

Minutes

The Minutes of the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:06 p.m. in the Inawendiwin Room at the Catholic Education Centre.

Present

Trustees/Members: Trustee John Connolly, Kerri Langer, Lisa Heitzner, Jeanette Hunter, Allana McDougall, Patricia (Trixie) Taylor, Rachel Logan, Evelyn Kodu, Cydney Habraken, Mike Mooney, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Josh Charpentier, Terry Smith, Melissa Gibson,

Absent: Kayla Benoit, Gwekaanmad Pitawanakwat, April Smoke, Shannon Kimewon

Regrets: Anne Taylor, Brian Black

Administration: Julie Selby

Recorder: Shannon Carr

A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer - Lisa Heitzner
Trustee Connolly asked Lisa Heitzner to lead with Opening Prayer.
2. Land Acknowledgement - Julie Selby
Superintendent Selby was unable to do the Land Acknowledgement. Trustee Connolly asked Mike Mooney to lead with the Land Acknowledgement.
3. Additions to the Agenda
None.
4. Approval of Agenda
MOTION: Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by Josh Charpentier, that the Agenda be approved.
Carried
5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
None.
6. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting on Tuesday December 9, 2025
MOTION: Moved by Allana McDougall, seconded by Terry Smith, that the Minutes be approved.
Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes
None.

B. Presentations:

1. Indigenous Education Updates

Jacqueline Gorveatt reviewed the Ministry of Education themes for the 2025-2026 Indigenous Board Action Plan. The Ministry themes will guide PVNC Catholic in developing the board's initiatives for the Board Action Plan (BAP). The Ministry of Education themes include:

- i. Supporting Students;
- ii. Supporting Educators;
- iii. Engagement and Awareness Building; and
- iv. Supporting Indigenous Education Planning.

Jacqueline reviewed the BAP key dates, noting that the initial report was due January 31, 2026, and the final report is due October 31, 2026. Jacqueline expressed her appreciation to community members for their time and input on the BAP.

Cydney reviewed the six (6) board initiatives for the BAP. [The six initiatives are as follows:](#)

- Anishinaabemowin Language Support;
- Student Success;
- Culturally Relevant Learning Material;
- Professional Development;
- Land-based Learning Activities; and
- Starting and Walking the Path.

Committee members had the opportunity to learn about and explore the Biinaagami Map Resource. The Biinaagami Map will be available for schools to book and use with their students. The map uses augmented reality but also comes with physical learning materials that are grade appropriate. The team also provided details on upcoming events to support their Student Success and Land Based Learning initiatives. The team took questions and comments from committee members regarding the upcoming initiative events.

C. Information Items:

1. Community Partner Sharing

- a. Alderville First Nation - April Smoke

April was unable to attend the meeting and did not provide an update.

Minutes

b. Curve Lake First Nation - Jeanette Hunter

During the upcoming March Break, Curve Lake will participate in Little NHL, with a total of 13 teams participating this year. A prep rally is scheduled for the evening of Friday, March 13 to send off the children to this exciting event in a good way.

Curve Lake has organized a variety of daily activities for students throughout March Break. Parents may register their children in advance; spaces tend to fill quickly, particularly for larger excursions such as the planned trip to Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto.

Curve Lake students will again participate in the Indspire Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering. Fifteen students and four staff members will attend the event at the Halifax Convention Centre from May 12–13, 2026.

The after-school homework support group continues to run Monday through Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., facilitated by Austin.

Curve Lake's Grade 8 Transition Day with Thomas A. Stewart (TAS) Secondary School is scheduled for May 19. This event provides students with an opportunity to become familiar with TAS and helps support their transition to high school in September.

c. Hiawatha First Nation - Allana McDougall

Hiawatha has secured tutors, which has historically been a challenge within the community. Efforts are ongoing to recruit additional tutors. Hiawatha has also purchased Lexia to support literacy development, enabling the current elementary tutor to work with students using this resource.

Hiawatha students are also going to Halifax to attend the Indspire Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering in May.

A drum-making workshop took place a couple of weeks ago, with many students participating in the activity, even those as young as kindergarten age! An Elder was invited to provide teachings during the workshop. The drums created by the students will soon be ceremonially birthed. The drums made by staff will be gifted to the Grade 8 graduates.

d. Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre - Gwekaanmad Pitawanakwat

Gwekaanmad was unable to attend the meeting and did not provide an update.

Minutes

e. Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - Josh Charpentier

The Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council has been re-established and is currently working to resume operations. Council members are in the process of reviewing access to financial resources and identifying priority programming needs. In the coming weeks, Council representatives will be reaching out to community members to gather input on community priorities and desired programs. It was noted that the Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council does not currently have a full council established, however, efforts are underway to engage the community and encourage participation from citizens.

The Métis Nation of Ontario offers a summer camp childcare support program for primary school students and those aged 12–13. Financial assistance is available to citizens to facilitate access to summer programming. The Spring Cultural Camp is scheduled to take place shortly, and applications for the Summer Cultural Camp will be opening soon.

D. Next Meeting:

1. June 9, 2026 at the Catholic Education Centre (6:00-8:00 p.m)
2. Agenda items for next meeting, please contact Shannon Carr
3. Selection of Member for Opening Prayer
 - a. Julie Selby
4. Selection of Member for Territorial Recognition
 - a. TBD
5. Selection of Member for Closing Prayer
 - a. Lisa Heitzner

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer - Trixie Taylor
Trustee Connolly asked Trixie Taylor to lead with Closing Prayer.
2. Adjournment
MOTION: Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by Rachel Logan, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Carried