
BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

September 28, 2016

Draft Meeting Notes

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, 1138 Melville St. Vancouver, BC

PARTICIPANTS:

Chair

- Don Avison

BC Association of Institutes and Universities

- Ruth Wittenberg, President

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President (Conference Call)

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

- Deborah Jeffrey, Executive Director
- Thane Bonar, Director of Communications & Policy
- Nicolas Mejia, Post-Secondary Program Analyst

Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

- Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Chair

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

- Jody Kaden, Director, Programs and Partnerships
- Susan Klinkhamer, Education Advisor, Programs and Partnerships
- Alison Olney, Education Advisor, Programs and Partnerships

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

- Monica Cox, Director, First Nations Social & Cultural Policy

Ministry of Advanced Education

- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs
- Fiona Cubitt, Strategic Lead, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

- Bev Shuttleworth, Manager, Corporate Initiative and Stakeholder Relations (Conference Call)

Research Universities Council of BC

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

Service Canada

- Sam Boonstra, Interim Regional Executive Director

FACILITATION:

- Don Avison, Chair
- Lorraine Naziel, FNESC Manager of Post-Secondary Education & Training

GUESTS:

First Nations Health Authority

- Melanie Rivers, Senior Advisor, Strategic Policy

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The sequence of the draft agenda was adjusted to accommodate the guest presentation.

2. Policy Working Group Update

Fiona Cubitt updated the table on the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Student Data Report. She noted that they are working towards a report that focusses on outcomes and that includes the context for the data. She explained that progress has been delayed due to staffing issues but that a revised draft report is expected to be complete by November, 2017.

Action Item: Deanna McLeod to be added to the PSE Policy Working Group.

Action Item: Don Avison to request K-12 data presentation from Ministry of Education.

Action Item: AVED to share draft documents highlighting gaps and research on gap between aboriginal males and females in PSE access, retention and completion

Deborah Hull updated the partners table on the status of Aboriginal Service Plan Initiative evaluation. A final performance measurement framework is to be complete by November 2016. The evaluation of the ASP initiative is to be complete by May 2017. It was noted that the FNEC Board could be involved either through a survey or Malatest's attendance at a FNEC Board meeting.

3. Aboriginal PSE & Training Policy Framework

Deb Hull provided an update on AVED activities under the Policy Framework. It was noted that AVED has provided FNEC with funding to develop a model policy on protection of traditional knowledge. Other priorities identified include understanding, and developing initiatives to close the gap between Aboriginal male and female students in relation to access, retention and completion of PSE.

Deb Hull provided an update on the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships Program. She explained that the release of the CFP had been delayed in part because AVED needs time to consider the request from FNEC and IAHLA to provide funding directly to Aboriginal communities. The issue of the stringent ACBTP client eligibility criteria was raised as a barrier to reaching the students in need and effectively implementing programs.

There was discussion of the Minister's recent commitment to bring together Aboriginal members of public post-secondary boards of governors, but that further discussion was required to determine what that would look like.

4. Guest: First Nations Health Authority

Melanie Rivers, Senior Advisor of Strategic Policy, joined the group to speak to the work being carried out by the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) in relation to post-education education and training for health careers. The FNHA's interest is in systemic change in the education system which will lead to increasing the number of health care professionals in First Nation communities. There was discussion of the data that would be required to determine the number of First Nations health care professions in the province. The FNHA is working with post-secondary institutions to develop appropriate programs that meet the needs of communities and is also conducting cultural safety webinars. The Partners committed to annual engagement with the FNHA.

5. Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Survey Next Steps

It was noted that responses to the survey were in most cases comprehensive and that AVED would be meeting with The Research Universities' Council of British Columbia Vice-President Academics and would report back at the next partners meeting.

6. BC Public Post-Secondary Truth & Reconciliation Summit

Verna Billy-Minnabarriet updated the Partners on the BC Public Post-Secondary Truth & Reconciliation Summit. The Summit is to take place over 2 days with a purpose of facilitating exchange on the role of post-secondary institutions in implementing the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Partners had questions regarding a protocol agreement between the Presidents of BC's PSIs affirming their commitment to reconciliation, potentially to be signed at the TRC Summit, and it was agreed that further discussion was needed.

7. Federal PSE Funding

Jody Kaden updated the Partners on Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSP). She indicated that there have been no changes or increases related to these

programs as engagement is required prior to moving forward. Deb Hull noted that research would be undertaken, consistent with the Policy Framework, on Aboriginal access to student financial assistance, and that AVED would be issuing a RFP for this research. Partners expressed concern regarding the federal government's unfulfilled commitment to increase the budget for the PSSSP by \$50 million.

Partners expressed a need for a return to a First Nation-led, regional adjudication process for the PSPP.

8. Other

Don Avison provided a brief update on his work on the Ministry of Aboriginal Education Strategic Plan, which includes examining the graduation rates in specific school districts and investigating the reasons behind them.

Sam Boonstra updated the Partners table on the renewal of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). He shared that a National conference will be taking place in June, and submissions providing input on renewal are to be complete by fall 2016. The national engagement process is set to be complete by Fall 2016. With current ASETS agreements extended for another year. New agreements will be initiated in April 2018.

Debbie Jeffrey offered to provide an update on the Tripartite Education Framework Agreement at the next meeting.

9. Future Meeting Dates

December 2, 2016

March 8, 2017

May 26, 2017