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Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Curve Lake Members,

Enclosed you will find a survey question regarding the expansion of Curve Lake First Nation School to grade six (6). Attached are Background Information and a Q & A sheet.

We hope that you will participate in the survey as we move forward in planning for the Education of our children.

Chief and Council with the Education Department and Education Committee

**Please return your response by Friday January 16, 2015.**

- You may drop it off at CLFN School or the Administration Building Receptionist marked to the attention of Louise Musgrave, Education Manager
- Scan and email to [louisem@curvelake.ca](mailto:louisem@curvelake.ca)
- Fax to 705-657-8708
- Mail to 22 Winookeedaa Drive, Curve Lake, Ontario K0L 1R0
- You may contact the Education portfolios; Jeff Jacobs [jeffj@curvelake.ca](mailto:jeffj@curvelake.ca) or Lorenzo Whetung [lorenzow@curvelake.ca](mailto:lorenzow@curvelake.ca) if you have any questions.



# Curve Lake First Nation School Expansion

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## BACKGROUND

**Purpose:** This document is meant to provide Curve Lake First Nation membership with information pertaining to the exploration and discussion of expanding our School from grades 4 to 6.

**Background:** In 2013, Chief and Council commissioned the development and submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) notifying them of our desire to seriously explore School expansion in Curve Lake.

The Letter was submitted to AANDC because by definition, our school is classified as a band-operated entity and is subject to National program guidelines for elementary education programs under the Department. Moreover, any change in school operation such as expanding the number of grades offered will have implications on operational and capital funding as well as space allocation requirements.

**Moving Forward Together:** It is imperative that Council along with the Education Department and Committee gather input and hear from Community as a whole as it relates to expanding our School. This means future, present and past students, parents and guardians, and all membership.

**Rationale:** Too many times we have heard from parents, teachers and students how unfortunate it is that we don't offer grade 4, 5 and 6 at our School. In addition to this, other obvious factors for consideration are:

- The quality of education received at our School is in-line with schools locally and the province;
- Demographics tell us we have enough children to support an expansion now;
- Continual budget cuts to local school boards denies our students important opportunities and experiences;
- Our language is not a priority at schools other than ours and often our students are forced to miss core classes while learning Ojibwe which is crippled by a provincially mandated curriculum that is mediocre at best;
- Transition to a new school at such a young age exposes our students to unnecessary stress and setbacks;
- Access to special education needs and resources is superior on territory;

# Curve Lake First Nation School Expansion



- Federal monies are available now to apply for a capital funds for expansion;
- Education matters more to us than dollars and cents and is the best investment a Community can make.

**Grade Expansion:** Our plan for grade expansion is straight forward. Each year, over a three year period, a new grade will be added to the School. Therefore, in 2015 grade 4 will be added, in 2016 grade 5 will be added and finally in 2017 grade 6 will be added. This approach will enable the expansion to occur at a manageable pace.

**Teachers and Curriculum:** Teachers and provincial curriculum will be added the same year as the new grade.

## Current and Proposed Enrollment:

School year:	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	CLFN School Totals
2013-14	12	7	13	11	6				49
2014-15	10	11	5	13	8				47
2015-16	8	10	11	5	13	8			55
2016-17	8	8	10	11	5	13	8		63
2017-18	8	8	8	10	11	5	13	8	71

Numbers are based on the Nominal Roll reported to AANDC annually and projections for JK and SK are based on current Child Care enrollment.

**Summary of Impact to School on Operations:** Because we have expanded our Principal and Special Education Resource Teacher positions to full time equivalent, the Administration of the school is prepared for the expansion and we have created a support team at the school that will accommodate the additional students. Space, furniture and materials, will need to be added with each grade and will be determined by the number of students each year. Temporary housing of students in portables will be necessary for a short term until permanent additions to the school are made.

# Curve Lake First Nation School Expansion

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**Capital Costs and Funding Associated with Expansion:** All costs for expansion are estimates. They are based on the addition of three classrooms, additional office space and a new gymnasium, additional teaching positions, furniture, curriculum materials and classroom IT equipment. We are preparing proposals for funding with AANDC, Ontario and Curve Lake First Nation.

**Moving Forward Towards Expansion:** Surveys have been developed to gather valuable input from parents and guardians of future, present and former Curve Lake First Nation School students. In addition to this, an on-line poll has been created for membership to complete on our Facebook page.

January 24, 2015, there will be a community meeting hosted by Education Department and Committee to provide a summary of the suite of programs offered in Education as well as time to discuss school expansion.

**CLFN School Mission Statement:** To provide the children of our community with a safe and nurturing learning environment; where best practices are infused with Anishnaabe cultural teachings and language, enabling all students to walk in both worlds with confidence and pride.

# Curve Lake First Nation School Expansion

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: As a parent or guardian, can I choose to send my child to another school?

A: Yes, you do have a choice.

Q: If I send my child to another school for grade 4, 5 and/or 6 will they receive transportation?

A: Transportation will be provided to Ridpath Public School until the last class of children completes grade six in June 2017. Provincial transportation may be available after that time.

Q: If my child is currently attending grade 4 or 5 at another school can they enroll at Curve Lake?

A: Yes.

Q: What subjects won't be offered at Curve Lake that my child may receive at another school?

A: Religion and French.

Any additional questions may be posed at the Community meeting, January 24, 2015.