

A Comparison of Resources Available for Second-level Education Services in Saskatchewan First Nations Schools and Saskatchewan school divisions: A Case Study

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Abstract

The adequacy of funding within First Nations education is an ongoing issue of debate. This study addresses one aspect of this complex problem – that of funding for second-level services within First Nations tribal councils. Levels of second-level funding for the Yorkton Tribal Council are compared to equivalent central office supports in one provincial school division, the Prairie Valley School Division, as well as the central office supports within the overall provincial K-12 system. Research results indicate that the Yorkton tribal Council does not receive comparable levels of financial support in comparison to the Prairie Valley School Division or the broader provincial system.

These results leave a number of key questions unanswered. Are these findings symptomatic of the larger funding question of K-12 First Nations education? Or are the lower levels of funding for second level services a question of allocation – are funds simply not made available for second-level services relative to school based services. It appears that further efforts to consider the larger issue of overall funding for First Nations K-12 education are necessary.