
BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

September 23, 2014 Meeting Notes 555 Seymour Street Vancouver, BC

PARTICIPANTS:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

- Linda Guy, Advisor, Programs & Partnerships
- Tracey Nelson, Advisor

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

- Lauren Terbasket, Vice-Chair

Metis Nation

- Colleen Hodgson, Director of Education

Ministry of Advanced Education

- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs

Research Universities Council of BC

- Robin Ciceri, President
- Ken Armour, Director, Policy and Research

FACILITATION:

- Don Avison, Chair
- Thane Bonar, FNEESC/IAHLA Director of Post-Secondary Education and Training

Guests:

- Cindy Charleyboy, FNEESC Post-Secondary Program Analyst

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

2. Review and Approval of Draft Notes and Action Items

The draft notes were approved as distributed. It was noted that they could be posted publicly.

3. Funding Working Group Update

A brief update was provided by Deb Hull and it was agreed that discussion would take place at the Funding Working Group meeting to be held later in the day.

4. Transitions Working Group Update

The Partners discussed progress made to date by the Transitions Working Group and it was noted that an update was required from the Ministry of Education on the items they had previously committed to provide data on. It was agreed that another meeting of the group would be scheduled.

5. Data Working Group Update

Ken Armour provided an update on the activity of the Data Working Group and the approach that has been agreed to. He explained that initially, we would be looking at basic questions – in particular FTE enrolment by program type, and then build on the data from there. It was noted that some of the data is not yet available for use and work is underway to collect and get approval to use it.

It was agreed that that the data had to identify gaps and that a specific Aboriginal student outcomes survey may be helpful. It was also suggested that the BC Council on Admissions and Transfers should be involved in this work.

If necessary, it was proposed that a briefing note to all registrars could be prepared outlining what the Partners Table wants to do in the area of data and how the institutions can contribute.

6. Post-Secondary Partnerships Program

AANDC provided an update on the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP) focused on recent funding announcements. They noted that allocations were made by a national selection committee and that individual regions did not receive allocations.

It was noted that while in the past under ISSP, eligibility in BC was limited to First Nations and Aboriginal-controlled institutes, whereas for 2014/15, only public post-secondary institutions received funding. Concern was expressed that these changes were not consistent with the Policy Framework and that the Partners need to communicate this to AANDC at the Call to Action Meeting.

There was some confusion as to why Aboriginal-controlled institutes were funded in other regions, but not BC. It was noted that if there is an issue in BC related to the stipulation that institutions be provincially recognized, that should be addressed. AANDC representatives were asked to look into this issue and report back.

7. Policy Framework Implementation Plan

The Ministry of Advanced Education through the implementation priorities table and explained the progress that has been made on each item to date.

8. Call-to-Action Meeting Preparation

The group agreed that given the considerable overlap between the K-12 and PSE Partners, a Joint Call to Action Meeting should be proposed to the K-12 Partners. October 21st was identified for a joint meeting to prepare.

The group discussed who was expected to attend from the various partner organizations. The Chair indicated that it would be beneficial to have representation from AANDC headquarters and that he would make himself available to speak with any partner organization leaders in advance of the meeting.

9. Other

It was suggested that the Partners Group may benefit from a youth voice at the table. The Partners agreed that as a first step, the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective could be invited to attend a regular meeting.

Action 1: 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