First Nations Education Administrators Association (FNEAA)
First Annual National Gathering: *Champions of Change* -Honouring Resiliency

October 27 & 28, 2021
Fairmont Winnipeg, 2 Lombard Place, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y3

It is with great excitement that the FNEAA invites you to attend and actively participate in the First Annual National Gathering in Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 27 & 28, 2021. The theme of the National Gathering is *Champions of Change – Honouring Resiliency* which highlights four specific quadrants of lifelong learning and growth in a First Nations educational context: A. Resilience; B. Reconciliation; C. First Nations Control of First Nations Education; and D. Change.

**COMPETENCY QUADRANTS**

1. **East (Yellow) – Quadrant A. Resilience** – This quadrant focuses on the capacity and inner strength of an individual, family, and community to bounce back and carry on in the face of adversity. It links to First Nations identity, land, history and collective dimensions of health. It relates to a sense of autonomy, problem solving skills, communications skills, social skills and cognitive-integrative abilities. It also relates to the revitalization and diversification of economies and the capacity to make a difference in the world.

2. **South (Red)– Quadrant B. Reconciliation** – This quadrant focuses on healing and the health and wellness of First Nations individuals, families and communities and all Canadians This refers to all human beings and it is about learning to work and walk together in a good way. It is about reconciling colonial systems with emerging First Nations ways of education.
It relates to all parts of healing for everyone. This requires public truth sharing, apology and acknowledging past harms. It relates to addressing colonialism and its’ negative impact on education, cultures, languages, health, child welfare, justice and economic opportunities. It relates to expressing our voices, cultural revitalization and integrating First Nations knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols and connections to the land. It relates to public education and dialogue about the history and legacy of residential schools, Treaties, First Nations rights and First Nations contributions to society.

3. **West (Black) – Quadrant C. First Nations Control of First Nations Education** – This quadrant is about building the capacity for effective governance and leadership at the individual, family and community levels. There is a focus on strategy, action and results. It is about lifelong learning and helping others. It is about role models, information sharing, outcome concern for the welfare of others, integrity, credibility and value differences.

4. **North (White) – Quadrant D. Change** - This quadrant focuses on the traditional teaching that the one constant in the universe is change. As learners, new knowledge and experiences are embraced as they continue to develop their gifts, grow and become. It is about interconnectedness and building positive relationships with all elements of nature, other human beings, ancestors, the unseen, and the Creator. This is about the wisdom of First Nations elders, ceremonies, cultures, and traditions. It is about identity and our constant evolution.

You are invited to prepare and submit a breakout presentation to FNEAA on one of the topics in the four quadrants described above. The presentation should be a maximum of 30 minutes with 30 minutes allocated for group questions and discussion.

As educators, it is important to ask ourselves: How can learning that balances the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of our nature in the home, school, community, and on the land be better supported? What changes are required to ensure accountability to First Nations students based on First Nations traditions, values perspectives? How do we evaluate where we are and where we need to go?

The role of the First Nations Education Administrators working in First Nations education organizations, education boards, schools, and First Nations communities is of great significance at local levels. The health and success of First Nations education can often be directly linked to the effectiveness and capacity of its education administrators; they are key to the viability and well-being of First Nations learners, families, schools, organizations and communities.
The FNEAA’s vision, mission, and values statements are as follows.

**Vision:** Balancing the interconnectedness in Education, rooted in First Nations languages, cultures, traditions and self-determination under our First Nations’ control of First Nations’ Education.

**Mission:** FNEAA is a gathering place for First Nations Education Administrators to share information, collect and share ideas and enhance capacity in Education, Certification, Professional Development, Partnerships, Systems Development & Services, Mentoring and Conferences.

**Values:** FNEAA is committed to the values associated in the teachings of our members’ Nations.

This is your opportunity to come and join us – to gather, to share, to learn from each other, to network and form partnerships. The FNEAA Interim Board of Directors, Interim Advisory Committee members, and staff look forward to greeting you and serving you at this year’s National Gathering.