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# BC Indigenous Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

December 11, 2019

## Draft Meeting Notes

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

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### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Association of BC Deans of Education

- Jan Hare, Associate Dean, Indigenous Education, University of British Columbia

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Member (BCATEAM)

- Deanne McLeod, Executive Director, North East Native Advancing Society

BC Association of Institutes and Universities

- Ruth Wittenberg, President

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC)

- Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General
- Alison Olney, Education Programs Manager
- Laura Langs, Education Programs Advisor
- Cheryl Matthew, Service Manager, Indigenous Program Delivery

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

- Debbie Jeffrey, Executive Director
- Thane Bonar, Director of Communications & Policy
- Andrew (Andy) Phillips, PSE Policy Analyst

First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPS)

- Jehan Casey, Executive Director
- Bernice Timmer, Manager, Planning and Policy

Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

- Dr. Verna Billy Minnabarriet, Chair

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch
- Fiona Cubitt, Director, Policy and Planning, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch
- Naomi Adams, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy and Planning, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch

Ministry of Education (EDUC)

- Kaleb Child, Director, Indigenous Education

### **TELECONFERENCE:**

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Catherine Poole, Executive Director, Program Design and Delivery Branch
- Jeanne Sedun, Executive Director, Finance, Technology and Management Services
- Griffin Ryall, Director, Sector Business Partnerships

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

- Stephanie Gabel, Senior Advisor, Socio-Economic Partnerships

Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC)

- Jim Martell, Director, RUCBC

### **GUESTS:**

I-LEAD

- Sharon Hobenshield, Director of Aboriginal Education, Vancouver Island University
- Shirley Hardman, Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs, University of the Fraser Valley

### **FACILITATION:**

- Judith Sayers, Chair
- Nicolas Mejia, FNESC Manager, Post-Secondary Education and Training

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### **1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda**

The PSE Partners reviewed the Draft Agenda for the December 11, 2019 meeting. No additions were made to the draft agenda. The Draft Agenda was approved.

### **2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes—September 17, 2019**

The Draft Meeting Notes were reviewed and approved.

### **3. UNDRIP Legislation**

#### **a) Priority Areas**

The Partners discussed the BC Government's recently passed United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) legislation and its implications. It was mentioned that there are many priority areas in First Nations post-secondary education (PSE) that fit under Article 14 of UNDRIP which could be included in the Action Plan required under the BC legislation. It was also mentioned that substantive investments and coordination with the federal government will be required to ensure its full implementation.

### **4. Presentation from I-LEAD**

Sharon Hobenshield and Shirley Hardman of the Indigenous Leadership in Post-Secondary Institutes (I-LEAD) gave a presentation to the PSE Partners regarding I-LEAD's role in the public post-secondary system. I-LEAD would like to explore opportunities to participate in the work of the PSE Partners and noted that there are provisions in the terms of reference for the PSE Partners, which allow for inclusion of additional members. The Chair noted that the Partners would consider I-LEAD's request for membership at a future meeting.

**Action:** PSE Partners to discuss I-LEAD presentation and request for membership.

### **5. Indigenous Board Members Gathering**

FNESC and AEST provided a summary of discussion that took place at the Indigenous Board Member Gathering held on September 20, 2019. A key theme arising from the event was that more opportunities for Indigenous board members to meet are needed. FNESC, AEST, and Métis Nation BC will continue to have discussions on next steps.

### **6. Provincial Program and Initiatives Updates**

#### **a) Indigenous Policy Framework Refresh – Vision**

AEST presented draft vision statements for the updated Indigenous Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework. The Partners discussed adding language around reconciliation, transformation of the education system, and First Nations being rights-holders.

#### **b) Student Housing Framework**

AEST provided an update on progress made on Student Housing. As of December, approximately 5,600 new student beds are under development and one post-secondary housing project has been completed as a result of the Ministry's housing strategy. 2,700 of these beds have been created through government loans and grants, with the remainder created through investments by public post-secondary institutions.

In October 2019, AEST held a Student Housing Workshop themed around the critical role of campus and student support services. A highlight of this workshop was a presentation by Dr. Michelle Pigeon. The Partners requested that Dr. Pigeon's presentation be shared with them. Concerns were raised around the prioritization of Indigenous students and former children and youth in care for on-campus housing. It was discussed that it will be important to align work on student housing with the new UNDRIP legislation.

**Action:** FNESC to circulate Dr. Pigeon's presentation.

#### **c) Indigenous Skills Training and Education**

Catherine Poole provided an update on Indigenous Skills Training and Education Programs. The Province is working on a longer term strategy, and has expanded access of existing programs across the province and shifted to providing a

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notional allocation for each Indigenous community. It is the Ministry's hope that communities will collaborate together where they can to maximize the funding available for programming. Concerns were raised regarding the interim approach, especially around communities' ability to deliver meaningful programming leading to recognized post-secondary credentials with the notional allocation of \$90,000 and that in many cases partnerships between communities may not be feasible or desirable.

**d) Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report**

Deb Hull directed the Partners to a document AEST developed and discussed at the Policy Working Group to identify relevant Calls to Justice for PSE in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report. It was mentioned that the federal government is developing a National Action Plan, and that any actions taken in BC should align with it.

**e) TRC Calls to Action implementation reporting at BC Public Post-Secondary institutions**

Deb Hull updated the Partners on the implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action at public post-secondary institutions. This year was the first year institutions were required to report on the progress they have made towards implementing the TRC Calls to Action. AEST is currently analyzing post-secondary institutions' submissions and will be briefing the Minister. It was noted that the submissions are all available publicly on the institutions' websites.

**7. Other**

The Partners scheduled future meetings for the following dates:

- March 12, 2020
- June 17, 2020
- September 16, 2020
- December 16, 2020