

NORTHERN COLLEGE INDIGENOUS COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

Minutes

Date: March 3rd, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Meeting was not formal; therefore, minutes taken are not the usual formal format.

Present: Lillian Trapper (Chair), Audrey J. Penner, Joan Linklater and Kathy Cheechoo

Resource: Doug MacDougall, Cam McEachren, Mitch Dumas, Susan Hunter, and Christine Heavens, Caitlyn Lefebvre, William Small

Minute Taker: Armanda Sutherland

Regrets: Melanie Verreault, Michael Smith, Laura Flood

1. OPENING

1:00 p.m.

(a) WELCOME – L. Trapper, Chair

Lillian welcomed new member Joan Linklater from Mushkegowuk

2. STANDING ITEMS

a) Wawatay partnership

- MOU drafted and Wawatay is very keen on it, however, funding fell through the cracks. Wawatay is looking to secure funds for projects.
- Lillian recommended that Wawatay sign the MOU to help with funding and be educated on the OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) principles.

b) Territory Acknowledgement

- Lillian explained changes made to the Acknowledgement, that cannot acknowledge the land with a pan Aboriginal approach and that the history needs to be in it.
- Lillian made the necessary changes to the Territory document and tracked changes, attached (Appendix A)
- Changes regarding Metis in the Acknowledgement were taken directly from the Metis Nation of Ontario's website. Three of the campuses (Timmins, Kirkland Lake and Haileybury) are within Region #3
- Further changes was pointed out for when training or education occurs outside of the College's region. Advice or guidance needs to be added for an acknowledgement of presence on other lands.

c) Strategic Plan – Revisions made:

- Removed wherever it had Stakeholders that included Indigenous and non-Indigenous; First Nations was changed from stakeholders to right holders.
- Hyperlinks were added to the Truth and Reconciliation page in the Strategic Plan so by clicking on a series of words it will bring an individual right to the TRC documents.
- The Land Acknowledgement was added to the Table of Contents page representing the various nations and territorial lands.
- Changes made to digital document and will be changed in future printed copies.

3. NEW BUSINESS

(a) The E-DITF – Natalie Duval

- Key ideas/points E-DITF will look into at Northern College is what an ideal college looks like
 - If it was equitable, diverse and inclusive.
 - What core operational areas of the college are most important in assuring equity, diversity and inclusion
 - What cultural issues do we need to address
 - What actions can the college take to help shift the culture
- Terminology – what words need to be replaced and what words need to be defined with the goal that the college community has a better understanding with a more inclusive language. For example, what western terminology is not accepted by other cultures?
- The task force is seeking guidance from NCICE.
- The task force will be using a global diversity and inclusion benchmark tool to determine where the college is at compared to global standards and what is accepted by industries across the world.
- Question arised from discussion is whether to have a NCICE member also be on the E-DITF and if this should be a topic that remains on NCICE’s Agenda as a Standing Item?

(b) Meeting Structure

- Committee needs to have a Vice-Chair – email to send out asking for Vice-Chairs
- Two open vacancies need to be filled, committee members usually asked if they knew someone who wanted to fill the vacancies.
- Elder is required on the committee – Northern is looking to have an Elder service where not just one Elder is on staff but a contract is an Indigenous organization or agency to have access to a mix of Elders
- Diane has been working with an organization out of Cochrane call The Aboriginal Peoples of Northern Ontario to secure a contract to provide Elders when required at the College.

(c) ITIF Proposal Submission

- Indigenous Targeted Funds proposal was submitted January 29th, 2021 called “Transition Resources for Success” with a budget of \$70,000 over a 2 year period.
- Proposal outlines project of recording a series of videos on various topics targeting potential new Indigenous students from rural Northern communities.

4. MEETING CONCLUSION

3:40 p.m.

(a) CLOSING COMMENTS

(b) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Electing a co-chair, student representative and other open seats on the council.
- Reviewing changes made to Strategic Plan
- Review proposal by Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

(c) NEXT MEETING – Doodle Poll sent out for week after Easter and the week of April 12th to April 16th.