

Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in person or via Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/ptx-vpnw-wxs>

PRESENT: Kerri Langer, Lisa Heitzner, Josh Charpentier, Jeanette Hunter, Brian Black, Patricia (Trixie) Taylor, Linda Gendron, Rachel Logan, Melissa Gibson, Terry Smith, Gwekaanmad Pitawanakwat, Anne Taylor, Michael Mooney, Jacqueline Gorgeatt

Regrets: Allana McDougall, Evelyn Kodu, John Connolly, Cydney Habraken

Absent: Kayla Benoit, Julie Brown, April Smoke

Guest: Director Stephen O'Sullivan, Galen Eagle, Mark Giunta

Administration: Julie Selby

Recorder: Shannon Carr

A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome

Superintendent and Chair of the committee, Julie Selby, welcomed everyone to the Sharing Circle to begin the meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement - Mike Mooney

Julie asked Mike to lead with Land Acknowledgement.

3. Opening Prayer - Julie Selby

Julie led with Opening Prayer.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None.

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by Kerri Langer, that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024

MOTION: Moved by Mike Mooney, seconded by Jacqueline Gorgeatt, that the Minutes be approved.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

B. Presentations:

1. Strategic Planning Presentation - Director of Education, Stephen O'Sullivan
 Director O'Sullivan and Galen Eagle provided an overview to the committee about the upcoming Strategic Priorities process and its purpose. Committee members gathered in small groups to voice their opinions on what they wish to see in the new Strategic Priorities based on the questions/prompts offered. Feedback from the committee was recorded by the board's Communication department, Galen Eagle and Mark Giunta for consideration.
2. [Director of Education Performance Appraisal Consultation](#) - Julie Selby
 Julie reviewed the purpose of the Director of Education Performance Appraisal. Time was provided for committee members to provide their feedback via Google Form. The Google Form was also provided to committee members in advance of the meeting to review the questions. As chair of the committee, Julie will collate the feedback and submit it to the Trustees on behalf of the committee.

C. Updates, Discussion and Input

1. 2024-2025 Indigenous Education Updates
 - a. Due to time constraints, the 2024-2025 Indigenous Education updates were emailed to committee members the following day (Wednesday, March 19, 2025) by Shannon Carr. Members were able to receive updates through a PDF slidedeck. The updates will be reviewed in greater detail at the June 10 meeting.
2. Community Partner Sharing
 - a. Alderville First Nation - April Smoke
 April was unable to attend the meeting and did not provide an update.
 - b. Curve Lake First Nation - Jeanette Hunter
 On Monday, February 17, Curve Lake hosted a Family Day event where community members came together to celebrate. The event included family activities, fire and a free lunch.

 Curve Lake First Nation participated in the Little Native Hockey League (NHL) tournament in Markham during the March Break. Curve Lake put forward 11 teams this year which had approximately 10,000 people in attendance. Curve Lake hosted a gathering on Friday night before everyone left which included a big pep rally and fireworks. The little NHL is an annual tournament where all First Nation communities across Ontario are invited to participate.

 In early April, 18 students will be heading to Vancouver to attend the Indspire Soaring Indigenous Youth conference. Every year around 1,000 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students across Canada come to one place through the scholarship program to do workshops, network and build relationships. This trip will include a two day conference, hockey game and a Vancouver sightseeing tour.

c. Hiawatha First Nation - Allana McDougall

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

d. Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre - Gwekaanmad Pitawanakwat

Gwekaanmad has been in the role for one month. Gwekaanmad is busy meeting with service users and learning how to support them. Many service users are asking for support, specifically one on one support.

Gwekaanmad has reinstated the centre's homework support program which allows service users time to work on their homework and personal goals. The hope is to bring in tutors to provide further support to service users.

Over the March break there were a lot of fun workshops including poetry, jewelry making, attending the sugar bush and it also gave a great opportunity for Gwekaanmad to meet service user parents.

e. Métis Nation of Ontario - Josh Charpentier

In early February, the local council dissolved. Josh was given permission from the Métis Nation of Ontario council to continue to sit on this committee and continue the relationship. Josh stated once the local council is reestablished, there will be more local events planned.

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 6:00-8:00 pm
2. Agenda items for the next meeting, please contact Shannon Carr
3. Selection of committee member for Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Julie Selby
4. Selection of committee member for Opening Prayer
 - a. Kerri Langer
5. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer
 - a. Jacqueline Gorveatt

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer - Trixie Taylor

Julie asked Trixie to lead in Closing Prayer.
2. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Josh Charpentier, seconded by Mike Mooney, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Carried