GAKINO'AMAAGE
TEACH FOR CANADA
ENSEIGNER POUR LE CANADA

Investing in Generations: Gakino'amaage Welcomes Federal Commitments to First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education in Budget 2026

November 6, 2026

Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada welcomes the Government of Canada's commitment to multi-year, sustained education and workforce funding in Budget 2026—specifically $5.8 billion over five years for the Elementary and Secondary Education Program on reserve, and $451.8 million over four years to launch the new Partnerships for Indigenous Workforce Readiness Fund. As Canada accelerates historic investments across the North, this commitment recognizes a vital economic reality: physical infrastructure cannot succeed without dedicated investment in people.

Our President, Deanna Matthews, shared:

> "Canada Strong begins with young people in today's classrooms. Alongside investments in physical infrastructure, we must invest in the educators and local education pathways that drive long-term student success and prepare the workforce and leaders of tomorrow."

This sustained, predictable funding is critical to ensuring First Nations can plan for the future and build Nation-leading education systems, moving beyond simply keeping classrooms open today. Strong schools depend on educators who are prepared, supported, and connected to the Nations where they teach.

First Nations youth represent Canada's youngest and fastest-growing demographic, with over 41% under the age of 25. They possess the talent, vision, and drive to lead. When young people have consistent, culturally grounded K-12 classrooms, their potential is unlimited. Statistics Canada confirms that educational attainment virtually closes the national employment gap, with Indigenous adults holding post-secondary qualifications achieving an 82.6% employment rate, surpassing their non-Indigenous peers (82.5%). Fully staffed, supported classrooms provide an essential launchpad for youth to excel in their future careers—from skilled trades and technical fields to community leadership—and have the freedom to live their lives as they choose.

GAKINO'AMAAGE
TEACH FOR CANADA
ENSEIGNER POUR LE CANADA

Over the past decade, Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada has partnered alongside First Nations across Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta to replace chronic teacher turnover with community-grounded stability. By ensuring educators arrive in the classroom culturally prepared and supported to stay, over 90% of teachers complete a full school year, doubling the baseline regional educator retention rate. Through our 2026–2031 Strategic Plan *By Generations For Generations*, we are scaling alongside 60 partner Nations to recruit and support 800+ educators, reaching more than 20,000 First Nations students nationally.

Federal investments deliver their highest economic and social return when they co-invest in proven, Nation-led models. As Budget 2026 rolls out, Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada looks forward to working with First Nations leadership and federal partners, including Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). Together, we can turn these commitments into fully staffed classrooms, stable schools, and a self-sustaining, community-grown educator workforce, so that students build the skills they need to reach their full potential in the workforce for generations to come.

About Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada
Gakino'amaage is a First Nations-led organization that partners with First Nations to recruit, prepare, and support outstanding educators. Together, this work strengthens education systems for generations to come.

Interested in teaching in the North? **APPLY NOW**.