



# Accreditation Committee Decision

## Schulich School of Education Nipissing University

### **Substantial Change in Program (duration) pertaining to:**

Multi-session consecutive program of professional education for persons of First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry with areas of study in the Primary/Junior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree or certificate

Multi-session consecutive program of professional education with an area of study in teaching Native Languages, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree or Diploma

### **Substantial Change in Program (character) pertaining to:**

Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

Concurrent program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

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## Introduction

The Schulich School of Education at Nipissing University, the “School of Education”, submitted a program change application on December 15, 2021:

- 1) to modify the duration of the following accredited programs of professional education:
  - Multi-session consecutive program of professional education for persons of First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry with areas of study in the Primary/Junior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree or certificate
  - Multi-session consecutive program of professional education with an area of study in teaching Native Languages, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree or Diploma
  
- 2) to modify the character of the following accredited programs of professional education:
  - Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree
  - Concurrent program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

As accredited in 2017, the Schulich School of Education at Nipissing University offers its multi-session programs over a two-year time period. It is the School of Education’s intention to extend the delivery of the Indigenous Teacher Education Program (ITEP) and the Teacher of Indigenous Language as a Second Language (TILSL) program over a three-year time period. Nipissing University expects that this change will reduce obstacles to academic success and provide opportunities for teacher candidates to engage in culturally relevant workshops, land-based activities and sharing circles with Elders during the summer semesters. Further, teacher candidates will focus on pedagogical content knowledge in their respective subject areas in a face-to-face mode of delivery given that most of their method courses are scheduled during these summer semesters.

For the consecutive and concurrent programs, the School of Education proposes to make all Year 2 winter term elective courses available online for teacher candidates wishing to avoid travelling to and arranging for accommodations in the North Bay area for a 6-week period in their final term of study. This proposal will result in a change in the delivery sequence of one of the method courses for teacher candidates in the Primary/Junior divisional cohort.

In accordance with Regulation 347/02 Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs and Regulation 563/21 General, an accreditation panel was established for the purposes of considering whether the permitted institution proposes to substantially change the character, duration or components of the accredited programs and to submit a report of its findings.

The two-person accreditation panel was comprised of a roster member from the profession and a roster member from the public with specialized expertise in Indigenous Education.

The panel determined that there was reason to believe that the proposed changes amount to a change in the duration and character of the respective accredited programs specifically with respect to Requirement 6.

By virtue of the authority granted under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* and Regulation 347/02 Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs, and, given that there was reason to believe that the provider proposes to substantially change the duration and character of the specified programs of professional education, the programs were reviewed to determine if they continue to qualify for accreditation.

In rendering its decision, the Accreditation Committee considered the following:

- the application for review of a program change submitted December 15, 2021
- the Accreditation Panel Report dated January 18, 2022
- the Academic Senate Approval letter dated February 17, 2022
- the Accreditation decision dated May 31, 2017 for the above programs
- the regulatory requirements of Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs.

## **Accreditation Requirement Findings and Reasons**

### **Requirement Impacted by the Program Change**

The changes in program are limited to Requirement 6 for the specified programs. No other requirements are impacted by these changes. All other requirements remain fully satisfied.

The reasons for the decision on whether the programs continue to qualify for accreditation and the facts on which they are based follow herein:

#### **Requirement 6**

Based on the information reviewed, the programs, as modified, fully satisfy accreditation Requirement 6.

##### **1. Program Change - Duration**

The components of the Indigenous Teacher Education Program (ITEP) and the Teacher of Indigenous Language as a Second Language (TILSL) program remain the same with a delivery over a three-year period. The programs are merely offered over an extended length of time with fewer courses in each summer semester. All courses are still offered. Changes to the course sequence support the rationale to reduce obstacles to academic success for candidates by providing them with more time for summer coursework. In addition, hosting teacher candidates on-site for three summer semesters allows for more opportunities for culturally relevant, land-based activities. All method courses will be offered during summer semesters in a face-to-face mode of delivery.

The change does not impact the first session leading to the Transitional Certificate.

Teacher candidates will continue to complete a minimum of 80 days of practicum. The practicum structure is adjusted from two to three placement blocks. One practicum occurs in each of the three years of the program. As previously accredited, the programs had two practicum blocks, Practicum I and II. On February 11, 2022, Nipissing University Senate approved the re-allocation of the credits and number of practicum days from Practicum II between two newly designed practicum courses. Practicum II remains in the second year of the programs and is a 25-day practicum. Practicum III is a 30-day block in the third year of the programs. Academic Senate approval, dated February 11, 2022, confirms the addition of the practicum courses required for the change in program duration.

##### **2. Program Change - Character**

Teacher candidates in all divisions of the concurrent and consecutive Bachelor of Education programs will take two elective courses and complete their final practicum in the winter semester of the second year of their respective programs.

One mandatory method course in the Primary/Junior divisions will be offered earlier in the program to align with the course sequence of the other divisional cohorts. The course content remains unchanged. Offering this method course in the third semester allows candidates in the Primary/Junior cohort to benefit from the course content prior to their final practicum block.

This change to the course sequence supports the rationale of having the final semester dedicated to elective courses and practicum. Moreover, it allows for greater geographic flexibility in the fourth semester of the program.

Given that this change pertains to an adjustment in course sequence of a single method course taken exclusively by candidates enrolled in the Primary/Junior divisional cohort, it does not impact the appropriateness of the program's format and structure.

## Accreditation Committee Decision

Given that there was reason to believe that Nipissing University substantially changed the **duration** of the two multi-session programs of professional education, the programs were reviewed to determine if they continue to qualify for accreditation.

For the reasons set out in the findings above, the Accreditation Committee confirms that the following programs, as modified, qualify for general accreditation without conditions until the existing expiry date of May 31, 2024 or for an amended period of time that is in accordance with Section 15 of Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs:

- Multi-session consecutive program of professional education for persons of First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry with areas of study in the Primary/Junior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree or certificate
- Multi-session consecutive program of professional education with an area of study in teaching Native Languages, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree or Diploma

Given that there was reason to believe that Nipissing University substantially changed the **character** of the consecutive and concurrent programs of professional education, the programs were reviewed to determine if they continue to qualify for accreditation.

For the reasons set out in the findings above, the Accreditation Committee confirms that the following programs, as modified, qualify for general accreditation without conditions until the existing expiry date of May 31, 2024 or for an amended period of time that is in accordance with Section 15 of Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs:

- Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree
- Concurrent program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

**Accreditation Committee**  
**Ontario College of Teachers**  
**April 14, 2022**