

---

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in person or via Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/zpx-ycty-kqv>

PRESENT: Trustee/Members: Lisa Heitzner, Della Stewart-Figueira, Patricia (Trixie) Taylor, Beth Needham, Kristy Davidson, John Connolly, Anne Taylor, Allana McDougall, Cydney Habraken, Jeanette Hunter, Rachel Logan, Mike Mooney, Jacqueline Gorveatt

Regrets: April Smoke, Katelynn Brennan, Kerri Langer, Joshua Charpentier, Julie Brown

Administration: Julie Selby

Recorder: Shannon Carr

## A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome  
Superintendent and Chair of the committee, Julie Selby, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Land Acknowledgement - Kristy Davidson  
Julie asked Kristy Davidson to lead with Land Acknowledgement.
3. Opening Prayer - Lisa Heitzner  
Julie asked Lisa Heitzner to lead with Opening Prayer.
4. Additions to the Agenda  
None.
5. Approval of Agenda  
**MOTION:** Moved by Della Stewart-Figueira, seconded by Lisa Heitzner, that the Agenda be approved.  
Carried
6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest  
None.
7. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
**MOTION:** Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Kristy Davidson, that the Minutes be approved.  
Carried
8. Business Arising from the Minutes  
None.

## B. Presentations:

### 1. Membership Renewal - Julie Selby

Julie provided a reminder that the committee has now exhausted the two year membership term. Julie and Shannon will reach out in late June or early July to each First Nation community and Wapiti Métis Council to confirm which individuals will be remaining on the committee for the next 2 year membership term. Additionally, Julie and Shannon will reach out to OECTA, CUPE and CPCO to see who will be put forward as their respective representatives. There will also be a call out to parents, who may be interested in returning to the committee or joining the committee for the first time.

### 2. 2023-2024 Year in Review - Anne Taylor, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Mike Mooney, Cydney Habraken and Julie Selby

Julie expressed her gratitude and thanks to the team for the gifts they have brought to PVNC Catholic staff and students throughout the year. Julie recognized all the work that has been accomplished and the many actions taken on the journey toward Truth and Reconciliation. Julie advised the committee that the two Administrative Procedures that were brought forward earlier this year to the committee (AP703 - Voluntary Self-Identification for Students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Ancestry and AP705 - Indigenous Education) have been approved by the Board of Trustees and are now posted on the Board website.

The team provided an overview of the eight 2023-2024 Board Action Plan (BAP) Initiatives. A few examples include Walking the Path/Starting the Path, Kairos Blanket Exercise, Language Support and Culturally Relevant learning materials.

The team reviewed professional development that teams from each Secondary school engaged in as they experienced sharing circles and reflected on their learning based on the resource *Listening to Indigenous Voices* through the use of medicine wheel pedagogy. Each Secondary school was also provided with a collection of resource materials of their choice for NBE3U, NBE 3C and HRT 3M courses. Moreover, "This Place, 150 Years Retold" class set was purchased for each secondary school along with the teaching guides. Additionally, the team has helped students in three secondary schools develop and create their Indigenous Student and Ally Spaces. The space is used by Indigenous students and their allies. The purpose of the space is to provide students a safe place to explore ways to celebrate who they are and where they come from. Next year, the team will help the remaining three high schools create their Indigenous Student and Ally spaces.

The team reviewed professional development given to Elementary schools such as Land Acknowledgement reflections and two sessions held at Camp Kawartha Education Centre which included Indigenous Education Leads and Learning Common Specialists. Each school received a set called *Take Action for Reconciliation: Time for a Change*, which means all elementary schools should now have all four box sets of learning resources. Activities also included

Walking the Path, Starting the Path and central team members sitting with school staff to review their schools Indigenous Education plan and current progress.

On May 3rd, the Catholic Education Centre held a ceremony honoring National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two Spirit+ people. The ceremony included a prayer service and drumming circle. The team provided CEC staff with a red dress kit, each containing a different missing woman to bring victim awareness. A tribute to each woman was set up in the CEC front lobby. The day also consisted of a guest speaker, Dr. Dawn Lavell Harvard from the First People's House of Learning, Trent University. Dawn shared her journey and advocated for the work required for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+.

The Environmental Symposium was held at Ganaraska Forest Centre on May 7. This event ties into the Board's strategic priority of "Protecting the Environment" along with the beliefs and values within Indigenous Education. Anne spoke about language and led a sharing circle to 180 students from primary to senior grade level. Anne asked the question to students "How does the land take care of me?" and "How do I take care of the land?". Students expressed their thoughts and feelings by painting murals. Mike showed the murals that students made with the committee and advised the murals will be shared with the Board of Trustees at the end of June, to ensure student voices are heard.

