

1977 E-12 Guidelines later approved by Treasury Board. Between the adoption of the interim guidelines in 1975 and the E-12 Guidelines of 1977, a consultation process with the Indian community was undertaken.

Between 1977 and 1982, discussions between the Department and the Indian community took place intermittently on revisions to the E-12 Guidelines.

In 1980-81, for example, DIAND invited comments on a revised draft of the E-12 Guidelines. The National Indian Brotherhood reportedly responded with a statement that support for continuing education should not be administratively separated into occupational skills training, post-secondary, and adult education and that the revised guidelines did not incorporate major suggestions made by the Brotherhood.³ The consultation process of four-and-a-half months' duration was criticized by the Ontario Indian Educational Council as being too brief for what was perceived to be a complex task.⁴

In 1979, at the urging of aboriginal representatives, the federal government changed the status of funding the program to non-discretionary (Letter to Noel Starblanket from the Honourable Jake Epp, 22 September 1979). For budgetary purposes at least, the program became mandatory, meaning that funds could not be moved to other programs. However, the program has never had and still does not have a legislative base.

In March of 1982, eligibility criteria were expanded (by Treasury Board approval) to include mature students required to complete secondary school courses for university entrance.

An evaluation assessment of the program was completed in December of 1982⁵ which recommended the parameters of the evaluation study carried out by the DPA Group Inc. in 1984.

In March of 1983, the Treasury Board approved the University and College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEP) to provide financial assistance to Inuit and registered Indians enrolled in university and college entrance preparation programs offered by Canadian post-secondary institutions.

In 1984, while the Department carried out its internal evaluation of the program through DPA Group Inc., the Assembly of First Nations began a comprehensive review of First Nations education, including education at the post-secondary level. A summary of the areas covered in this four-volume report is provided in Chapter 5. The report of this review included in its