
BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

July 21, 2015
Meeting Notes

BCIT Downtown Campus, 515 Hastings Street Vancouver, BC

PARTICIPANTS:

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Members <ul style="list-style-type: none">Deanne McLeod, Executive Director, North East Advancing Society	Ministry of Advanced Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs
BC Association of Institutes and Universities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ruth Wittenberg, President	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rishi Sharma, Director, Labour Market and Immigration Division
BC Colleges <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jim Reed, President	Research Universities Council of BC <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lori MacKenzie, Director, Policy & Research
First Nations Education Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">Deborah Jeffrey, Executive DirectorThane Bonar, Director of Communications and Policy	GUEST: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jo-ann Archibald, ABCDE
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monica Cox, Director, First Nations Social & Cultural Policy	FACILITATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Don Avison, ChairNaomi Adams, FNEESC/IAHLA Director of Post-Secondary Education and Training

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

2. Call to Action Follow UP

The PSE Partners discussed the Call to Action meeting, noting the difficulties of organizing joint K-12 and PSE meetings, while also recognizing the value in facilitating strategic discussions to advance top priorities.

Action 1: Reinvalidate the Transitions Working Group to move our joint work forward

Action 2: Hold joint (K-12 and PSE) Call to Action meetings every 2 years

Action 3: Explore bringing specific leaders to PSE Partners meetings throughout the year

3. Review Truth and Reconciliation Commission Summary Final Report – Calls to Action

Naomi Adams, FNEESC/IAHLA Director of Post-Secondary Education and Training reviewed the TRC Summary Final Report Calls to Action related to post-secondary education. The PSE Partners identified and discussed potential responses, including the possibility of holding a joint forum with K-12 on the TRC findings. The PSE Partners discussed the importance of regional approaches in the TRC response.

Action 4: Meet with Vice-Presidents Academic to discuss TRC findings and calls to action and request Chairs of the VPs Academic to inform School Districts that English First Peoples and BC First Nations 12 are accepted for university or college entrance

Action 5: Develop template for public institutions to identify current status and next steps to implement TRC findings

Action 7: FNEESC/IAHLA to present to PSE Partners on Language Fluency Degree

Action 8: Explore reconciliation education for Boards of Governors, Senates, other administration and staff

Action 9: Push for action from CMEC – BC is Vice Chair

Action 10: If new AANDC Minister, prepare letter outlining BC progress in Aboriginal education

Action 11: Share Funding Working Group discussion paper with BCATEAM, MARR and JTST

4. Funding Working Group

Naomi reviewed the draft paper regarding developing a “Made in BC” approach to funding PSE program delivery, which was developed with input from the Funding Working Group. The PSE Partners expressed overall support and had some revisions. In particular, the paper should emphasize that the decreased funding for First Nations post-secondary program delivery is decreasing accessibility for students, not just Aboriginal institutes, and that support for community-based education is a core objective of the Aboriginal post-secondary policy framework.

Action 12: Shared revised draft paper on “Made in BC” approach to funding PSE program delivery with Funding Working Group for final approval

Action 13: Explore strategically engaging AANDC Headquarters to follow up

5. Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Data

Deborah Hull, Executive Director at the Ministry of Advanced Education shared new data on Aboriginal student enrolment and completion. The PSE Partners expressed appreciation for the development and sharing of the data, and provided feedback to the Ministry. The Partners asked whether the Ministry could identify how much of the Aboriginal student population growth could be attributed to overall Aboriginal population growth, and whether the data could be shared with the public institutions. The Partners also suggested adding a slide showing decreased funding for First Nations students (from PSSSP and UCEP).

The PSE Partners discussed the Data Working Group, which is lacking a chair and has not met since last summer. Given the overlap in membership, the Data Working Group will be folded into the Policy Working Group.

Deborah Hull presented a rough draft outline of potential elements of an Aboriginal post-secondary education report.

Action 14: Present revised data sets to the Policy Working Group for discussion

Action 15: Policy Working Group to discuss draft outline of Aboriginal post-secondary education report

6. Update on Training Initiatives - Employment Services and Support program

Deborah Hull explained that government is still making decisions which will be announced in the near future.

7. Aboriginal PSE & Training Policy Framework Implementation Update

Deborah Hull reviewed the policy framework implementation report. The institution sector groups expressed an interest in learning which institutions do not have Aboriginal representatives on their Boards of Governors. Deborah clarified that the Ministry’s intention is to share this implementation report publicly. The PSE Partners noted that the transition rate should be clarified as the figure listed only includes Aboriginal graduates, and that the \$2 M for Aboriginal teacher education is not specifically for language teachers.

8. Other

The Ministry of Advanced Education requested the Partners move the November meeting to November 18th to accommodate a representative from the BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Coordinators Council attending.

Next Meeting Dates:

- Thurs, Sept 24, 2015 – PSE Partners
- Nov 18, 2015 – PSE Partners *** **NOTE NEW DATE** ***
- Fri, Feb 26, 2016 – PSE Partners