

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 10:00 am until 3:00 pm**

PARTICIPANTS IN PERSON:

Rosalie Montgomery, Education Coord., Yunesit'in Govt.
Agnes William, Education Coord., Xenigwet'in First Nation
Leah Briault, Education Coordinator T'exelc (WLFN)
Yanos Stephenson, Xat'sull First Nation (Soda Creek Band)
Emma Rigoni, Education Manager, Tl'etinqox Govt. (Anaham Band)
Dora Grindler, A/Education Coordinator, Tsideldel First Nation
Calvin Dubray, Education Director, Esk'eteme
Faith Rosette, (new) for Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek Band)
Michelle Noskey, Cariboo Friendship Centre
Louise Harry, Educ. Director, Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek Band)
Grant Gustafson, District Principal Indigenous Education SD27
Tracy Hubner, Recording Secretary, SD27

PARTICIPANTS ON-LINE:

Holly Elkins, Education Coord., Tl'esqox (Toosey Band)
Joy Holte, Education Director, Ulkatcho

NOT AVAILABLE:

Michelle Archie, Education Sr. Manager, Tsq'escen
Marlene Swears, President, Cariboo Chilcotin Metis Assn.

A. Call to Order: Rosalie Montgomery, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

ii) Welcome to Secwepemc Territory:

Leah Briault from Williams Lake First Nation (T'exelc) provided a welcome to Secwepemc Territory.

ii) Traditional Opening:

Agnes William from Xenigwet'in First Nations Govt. provided a traditional opening.

iii) Introductions: Introductions were done.

B. AGENDA & PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Review/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda for October 6, 2025

Motion – THAT the Indigenous Education Council adopt the agenda of its meeting dated October 6, 2025, as circulated.

Moved: Leah Briault

Seconded: Yanos Stephenson

Review/Approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2025 Meeting:

Motion – THAT The Indigenous Education Council adopt the minutes of its meeting dated June 2, 2025 as circulated.

Moved: Yanos Stephenson

Seconded: Michelle Noskey

C. BUDGET AND STAFFING LEVELS:

i) Targeted funds – Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction

Grant gave a presentation on the budget. We have 1,395 students @ \$1,790.00 per student. He shared what is covered by Targeted Funding in the budget.

It was noted that the Outdoor Learning Centre was approved through surplus funds.

Staffing Levels: These were already approved this spring.

Grant noted that we have a full slate of pro d workshops with Dancing Water Sandy and Freda Alphonse.

IEC members asked if they can we go back to see what wasn't spent in different categories for 2024-2025. As well, they want to see final dollar amounts of what was spent before they commit to funding for this school year. There were concerns that some unspent money was overlapped.

FNESC Conference for December 2025:

Grant Gustafson shared that we have seven (7) language teachers in there for this year and three (3) on the wait list for FNESC. We must be careful not to break the collective contract. Technically, teachers are to use their money they get and be reimbursed. We have already secured hotels. Grant was going to ensure this information was provided to staff at the next Pro D Day or perhaps a meeting for Indigenous staff before the next Pro D Day.

Professional Development workshops by Dancing Water Sandy:

The salmon smoking and canning pro d day with Dancing Water was a great success. Grant can see this cost going up in the future. He shared the courses that were outlined that people are asking for. IEC are in support of Dancing Water Sandy's and Freda Alphonse's workshops.

The Medicine of Stories, Braiding Sweetgrass, Working Together, 4 Seasons, Indigenous Storytelling are all from the Outdoor Learning Store.

There was discussion on District Professional Development Workshops:

Grant Gustafson shared that the Pro D allowance is \$2,400 for each teacher. \$1000 for course work and \$1400 for travel. One Pro D Day a year the district gets to decide what the pro d is for teachers. The rest of the pro d days, they can choose. October is the provincial Pro D Day.

MOTION: IEC ARE IN SUPPORT OF OUTDOOR LEARNING STORE WORKSHOPS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00.

Teachers can attend: Teachers should receive a certificate of participation. *Condition that they demonstrate to IEC how they are implementing this knowledge for students. Course feedback: would they rec. it? IEC can do a report to have them complete. When does IEC want the report? Following the completion of the course.

Motion: Calvin Dubray

Seconded: Emma Rigoni

CONSENSUS

Other costs:

Grant Gustafson: Noted that we paid dry grad and grad fees last year.

IDS: Individual Directed Studies. Grant asked if we could include capstone projects here?

Student Leadership Series: The Spirit who Swims movie. Grant suggested IEC invite Debie Peterson the presenter to a future IEC meeting. IEC wants this.

Re: Outdoor classroom: We are waiting on Sugarcane Archaeological approval to come in.

IEC capacity funding:

Carryover:

Indigenous FTE: numbers for students whose parents have signed off on student service forms. These numbers are different than actual headcount.

ii) IEC Capacity Funding: \$178,000.00 is available to run the meetings.

Grant shared that there is \$178,000 available to run the IEC meetings. He said that last year we used \$48,000.00 for FNEC meetings. He suggested IEC could provide FNEC support for

IEC members. Or IEC could decide to attend the Regional IEC session in Osoyoos, BC on November 19, 2025.

Another option could be the National Gathering in Winnipeg.

