

PEER SUPPORT: EDUCATOR MENTORSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *Peer Support* program?

Peer Support is a national mentorship program for K-12 educators of Indigenous students. Indspire pairs educators from across Canada and provides support online to this learning community through webinars, and other professional development tools.

What are the benefits of joining *Peer Support*?

- Opportunity to network with and learn from educators across Canada
- A great way to enhance your commitment to education and professional growth
- Channels for change and opportunity, with the ultimate goal of facilitating student achievement
- Monthly webinars on selected topics in Indigenous education
- Access to cultural pedagogy and practices
- Opportunity to attend *The National Gathering for Indigenous Education*

How do I get involved?

- Submit an application form (visit indspire.ca/peer-support)
- Participate in a 10-minute phone conversation with the Program Coordinator
- Complete a police criminal record check (if one has not already been completed)
- Sign a contract for the term of the program

What is my commitment?

- Commit to a minimum of one monthly interaction for the duration of the program
- Participate in at least three professional development webinars available in the K-12 resource centre
- Complete 3 online surveys during the term of the program

Who can participate?

K-12 educators who are committed and dedicated to connecting a minimum of once a month with another educator.

Who are mentors?

Educators with a minimum of 5 years of teaching experience in Indigenous education who:

- Have a strong understanding of mentorship to improve professional development
- Have a repertoire of strategies to improve student achievement
- Have had success in positive outcomes for Indigenous students
- Be enthusiastic and have a positive attitude towards Indigenous education

Who are mentees?

- Emerging educators
- Educators in a new grade, position, or community
- Bachelor of Education Students
- Educators new to Indigenous education
- Educators looking to develop or strengthen education, professional development and growth

How long is the program?

The program runs each year from September to May. The program begins as soon as a match is made.

Do you have to be Indigenous to participate in the program?

Indigenous ancestry is an asset but not a requirement; partners in Indigenous education are welcome to participate.

How are educators matched?

Using information from the application form and conversations, the following is considered when pairing educators:

1. Professional learning goals;
2. Region;
3. Subject areas;
4. Grade level; and
5. Preference to be matched with male or female, Indigenous or non-Indigenous.

Are there any fees, or costs to join?

Participation in the program is free!

What if I am not happy with my match?

Personality differences can occur. If either party feels that the relationship is not working, contact the Program Coordinator as soon as possible. Indspire will make every effort possible to address any such concerns and provide resolution.