

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in person or via Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/etq-ewut-fgy>

PRESENT: Kerri Langer, Lisa Heitzner, Josh Charpentier, Jeanette Hunter, Allana McDougall, Terry Smith, Linda Gendron, Rachel Logan, Evelyn Kodu, Melissa Gibson, John Connolly, Anne Taylor, Cydeny Habraken, Michael Mooney, Jacqueline Gorveatt

Regrets: Brian Black, Patricia (Trixie) Taylor

Absent: Kayla Benoit, Julie Brown, April Smoke, Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre Representative

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. Superintendent Selby asked that committee members go outside to begin the meeting with a smudging ceremony. For those members attending online, a moment of reflection was held. Following the smudging ceremony, all committee members participated in a sharing circle. Information offered in the sharing circle was not recorded.

2. Land Acknowledgement - Lisa Heitzner

Julie asked Lisa to lead with Land Acknowledgement.

3. Opening Prayer - Jacqueline Gorveatt

Julie asked Jacqueline to lead with Opening Prayer.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None.

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by John Connolly, that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024

MOTION: Moved by Jeanette Hunter, seconded by Lisa Heitzner, that the Minutes be approved.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

B. Presentations:

1. [2024-2025 Indigenous Education Plan](#)

Superintendent Selby reviewed the 2024-2025 budget including the amount of funds allocated for Language and Indigenous Studies, Indigenous per Pupil Amount, Board Action Plan and Supplemental Amount. The total estimated allocation for the 2024-2025 Indigenous Education funding is \$1,169,782.74. Superintendent Selby outlined the \$1,169,782.74 will be spent through central staffing salaries, land based learning opportunities, classroom resources, teacher professional development and Indigenous student spaces. Given time constraints Superintendent Selby welcomes members to reach out to her following the meeting, should they have any further questions regarding the budget outline.

The Indigenous Education Team will work collaboratively with PVNC Catholic's Faith and Equity departments to ensure the board's Strategic Priorities are met. The collaboration of the three departments will deliver the Board Action Plan (BAP) six initiatives:

- Deep Learning;
- Language Support;
- Student Success;
- Culturally Relevant Learning Material (in both French and English);
- Professional Development; and
- Land-based Learning Activities.

The team explained all six initiatives in detail to the committee. The team asked committee members for feedback specifically on the Prep and Planning Kits, read aloud books and if there are any content/specific areas their community would like included? Feedback was given using the SOAR (Strength, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results) method. Feedback from the committee was recorded by the Indigenous team.

Next week (September 23-27) marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation week. The Indigenous Education team created a memo that was sent out to all PVNC Catholic Principals on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. The memo consisted of two full pages of resources and plans for each day of the week to implement in their schools. The memo also referenced Powley day which is celebrated on September 19, 2024.

This year, the Board office will acknowledge the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by using the moccasin identifier and a clothesline memorial. Additionally, the team will invite central staff to attend their new office space to

receive cultural food, participate in a drum circle, engage in beading and watch a film that is featured on CBC Gem. The team will also be offering an exercise called "Just get over it" created by Trent University, which is a scripted opportunity for people to learn more about indigenous people in Canada.

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.

a. Curve Lake First Nation - Jeanette Hunter

Curve Lake will be hosting their 71st annual Pow Wow this weekend (Saturday, September 21st and Sunday, September 22nd). The weekend will include a 6:00 am sunrise ceremony and grand entry both days at 12:00pm.

September 27th Curve Lake First Nation school will have their first workshop with students. The workshop will focus on working at the farm teaching science of farming, language and medicine.

On Saturday, September 28th, 2024 Curve Lake will be hosting their Mnoominkewin gathering. The event will provide teachings about wild rice, learn how to harvest a canoe amongst many other things. The family friendly event is free with lots of food and activities.

September 30 is Truth and Reconciliation Day which is a holiday in Curve Lake. Government buildings are closed and students are welcome to stay home for the day and will not have penalized attendance.

