



***The First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS) is looking for First Nations Youth from across the province of British Columbia to join our new Youth Network. Read on to learn more!***

**1. *What is the FNPSS, and how did the Youth Network come about as a project?***

The First Nations Public Service Secretariat's (FNPSS) mission is to strengthen and enhance capacity in First Nations communities and organizations, on an individual and nation-level. Re-established in November 2017, our mission continues to be supporting First Nations in BC to strengthen their own public service. Our vision is BC First Nations successfully exercising their decision-making rights and responsibilities through governments and administrations that strive for excellence in community service. [For more information on FNPSS, please click here to visit our website.](#)

In 2020, FNPSS hosted a Youth Roundtable Strategic Planning Session ("The Roundtable") with 9 Indigenous Youth participants to discuss their path forward in community leadership. This event was intended as the first step to identify both the barriers that exist to active participation of First Nations youth in governance and leadership, and the tools and resources that might be needed to address those barriers. The aim of the Roundtable was to formulate next steps for increasing youth presence and participation in First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS) activities and overall capacity within the First Nations public service.

One of the recommendations from youth from the Roundtable event to integrate other First Nations youth into FNPSS programs in meaningful ways was to develop a youth advisory body that reflects the diversity of First Nations groups in British Columbia as well as a mentorship network to support youth professionals in the public service. At the same time, continued participation and support of FNPSS youth-focused initiatives was widely expressed by participants, and they said they looked forward to an ongoing partnership with FNPSS for the empowerment of First Nations youth. Thus, the invitation for youth to be a part of the new FNPSS Youth Network acts as the first step in creating this youth advisory body and to create this partnership with diverse youth from across the province.

**2. *What is the overall goal of FNPSS' work with youth?***

Overall, the goal of the youth network and FNPSS' work with youth is to encourage and support First Nations youth to pursue education and careers in public administration and governance.

**3. *What were the other recommendations from the Youth Roundtable Report, and how do they connect to the FNPSS Youth Network?***

In addition to the recommendation for a youth advisory body, youth participants identified the following priority areas to support youth empowerment in the public service: *succession management; education and training; opportunities for innovation; mental health and addiction services; climate change and food insecurity; digital infrastructure; and geographic considerations.*

Importantly, the need for self-organization for youth at the provincial level was also clearly articulated. One key message throughout the Roundtable was how essential it was that youth are included in issues that affect them, and that this inclusion be more than symbolic.



Therefore, to take into consideration these messages and to make sure that these youth engagement activities are within the priority areas outlined by youth participants, the FNPSS Youth Network will be organized through a ‘by-youth-for-youth’ model that acknowledges the value of participants’ time, energy, and lived experiences.

[To read the full FNPSS Youth Roundtable Report, please click here to visit our website.](#)

#### **4. What activities can I be involved in as a part of the FNPSS Youth Network?**

As a part of the FNPSS Youth Network, participants will meet quarterly over Zoom to learn about FNPSS offerings and provide feedback, brainstorm new ideas, exchange best practices, share tools and resources, connect with other similar First Nations youth from across BC who are working in / are interested in working in public administration, and be provided with opportunities for involvement in FNPSS’ work. Youth Network activities may include:

- Discussion and mentorship opportunities in subjects related to public administration including Human Resources (HR), financial management, Records and Information Management (RIM), Communications, self-governance, community engagement, facilitation, leadership, policy development, and more
- Opportunities for youth members to be a part of upcoming FNPSS virtual events, including our “Train-the-Trainer” program and upcoming Management Training Academies (MTAs) in core subject areas such as Records and Information Management (RIM), Human Resources Management (HR), and Policy Development
- Social media / digital engagement opportunities to connect with other youth from across BC
- Planning of future FNPSS activities and long-term youth engagement planning
- Projects, events, and opportunities drawn by and for First Nations youth (budget permitting) that reflect FNPSS’ mandate

Ultimately, as this group will be organized through a ‘by youth- for youth’ model, the Youth Network’s framework, organization, and activities will be determined by its members, with logistical support from the FNPSS team.

#### **5. Who is eligible to be a FNPSS Youth Network member?**

To be a part of the FNPSS Youth Network, you should:

- *Be First Nations Youth (defined as those individuals aged 18-29)*
- *Reside in British Columbia, either on or off-reserve*
- *Be able to commit to meet quarterly (up to 4 times per year) with other members of the FNPSS Youth Network – these meetings will be conducted virtually, over Zoom*
- *Work or have an interest in the public service – for example, in the following subjects: Band administration, communications, self-governance, public policy and policy development, leadership, and more*

# FNPSS YOUTH NETWORK

## INFORMATIONAL ONE-PAGER

SUMMER/FALL 2021



**FIRST NATIONS  
PUBLIC SERVICE SECRETARIAT**  
COURAGE TO EXCEL

We highly encourage First Nations Youth from all areas of British Columbia and with diverse lived experiences to be a part of the FNPSS Youth Network. You do not have to work in Band Administration to apply.

### ***6. How can I learn more and/or sign up to be a participant?***

For more information or to get involved, please contact project leads Celina Dorame – Manager, Engagement and Capacity, at [cdorame@fnps.ca](mailto:cdorame@fnps.ca) or Julia Melesko – Project Officer, Engagement and Capacity, at [jmelesko@fnps.ca](mailto:jmelesko@fnps.ca). You are welcome to share this one-pager and the FNPSS Youth Network promotional flyer with your personal networks, especially those organizations or individuals from across BC who work with First Nations youth interested in the public service.