IEC Meeting location:

Grant Gustafson suggested that the IEC could meet in the communities. Don't always need to be at SD27.

There was discussion:

It was decided that IEC would continue to meet at SD27. They would like to have quarterly meetings at Signal Point for Strategy Planning.

Leah Briault: Suggested that TRU offers the Alison Sutherland course for roughly \$3,300.00. You receive a Certificate to be able to run our own meetings and do our own minutes. To build our capacity. They can come to us. They are booked into November now. We can create it around our schedule. It is a full day course. Capacity building for IEC would pay for this.

She suggested that we could use the Gathering Place at TRU. A separate day from IEC meeting. Do it a day after our meeting day. Perhaps Nov. 4th? Leah to investigate it. Lunch would be included.

Grant to send out email for IEC Regional Session interest. If arranged, IEC will cover costs. Submit receipts to Tracy Hubner and GL for capacity building to cover.

Motion to cover costs for any IEC members attending FNESC in December 2025

Registration and hotels and travel and all meals:

Invoice from the Band to come from SD27 for any IEC members who attend.

CONSENSUS

iii) Surplus Carry Forward:

This was shared and discussed.

D. PROPOSALS:

1. Columneetza Jr. Secondary School Proposal: \$1,500.00

There was discussion on this cultural proposal:

IEC listened to a presentation from Joel West and his experience sharing his Residential School family history.

CONSENSUS

E. BUSINESS:

- i) **Framework for Anti-Racism Strategy Planning:** Cheryl Lenardon (Not available)
- ii) **IEC Meeting Structures:**

a. Agenda setting:

Grant Gustafson and Rosalie Montgomery spoke of suggested agenda items. The process to get items on the agenda.

Chair or vice chair gives a day notice for items.

Travel: Recording Secretary to reimburse hotel rooms – NOT book them.

b. IEC Meeting Minutes:

Rosalie Montgomery wants to see the main important parts. Actions.

She suggested IEC members tell our Recording Sec. “may you pls put this in the minutes?” when speaking at our meetings.

Calvin Dubray: Stuff said at meetings need to be in minutes and shown. Are we deciding on verbatim? We have said some things that have not been reflected. It should be verbatim. I can show my chief what I did bring up.

Roberts Rules of order was agreed to in June 2025. Further discussion to follow.

Leah Briault suggested software to help us. We need to get better and say our name before we speak. We have a voice and may want to go back and revisit it.

We are the ones creating stuff that is going to public. Think of legal consultation.

Yanos Stephenson: Said we should use recordings and minutes. People can talk into mic.

Roberts rules of order were used when the council was a committee of the Board.

Only one person per community here.

Note for Recording Secretary and Grant Gustafson: Primary and alternates get all invites and agendas etc. via email. We can still put this on IEC Teams.

Members need to share with Recording Secretary Who will be attending! We need to know how much food to order.

c. **TEAMS:**

Set up IEC team and add documents.

iii) **Year outline of topics for future meetings:**

- a. **Pro-D: There is one pro d day a year that the teachers get to decide what they want to take. How is IEC involved in this process. Next year IEC we wd like to have input.**
- b. **Non in Session Day**
- c. **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: the district is planning this.**
- d. **FESL: put on agenda and ask superintendent for her input or report.**
- e. **District Policies review cycle: what does review cycle look like?**
- f. **Other topics or presentations: district goal of looking at attendance perhaps.**
- g. **Maybe how do we give our support to orange shirt society – role models for ex.**

There was discussion on the above topics:

Calvin Dubray asked if we can have one on the “How are We doing report”?

Grant Gustafson: Majority of that report is in the FESL report. Sean Cameron is working on creating a model LEA reporting template. Sean to be invited to future meeting.

Grant Gustafson: Will share the pro d choices with IEC members. They should have input on pro d offerings and what they wd like to see offered. They should be able to sign up.

IEC Members said that stuff in their communities can be offered to Mr. Hubner so he knows what the bands can offer the teachers.

iv) **Role Model Program:**

The Role Models took part in Aboriginal Day parade with fellow candidates. They did not take part in stampede parade as they were at the Kam loopa pow wow.

They attended many pow wows over the summer and into September. We paid for mileage.

Leah Briault: Asked what was planned for Orange Shirt Day. She said that one Principal said to her that the girl role model had to be asked to help - she did not offer as a role model.

Both Tracy and Grant explained that the parents of the role models were both called. We let them know that there was nothing planned that the role models were to be at or to have to talk at. They would only be taking part in any Orange Shirt activities at their school this year.

This was discussed further on November 3, 2025 IEC meeting.

Action Item: Grant Gustafson to follow-up with Orange Shirt Society.

F. STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT:

i. Focus Area tour – Grant Gustafson

Some schools are putting posts on the focus area under many areas. Usually, one post only under Indigenous Focus Area. He reminded IEC that this is just a snapshot of many events happening.

G. CLOSE OF MEETING:

Adjournment:

Recommended Motion – THAT the meeting of the Indigenous Education Council dated October 6, 2025 be adjourned 2:15 pm.

Motion: Emma Rigoni

CLOSING PRAYER: Provided by Louise Harry from SXFN

* Nominal Rolls to be signed after meeting.