Currently there are 118 students in the public school system. Currently there are 5 students at St. Paul C.E.S. in Lakefield and 9 students attending St. Peter C.S.S in Peterborough. Jeanette expressed the issues the students and families are facing with buses. Families are becoming more heightened and emotional due to the delay of bussing and how it impacts their schedules. An audit was completed today (September 17) and was submitted to STSCO this morning. Jeanette is eager to have an answer back by the end of the week from STSCO.

b. Hiawatha First Nation - Allana McDougall

Hiawatha celebrated Indigenous Day on Saturday, September 7 as it was previously postponed. The free event ran from 11:00am-3:00pm and was open for all community and non community members. Allana expressed it was a great success with traditional drum, traditional food, petting zoo, face paint and many other activities.

Hiawatha is trying to get the Youth Council up and running this year. Additionally, Hiawatha is currently exploring the idea of an Adult Education program.

There are currently no students attending PVNC Catholic schools from Hiawatha First Nation. However, students are attending schools in Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and are experiencing significant bus issues.

Allana is busy helping mature students and graduating students transition into post secondary school. The amount of people reaching out to Allana for help has doubled in comparison to last year.

Nogojwanong Friendship Centre - TBD

The committee is currently waiting on a new representative to be appointed. Nogojwanong Friendship Centre did not provide an update.

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

Thursday, September 19 is Powley Day. Local council will host an event on Saturday September 21st. The event is an open house and all Métis and non Métis members are invited. The open house will include a lot of family friendly activities including cookie decorating.

Saturday October, 12 local council will host a flower workshop with members at Griffins Greenhouse. The workshop is a way to get community together and connect while doing floral arrangements.

Saturday October 5 local council will host an event at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough. The event will have dancing, fiddling, jigs and a dinner. Primary fiddlers will be playing from 3pm to 8pm. Josh indicated the event sold out within a day or two.

Josh indicated the local council is working with Port Hope regarding the Bell of Batoche. The following update is a direct quote from Josh during his update *"Unknown to many, there is a deeply connected history here in the Peterborough and Millbrook area to Louis Riel and the Metis people who fought the Government of Canada during their pursuit to capture Louis Riel in the North-West Rebellion (also known as the North-West Resistance) of 1885. However, this local connection and the associated stories are not prominently known or discussed today. The Battle of Batoche was the last major action of the North-West Resistance. Batoche served as the capital of Riel's provisional government based in Saskatchewan at the time. Following Riel's capture, two important items from Batoche made their way to Peterborough and Millbrook: Louis Riel's personal concertina (accordion) and purportedly, the Bell of Batoche. The accordion was found amongst the belongings of Louis Riel in Batoche. It was taken by Peterborough soldier Walter Stewart, as a trophy of war after the 1885 Resistance in which many Peterborough men served. The Bell of Batoche was reportedly taken by the same group of soldiers, and hung for decades in Millbrook which was home to many of the soldiers sent to quash the rebellion. The accordion is currently held in the Peterborough Museum; however, the Bell of Batoche mysteriously disappeared from the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Millbrook in 1991. Sentiment around this event still holds strong today, as evidenced a few years ago when the infinity symbol was anonymously spray-painted on*

the outside wall of the Millbrook Legion on the eve of Louis Riel Day. The bell apparently resurfaced a few decades later, however, its authenticity remains a subject of debate. News articles and speculation have popped up over the years about the Bell of Batoche. The accordion, however, appears to have gone unnoticed. Its existence was discovered accidentally just under a decade ago by our Metis Council, who then began to explore its origin. The accordion has also been of great interest to Metis citizen, musician and accordion expert Basil Lafreniere, who spent a good deal of time researching the historical piece to understand its connection to Louis Riel, whose modern-day relations claim to have not known that Riel played an instrument. This local connection to Louis Riel and the history of our Nation is important to our local Metis community, to our entire Nation, and to the rest of Canada. It deserves to be further explored, recorded and retold in a respectful way. Too many of our stories are being lost, and it is important to capture this important knowledge and bundle it while we can, for the benefit of our future generations.”

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 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. Kerri Lee Langer
4. Selection of committee member for Opening Prayer
 - a. Lisa Heitzner
5. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer
 - a. Trustee Connolly

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer - Julie Selby
Julie led with Closing Prayer.
2. Adjournment
MOTION: Moved by Linda Gendron, seconded by Melissa Gibson that the meeting be adjourned at 8:11pm.

Carried