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# BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

February 26, 2015

## Meeting Notes

515 Hastings Street Vancouver, BC

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### PARTICIPANTS:

BC Association of Institutes and Universities

- Ruth Wittenberg, President

BC Colleges

- Jim Reed, President

First Nations Education Steering Committee

- Deborah Jeffrey, Executive Director

Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association

- Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Chair
- Lauren Terbasket, Vice-Chair

Ministry of Advanced Education

- Bobbi Plecas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutions and Programs Division
- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs

Research Universities Council of BC

- Robin Ciceri, President

### FACILITATION:

- Don Avison, Chair
- Naomi Adams, FNESC/IAHLA Director of Post-Secondary Education and Training

### 1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The following revisions were made to the agenda:

- Discussion of Call to Action meeting moved until after the Joint Transitions Working Group update,
- Discussion on the draft Terms of Reference for the PSE Partners was added.

### 2. Review and Approval of Draft Notes and Action Items (Sept 23, 2014)

An action item was added to follow up with the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) to provide an update on the work of the PSE Partners Table and explore their perspectives. With this revision, the draft notes were approved.

### 3. Developing PSE Partners' Agendas and Tracking Action Items

The PSE Partners agreed that a request for agenda items should be circulated prior to preparing the draft agenda. The PSE Partners reviewed and approved the draft table of action items, with the addition of contacting UAYC.

### 4. Funding Working Group Update

Ministry of Advanced Education Executive Director Deb Hull, Chair of the Funding Working Group, explained that the Funding Working Group met in November 2014 to finalize the funding discussion paper, which was circulated for today's meeting. She gave an overview of the paper and the PSE Partners discussed its implications, including the impact of changes to the former Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP), now called Post-Secondary Partnership Program, on Aboriginal post-secondary institutes and First Nation communities.

There was discussion about re-engaging the Federal Government in the tri-partite Partners Tables. It was agreed that the PSE Partners should identify two or three top priorities to move Aboriginal PSE in BC forward, which would help to build on successes to date.

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**Action 1: Funding Working Group to develop options for next steps in response to the funding discussion paper**

**5. Transitions Working Group Update**

The Partners reviewed the Transitions Working Group draft action plan, which was last revised after the October 21, 2014 meeting. It was noted that an update from the Ministry of Education was still forthcoming, as they have been unable to attend recent PSE Partners meetings.

**Action 2: Chair Don Avison to follow up with the Ministry of Education on the status of their action items in the Transitions Working Group draft action plan.**

**6. Prepare for Call to Action Meeting**

Chair Don Avison asked PSE Partners for updates on leadership attendance at the May 1, 2015, Call to Action Meeting. It was agreed that the Chairs of the Partners Tables should send a formal invitation given the postponement of the November meeting and the plan to hold a joint meeting with K-12 Partners.

The Partners reviewed the draft agenda for the postponed November 2014 Call to Action meeting, and agreed it needs reframing. The meeting should take stock of progress to date, reaffirm the partnership and commitments to Aboriginal post-secondary education, and identify priority issues for the next year. It was noted that the K-12 Partners Table will be reviewing the draft agenda at their March 3, 2015, meeting.

**Action 3: Chair Don Avison to work with K-12 Partners Table Chair Glen Hansman to send a letter of invitation to K-12 and PSE Partners for Joint Call to Action Meeting, May 1, 2015.**

**Action 4: Chair Don Avison to work with K-12 Partners Table Chair Glen Hansman to revise the draft agenda for the Joint Call to Action Meeting, May 1, 2015.**

**7. Data Working Group Update**

Ministry of Advanced Education Executive Director Deb Hull provided the update, as former Data Working Group (DWG) Chair Ken Armour is no longer working for RUCBC. The DWG is working with the Ministry to develop an annual report on Aboriginal post-secondary education. In response to feedback, the Ministry proposed new categories for identifying Aboriginal student enrolment, whereby enrolments in dual credit, Adult Basic Education and continuing education programs would be separated out from the post-secondary category. The Ministry is now working on developing data for these new categories, which will be presented to the DWG when available.

**8. Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships in Employment Services and Supports Program**

Ministry of Advanced Education Assistant Deputy Minister Bobbi Plecas gave an update on the BC Government's new Employment Services and Support (ESS) Program. The former Aboriginal Community Based Partnerships Delivery Program, which was developed to implement commitments in the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework, was integrated into the new ESS as one of six core Service Areas. A Call for Proposals was released on February 2, 2015, and closes on March 23, 2015.

**9. B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: Re-engineering Education and Training**

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Ministry of Advanced Education Assistant Deputy Minister Bobbi Plecas gave an update on the *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint: Re-engineering Education and Training* plan, sharing the document:

[https://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC/media/WorkBC/Documents/Docs/Booklet\\_BCsBlueprint\\_web\\_140428.pdf](https://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC/media/WorkBC/Documents/Docs/Booklet_BCsBlueprint_web_140428.pdf).

The Ministry emphasized that the Blueprint is intended to shift education and training to meet labour market needs. Canada is working with BC on initiatives in the northern corridor that are linked to the Blueprint.

#### **10. Post-Secondary Partnerships Program**

Discussion on the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program occurred in agenda item 4: Funding Working Group Update.

#### **11. Other: Revisiting the PSE Partners Terms of Reference**

Chair Don Avison noted that the PSE Partners does not have a finalized Terms of Reference. The Partners agreed it would be important to update and finalize the draft Terms of Reference for governance purposes.

**Action 5: Chair Don Avison to revise PSE Partners Terms of Reference for review and discussion at July 21, 2015 meeting.**

#### **Next Meeting Dates:**

- Fri, May 1, 2015 – Joint Call to Action meeting
- Tues, July 21, 2015 – PSE Partners
- Thurs, Sept 24, 2015 – PSE Partners
- Fri, Nov 13, 2015 – Call to Action
- Fri, Feb 26, 2016 – PSE Partners