

## New Paths Teacher Assistants

Jurisdiction: New Brunswick

Contact: B. Loker-French/Mary Buchanan

Level: K-12

Theme: Curriculum/Materials, Classroom Based Practices

### Description of Practice:

Utilizing New Paths Funding we have hired a tutor for our First Nations students who have been identified in need of remediation or who otherwise would not have home support to complete homework and practice in assignments. This program takes place in school hours with the exception of 2 one half hours during after school home work club. The program has been in place since October and will run until the year's end or until funding is depleted. Funding is also used to support the Maliceet Language and Culture Program at the school as needed.

### Background:

Teachers had identified that due to attendance issues, low grades and poor homework support, our First Nations students were at a learning disadvantage and not prepared to complete work at school. It was agreed that the best form of support would be in the hiring of a worker to support individual students at school. The worker will also support our children in the regular classroom in literacy and language blocks. She will carry out programs identified by teachers that will support students for explicit needs.

### Development:

Once the funding was arranged, a tutor was set in place. Our Director of Education for our First Nations students was consulted. Staff would have preferred to have the support be after school hours, however a concern over students being able to stay and or being picked up on time and regularly was identified. The person filling the position is included in any training made available to our Teacher Assistants at the school in order to support learning.

### Evidence:

This is a new program in place at our school. We have seen improvements in some students over time. At year's end we will evaluate the overall effectiveness and growth evident in our students. At this time, our program functions very much as does our tutoring programs for non-native students. Our New Paths worker works solely with First Nations students, while our other tutor\behavioural interventionist will work with both Native and non-Native students. Growth in students is as a result of several class and school interventions.