



Indigenous education, | L'éducation des autochtones.
Canada's future. | L'avenir du Canada.

Peer Support: Educator Mentorship Program Overview

Peer Support is a mentorship program for educators of K-12 Indigenous students, with the goal of increasing high school completion rates of Indigenous students across Canada. Educators in the program have access to culturally responsive pedagogy and practices.

Who can participate?

K-12 educators who are committed and dedicated to connecting a minimum of once a month with another educator. Indigenous ancestry is an asset but not a requirement; partners in Indigenous education are welcome.

Mentors are:

- Willing to provide support and guidance to help shape the professional growth and development of another educator.
- Interested in educational, professional development and growth.
- Well-versed in leadership, teaching, and learning strategies, program development, curriculum, local culture, language and traditions, and the learning environments of Indigenous students both in rural and urban settings.
- Have had success in positive outcomes for Indigenous students.

Mentees can be:

- In a new grade, community, position.
- In a Bachelor of Education program.
- Looking for culturally sensitive Indigenous resources or ways to include Indigenous knowledge and culture in their teachings.
- Looking to develop or strengthen education, professional development and growth.

Application Process

While the program runs each year from September to May, applications are accepted throughout the year. The process is as follows:

1. Complete and submit the [online application form](https://indspire.ca/peer-support) (visit indspire.ca/peer-support).
2. Applicants will be contacted for a 10-minute intake conversation by phone, including a series of questions to assist with the matching process. Questions will take into

consideration personality preferences and traits, expertise, and/or the participant's individual needs.

3. Criminal Background Check – all participants will be required to have one completed.
4. Contract – participants are required to sign a contract for the term of the mentorship program.

Matching Process

Using information from the application form and intake conversations, Indspire considers the following when matching educators:

1. Professional learning goals;
2. Region;
3. Subject areas; and
4. Grade level.

Program Expectations

The following provides a framework and basic guidelines to facilitate a positive collaborative relationship for program success.

1. **Build a relationship:** Participants will be introduced by Indspire via email with the both participants' names, telephone numbers and email addresses. Participants should initiate contact with each other within one month of receiving this email.
2. **Complete a Mentoring Agreement:** Provides an opportunity to establish how often and how you will meet.
3. **Communicate monthly:** Communicate and collaborate with one another at least once per month. Participants choose specific dates and times to meet. Meetings may happen by phone, Skype, in person, etc.
4. **Watch webinars:** Watch at least three professional development webinars during the program.
5. **Complete surveys:** Complete three online surveys during the program year.

Testimonials

“The Peer Support Program connected me with a mentor that was able to provide me with guidance in infusing Indigenous perspectives/content in a subject area I had never taught before. This relationship grew my confidence in the subject area and in turn enriched the student experience within my classroom. I am excited to build upon these concepts next year, creating a stronger program every year of experience.” Teacher, Winnipeg, MB

“My mentor has been a wealth of knowledge and experience. I feel very comfortable asking her questions without feeling ignorant or shameful. Just having a knowledgeable, open-minded mentor has been a huge asset to my teaching abilities. “Teacher, Moosonee, ON

Contact:

indspire.ca/mentorship | peersupport@indspire.ca | 1.855.INDSPIRE (463.7747) x020