1300 students took part in the Peterborough Children's Water Festival, half of the students being from PVNC Catholic and half being from Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR). The two main questions throughout the event was "How does water take care of me?" and "How do I take care of water?" Mike shared his experience on the day and stated it was a great success.

On Thursday, May 23, 2024 PVNC Catholic took part in a Skilled Trades Fair hosted by Hiawatha First Nation at the Hiawatha LIFE and Cultural Centre. The event was for Indigenous students and their allies from Grades 7 to 12. The Fair brought in trade skills individuals, business individuals, Indigenous artisans, and many stakeholders from around the community. Students had the opportunity to speak to the stakeholders and get insight about each trade. About 160 students attended the event that had 74 artisans and trade booths. Transportation for students was provided and many parents and grandparents were also in attendance. Jacqueline expressed it was a very successful event that included Anishinaabe Chef Shawn Adler and Jeff Beaver, Alderville First Nation Traditional Harvesting.

Utilizing Sharing Circles, Medicine Wheel Pedagogy through Nicole Bell's work, teaching of the Four Hills and positionality guide how the team engages in their work. Jacqueline expressed that as a team, they want to invest in creating a non-judgemental culture with an expectation of awareness. As they have all year, the team continues to ask for feedback from committee members on what they like, what they would like to see more of and what they would like to see

change. Mike asked committee members to reflect upon their experience of the work being done by PVNC Catholic within Indigenous Education. Mike asked, “what do you feel we should consider when planning for next year?” An open floor discussion took place with ideas from committee members. All ideas were recorded by Mike Mooney.

## C. Updates, Discussion and Input

### 1. Community Partner Sharing

#### **Alderville First Nation - April Smoke**

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

#### **Curve Lake First Nation - Jeanette Hunter**

In April, 27 Curve Lake First Nation students attended an in-person three day Indspire Youth Conference in Ottawa for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic. Jeanette stated the conference was very successful and they are currently in the planning stages of next year's conference taking place in Vancouver.

On May 2, Curve Lake held their Indigenous Trades Fair in partnership with KPRDSB. The event featured many different trades including construction, electrical etc. as well as traditional skills trades.

On June 20, Curve Lake School will have a powwow from 12:00-3:00pm. This powwow is more of an educational powwow where students will learn about the significance of cultural dress.

On June 21, Curve Lake is hosting their Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations beginning at 5:00am with a sunrise ceremony. All are welcome to attend. In past years this day of celebration has had a massive fireworks display. However, to avoid pollution from the fireworks, Curve Lake has organized a drone show instead.

#### **Hiawatha First Nation - Allana McDougall**

Allana attended a 4 day conference focused on land based learning and language. Allana stated the event was really beautiful and it was interesting to hear the different initiatives within the different communities.

As discussed earlier in the meeting the Skills Trade Fair hosted at the Hiawatha LIFE and Cultural Centre was very successful. Allana thanked everyone for all their hard work to pull off such a wonderful event.

All students from North Shore Public School came to Hiawatha and learned about powwow. Students learned from dancers and how to be respectful and learn the importance of powwows.

Indigenous Day celebrations will be held within the first week of September. The day will include food trucks and bouncy castles. More information will be forthcoming once available.

**Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre - TBD**

Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre is currently seeking new applicants and will update PVNC Catholic when a new committee member is appointed.

**Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - Josh Charpentier**

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

**Niijkiwendidaa - Katelynn Brennan**

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

2. Elders Advisory Circle - Anne Taylor

Anne discussed the possibility of an Elders Advisory Circle which would be composed of an Elder/Knowledge Holder from each of the First Nation and Métis communities (Hiawatha, Curve Lake, Alderville, Burleigh, Peterborough, including a Métis Senator). Each Elder/Knowledge Holder could assist in guiding the team in what, how and to whom we should be sharing. This would ensure that each community is in the loop and we can address any concerns together. The Circle could meet multiple times per year and go over any curricular concerns together. The purpose would also be to discuss and address concerns brought forward by Educators, families and students. Additionally it would benefit our Anishinaabemowin Educators. An open floor discussion took place amongst committee members.

**D. Next Committee Meeting:**

1. Next meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 **6:00-8:00pm**
2. Agenda items for the next meeting, please contact Shannon Carr
3. Selection of committee member for Land Acknowledgement
  - a. To be determined based on new members
4. Selection of committee member for Opening Prayer
  - a. To be determined based on new members
5. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer
  - a. To be determined based on new members

**E. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer - John Connolly  
Julie asked John Connolly to lead with Closing Prayer.
2. Adjournment  
**MOTION:** Moved by Patricia (Trixie) Taylor, seconded by Allana McDougall that the meeting be adjourned at 8:43pm.

Carried