

Ministre des Services  
aux Autochtones



Minister of  
Indigenous Services

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

June 22, 2020

Mr. Yves Giroux  
Parliamentary Budget Officer  
99 Bank Street, Suite 900  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A9

[pbo-dpb@parl.gc.ca](mailto:pbo-dpb@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Giroux:

Thank you for your request of May 21, 2020, seeking information specific to Indigenous Services Canada's response to COVID-19.

You will recall that on March 18, 2020, the Government of Canada announced funding, through its COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, of \$305 million for a new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund. The Indigenous Community Support Fund was created to give communities the ability to fund activities according to their priorities and needs.

To address your specific questions, as of June 2, 2020, with respect to the \$306.8 million for small- and medium-sized Indigenous businesses allocated under the authority of a Prime Minister's return and with a Treasury Board Submission to follow, the data which you are requesting is not yet available. The agreement to disburse this funding was signed with the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association on May 26, 2020, and the money was released on May 29, 2020. The funds are currently flowing to small- and medium-sized Indigenous businesses and data on how it is being used will not be available until July 20, 2020, at the earliest. We will update you on the status of this funding as soon as information is available.

With respect to increases of distinctions-based support for students, on April 22, 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a one-time increase of \$75.2 million to distinctions-based financial supports for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation post-secondary students and recent graduates. The amounts are as follows:

- \$65.5 million for First Nations students;
- \$7.24 million for Métis Nation students; and
- \$2.52 million for Inuit students.

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The new funding builds on the investments made in Budget 2019 for distinctions-based post-secondary education strategies. It will be allocated through the existing First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategies for the year 2020-2021.

This new funding will have the same reporting requirements as the existing post-secondary education strategies. As a result, performance reporting data will be available in fall 2021. Estimates for the number of students benefitting from the above funding amounts are provided below:

- First Nations post-secondary education students: approximately 23,000 students currently funded are expected to be reached by the new funding.
- Métis Nation post-secondary education students: an estimated 700 students are expected to be reached by the new funding. This is the same number provided by the Métis National Council to the Department in their policy proposal to support the establishment of the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy related to Budget 2019. Performance reporting data is not yet available for this strategy.
- Inuit post-secondary education students: an estimated 200 students are expected to be reached by the new funding. This is the same number provided by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to the Department in their policy proposal to support the establishment of the Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy related to Budget 2019. Performance reporting data is not yet available for this strategy.

Performance reporting data, such as student counts, is updated on an annual basis and can only be provided on an annual basis. Reports by funding recipients are submitted to the Department once per year. As a result, weekly updates cannot be provided.

I hope this information is useful to you and to your office. We look forward to continuing our work with you to keep Canadians proactively informed of the rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19, and assuring that democratic accountability continues, despite the crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP