
BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

January 10, 2018
Draft Meeting Notes

Department of Indigenous Services Canada, 1138 Melville St. Vancouver, BC

PARTICIPANTS:

Association of British Columbia Deans of Education (ABCDE)

- Jan Hare

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Member (BCATEAM)

- John Webster

BC Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU)

- Ruth Wittenberg, President

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC)

- Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General
- Allyson Rowe, Associate Regional Director General
- Jody Kaden, Director, Programs and Partnerships
- Milica Nauman, Manager, IGR Education
- Alison Olney, Advisor, Education Programs
- Susan Klinkhamer, Education Advisor, Programs and Partnerships
- Justine Mallou, Co-op Student

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

- Debbie Jeffrey, Executive Director
- Thane Bonar, Director of Communications & Policy

Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

- Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Chair

Métis Nation of BC (MNBC)

- Colleen Hodgson

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- The Honourable Melanie Mark, M.L.A., Minister
- Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister
- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs
- Carrie Dusterhoft, Director, Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training
- Christina Rzepa, Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education

- Ted Cadwallader, Provincial Director/Aboriginal Education (Teleconference)

Research Universities' Council of BC

- Robin Ciceri, President

Service Canada

- Sam Boonstra, Director-Citizen Services & Program Delivery Branch, Employment & Social Development Canada

FACILITATION:

- Don Avison, Chair
- Nicolas Mejia, FNESC Manager of Post-Secondary Education and Training

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 9:45am. The draft agenda was approved.

2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes – November 9, 2017

The Draft Meeting Notes from November 9, 2017 were approved with no further changes.

3. United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action, and Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

The Honourable Minister Melanie Mark spoke about the provincial government's commitment to implement UNDRIP and the TRC. It was noted that alignment between federal and provincial commitments to Aboriginal people with respect to UNDRIP and the TRC provides an unprecedented opportunity to reinvigorate and advance key areas of the Aboriginal Policy Framework and Action Plan, such as supporting Aboriginal-controlled institutes, Aboriginal teacher recruitment, retention and deployment and Indigenous language revitalization. Other priorities were mentioned as well, such as: completing the Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP) Review, increasing Aboriginal student housing, reducing on-campus violence, creating safe spaces for Aboriginal learners, increasing workplace equity and supports for Aboriginal apprentices and ensuring greater Aboriginal representation on the boards of public post-secondary institutions (PSIs).

There was discussion on how current federal government commitments through the Post-Secondary Comprehensive Review of Federal Programming, as well as the dissolution and planned obsolescence of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada are serving to advance reconciliation and Aboriginal PSE. It was further mentioned that the revival of the First Nations Public Service Initiative is key to supporting First Nations in meeting their human resources needs so that they can govern effectively.

4. Aboriginal Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Deployment

Don Avison spoke about the increased focus the PSE Partners have given to the issue of Aboriginal teacher, recruitment, retention and deployment due to the low number of Aboriginal teachers in the workforce and the decline of teachers in First Nations schools. Remarks were made on addressing racism in BC public schools, the work of the ABCDE-FNESC-IAHLA Indigenous Education Working Group and ABCDE Symposium on Aboriginal teacher recruitment and retention in teacher education programs.

Some of the findings of the report on the Symposium include: the need for teacher certification in community, online/blended delivery models, multiple pathways to accessing and completing teacher education programs, setting targets at the institutional level for Aboriginal learner completion of teacher education program and revising institutional policies which hinder recruitment and retention into teacher education programs. It is expected that the report from the Symposium will be circulated to the PSE Partners once it has been reviewed by the BC Deans of Education.

5. Adult Basic Education

It was mentioned that reinstatement of tuition free adult basic education (ABE) is a positive towards increasing access for Aboriginal learners. Partners expressed that the lack of wrap-around supports and community-based delivery of ABE remains a barrier to adult learners accessing and completing ABE programming. There also a need to ensure that Aboriginal learners have access to lower-level ABE courses and for there to be a systemic approach to supporting ABE learners.

6. Supports for Former Children and Youth in Care

It was noted that additional supports, beyond the tuition fee waiver program, are needed to better support the success of former children and youth in care in PSE.

7. Roundtable

Don Avison invited members to introduce themselves. In their introductions members spoke about key priorities in advancing Aboriginal PSE & training.

8. Future Meeting Dates

It was agreed that the date of the next PSE Partners meeting would be circulated in advance of the meeting.

9. Other