education
Trent University	Diploma in Mohawk Language
Carleton University	Honours Bachelor of Social Work
Laurentian	Honours BSW – Native Human Services
University Consortium – Brock, McMaster, Guelph, Laurier and Waterloo	Native University Program

Terms of negotiated agreements between Aboriginal institutes and universities include:

#### Scenario 1 – five year agreement

- The Aboriginal institution hires and employs faculty appointed by the university as per the university collective agreement.
- Budget allocations and operational costs of the program shall be negotiated between the Aboriginal institutes and the university and are subject to available provincial and federal funding, if any.
- The Aboriginal institute administers all on-site delivery including: arrangements for facilities, accommodations and transportation; duplication and distribution of course materials; recommends qualified instructors, guest speakers and

lecturers; student admission assistance, transfer credits and financial assistance; mentoring and counseling; and services required for the overall administration of the collaborative program.

#### Scenario 2 – 1 year agreement

- Instructors for the courses will be employees of the university and will be recruited, hired and compensated in accordance with the university collective agreements for these activities.
- The university agrees to act as a recipient for AETS funding for the delivery of the program and will transfer funding received for the program less 12% administrative fees
- A full-time instructor will be hired to teach the four courses under the collective agreement of the university and a maximum of \$6864 mileage will be allowed.
- Funding for the program will be co-administered.

#### Scenario 3 – 5 year agreement

- The university agrees to flow funding received for this agreement to the institute.
- Instructors will be approved jointly but be paid by the Aboriginal institute. Travel expenses will be negotiated as part of the instructor contract.
- The institute shall coordinate and deliver the program through consultation with university.
- The institute assumes full responsibility for all management and administration of funds, included providing the university with the necessary government reporting requirements.

#### Scenario 4 – 2 year agreement

- Program costs will be paid by the Aboriginal institute in advance of incurring expenses.
- The university makes travel arrangements and bills the Aboriginal institute for the costs. All travel costs incurred by individuals including accommodations, meals, and car rental/mileage will be reimbursed in accordance with university rates. This applies to instructors, staff visiting the community-based program, costs incurred by the on-site coordinator for related travel to the communities and to the university and the cost of bringing the university faculty liaison to visit placement sites.
- The Aboriginal institute provides classroom space, office space, telephone/fax and equipment for use by the on site coordinator and participation of a locally based program management committee.
- Courses are delivered in the Aboriginal community with the exception of summer session courses which are delivered at the university. For summer session, the Aboriginal institute bears the cost of transportation, accommodation and meals for all students.
- Expenditures funded by the Aboriginal institution: faculty; per course fee for faculty liaison assessments and host location support; per course amount for each course delivered; the cost of the university benefit package; special support services; web/computer administration support; visiting lectures and community resource persons including at the university for summer session; costs for academic/administrative liaison; and honoraria for placement sites.

## To Conclude

All students that are enrolled in programs delivered by an Aboriginal institution through these partnerships are also enrolled in the mainstream institute. All student tuition costs are paid to the college or university. Some progress has been made over time within college sector agreements. None of the partnership agreements mention any share of the tuition being forwarded to the Aboriginal institution. Therefore, the partner university receives tuition funding per student, basic income units per student and fees paid by the Aboriginal institution for program recognition. These costs are all in addition to those costs acquired by the Aboriginal institution in securing and negotiating an agreement.

To take this situation a step further, if the Aboriginal institution secures a partnership agreement with a mainstream institute to deliver a program and is successful in receiving AETS (provincial) funding for the delivery of the program to ensure credentials recognition, the Ministry or tax payer, is paying for the program twice.

Given the lack of provincial recognition of Aboriginal institutions to grant their own certificates, diplomas and degrees, mainstream institutions can and will continue to take advantage of the partnership situation with Aboriginal institutions.

Aboriginal institutions have sought the assistance by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to ensure the creation of respectful partnership agreements. Aboriginal institutions have also advocated for formal recognition of Aboriginal institutions to grant provincially recognized certificates, diplomas and degrees and to access funding that is available to mainstream post-secondary institutions.

Aboriginal institutions have delivered post-secondary programs in Ontario since 1985. Now is the time to recognize them as the third sector in Ontario's post-secondary education system.