



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Title: Consultant Services for Education System Assessment and Business Case Development

Issued by: Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

Issue Date: January 17, 2024

Proposal Due Date: February 7, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission seeks proposals from qualified consultants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of our education system, identify areas of need, and develop a business case for addressing these needs.

For 129 years, residential schools were an attempt by the Government of Canada to assimilate First Nations people. There was a mission school in Maskwacîs as early as 1894 known as Ermineskin Indian Residential school for the period from 1916 - 1975 and from 1975 until 1990, the Canadian Government assumed the responsibility for running Ermineskin Schools.

Maskwacîs began collaboration between the four existing school districts of Louis Bull Tribe, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Montana First Nation and Samson Cree Nation to examine ways of improving student achievement and taking ownership of its own school system. Through the spirit and intent of our Treaty right to education, Maskwacîs united to develop a Maskwacîs Education Law and the Maskwacîs Cree Declaration on Education to move this vision forward.

In 2017, Maskwacîs amalgamated eleven schools from four separate education authorities to create the Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission otherwise known as MESC. MESC is located on Treaty No. 6 Territory in central Alberta and has been delegated the responsibility of operating and maintaining all Maskwacîs schools, other education facilities and education capital assets that are located on reserve or are property of the participating First Nations. Currently, MESC operates and manages ten school programs and twenty buildings, with approximately 510 employees and a budget of \$75M annually.

MESC believes the main step that Canada can take to uphold the spirit and intent of our Treaty right to education is to properly fund schools controlled by First Nations communities. MESC exercises the Treaty right to education by prioritizing Cree culture, language, and traditions into the school with emphasis on Iyiniw Mamitonehickien, Nehiyawewin, Nehiyaw Pimatisowin and Wahkohtowin.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess the current state of the Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission system.
- Identify key areas requiring improvement or development to address gaps.
- Develop a detailed business case outlining recommendations and strategies for improvement.

SCOPE OF WORK

Working closely with the MESC Board of Governors Negotiations Committee and administrative team, the consultant will:

Assessment:

- Evaluate the current education system including; curriculum, teaching methods, student outcomes, infrastructure, organizational structure, Board policies and administrative procedures, Maskwacis funding model, and planning and budgeting procedures.
- Collect and analyze data from various stakeholders (students, teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, Maskwacis Chiefs and Councils).
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis).

Needs Identification:

- Determine critical areas of need and gaps based on assessment findings.
- Prioritize needs based on impact and feasibility.

Business Case Development:

- Propose actionable recommendations to address identified needs.
- Develop a detailed business case including:
 - Executive summary
 - Problem statement
 - Recommendations to address needs and gaps
 - Objectives and outcomes
 - Cost-benefit analysis
 - Analysis of all feasible funding models with cost benefits
 - Risk assessment and mitigation strategies
 - Implementation plan

DELIVERABLES

- Comprehensive assessment report
- SWOT analysis
- Prioritized list of needs
- Detailed business case with list of recommendations

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals should include the following information as a minimum:

- Contractor/Company profile, relevant experience, address and contact details
- Demonstrated knowledge and expertise working with First Nations organizations
- Team composition and qualifications
- Methodology and approach
- Work plan and timeline
- Detailed cost breakdown
- Payment terms
- Disclosure of any other actual or perceived conflict in the acceptance of the appointment as consultant

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals meeting the mandatory requirements will be assessed against the evaluation criteria indicated below:

- Relevant experience and qualifications
- Methodology and approach
- Proposed timeline
- Cost-effectiveness

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit proposals electronically to jennifernepoose@maskwacised.ca by February 7, 2025, at 4:00 pm. For any inquiries, contact Jenn Nepoose at (780) 585-3333.

TIMELINE

The timeline of this project is subject to change. The anticipated timeline is as follows:

- RFP Issue Date: January 17, 2025
- Proposal Due Date: February 7, 2025
- Selection of Consultant: March 11, 2025
- Project Commencement: March 17, 2025
- Project Completion: November 7, 2025

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Maskwacis Education Schools Commission reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time without liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or suffered by any Proponent as a result of the cancellation.

When reviewing responses to this RFP, the Maskwacis Education Schools Commission maintains the absolute authority to:

- Accept or reject any proposal that does not meet the specified requirements outlined in this RFP.
- Waive any technical or formal deficiencies in a proposal and still consider it for acceptance.
- Evaluate proposals at its discretion, without any obligation to choose any proposal or Proponents.
- Evaluate and select proposals without being obligated to choose the one with the lowest price or cost.
- Request clarification from any or all Proponents after the specified deadlines.
- Initiate communication, meetings, presentations, or negotiations with any or all Proponents regarding their proposals or any aspect of the RFP.
- Reject any or all proposals, with or without cause, based on the selection criteria outlined or any other reasons.

By submitting a proposal, the Proponent is deemed to accept all the terms and conditions outlined in this RFP, unless expressly excluded in the proposal.

Maskwacis Education Schools Commission looks forward to receiving your proposal and potentially working together to enhance our education system.

Contact Information:

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