

Treaty 6: Data Management System for Special Education

Jurisdiction: First Nations/INAC

Contact: Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations

Level: K-12

Theme: Organizational/Structural

Description of Practice:

Treaty 6 supported the information management needs of its schools and staff through the development of a data management system for Special Education.

Background:

Treaty 6 covers a vast territory containing 17 communities, all isolated and, as of two years ago, not working closely with one another. The Regional Management Organization had a goal - to add value to education results by making the work of the teachers in classrooms easier. Treaty 6 knew that to make progress they had to have reliable information. Consequently, funding through the federal New Paths for Education Program (NPEP) was used to develop of a data management system to meet their local needs.

Development:

Given limited resources, it was not possible to develop a data management system for all students in the treaty area. So a decision was taken to focus on Special Education. Special Education was an obvious choice because that program already enjoyed a high level of trust and communication amongst schools and administrators.

The search for a system developer landed on Intellinet Technologies Inc and a close business partnership ensued. Intellinet embraced the project and worked hard to understand the subtleties of bringing a group of far-flung communities together around a common data system.

Evidence:

The system now exists; how it came into operation is as much the success story as is the fact that it was accomplished. The RMO and Intellinet involved users from the start. The teachers and administrators played a critical role in defining their needs and piloting the system. Their buy-in came through involvement, through helping define the solutions for their business needs. Spin-off benefits to this process include greater communication and sharing amongst the teachers of the Treaty 6 area, made possible through the ease of electronic communication.

Adaptability:

Challenges now include training users, supporting users, securing funding to both maintain and grow what the system can do, engaging partners who can help the system remain sustainable and expanding its utility.

Further information:

Treaty 6: <http://www.treaty6.ca/>
Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations, (780) 944-0334