

Directed Research Project Proposal

Title: First Nations Demographics Research - Education

Name and address of organization;

Community Infrastructure Branch
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
15 Eddy St
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H4

Name and title of the manager and the economist that will supervise the student:

Brian Wallace
Senior Policy Manager
Engineering and Technical Services
Community Infrastructure Branch
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Description of the project:

There are currently 636 First Nation communities across Canada. These communities vary greatly in terms of their governance, infrastructure management, fiscal strength and level of socio-economic development. AANDC provides approximately \$1.2 billion in annual funding to support First Nation on-reserve infrastructure. AANDC is in process of developing a database that provides information on all First Nations assets. The database is relatively new and little analysis has been made of the data contained within it.

The purpose of this project is to conduct research on finding patterns in school enrolment rates in on-reserve communities and their distance to provincial schools. It also aims to find a relation between the following factors:

- Lack of schools on reserve
- Distance to schools in nearby communities
- Enrolment rates
- Age of the school buildings
- Differences by province or territory
- Capacity of the school
- Funding for education
- Demographic characteristics of the reserve

This project will provide a framework for understanding and evaluating the effectiveness of on and off-reserve schools and its impact on the communities' socio-economic development. The framework will use readily available data (INAC and Statistics Canada).

The resulting analysis will enable future investments in schools to be made with a broad understanding of the entire First Nation School portfolio. The student researcher will work under the supervision of the Senior Policy Manager of the Data Analysis Team. She or he will have full access to relevant AANDC databases and support in data extraction from the database support team.

Benefits to the participating student:

The student will play a key leading role in the development of this project and will benefit from participating in the development of a useful strategic tool. The student will also gain a good understanding of First Nation issues and acquire a good knowledge of the challenges that First Nations face in developing their communities.

Commitments, tasks and deliverables:

During the course of the project the student will:

- review data that has currently been identified to support this project
- identify gaps where additional data is needed
- participate in discussions on how to best fill these gaps
- consult relevant secondary sources to form comprehensive knowledge of studies already conducted
- provide data analysis
- prepare a presentation of their findings for discussion within the department

Specific qualifications required:

Data manipulation skills, knowledge of statistics and/or econometrics