

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

PARTICIPANTS IN PERSON:

Grant Gustafson, District Principal Indigenous Education SD27
Tracy Hubner, Recording Secretary, SD27
Rosalie Montgomery, Education Coord., Yunesit'in Govt.
Leah Briault, Education Coordinator T'exelc (WLFN)
Yanos Stephenson, Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Band)
Emma Rigoni, Education Manager, Tl'etinqox Govt. (Anaham Band)
Michelle Noskey, Cariboo Friendship Centre
Faith Rosette, Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek Band)
Catherine Groundwater, Educational Services Coord., Esk'etemc

PARTICIPANTS ON-LINE:

Michelle Archie, Education Sr. Manager, Tsq'escen
Joy Holte, Education Director, Ulkatcho
Marlene Swears, President, Cariboo Chilcotin Metis Assn.
Dawna Short, Alt. 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 WLFN (T'exelc) provided a welcome to Secwepemc Territory.

ii) Traditional Opening:

Leah Briault from WLFN (T'exelc) provided a traditional opening.

B. AGENDA & PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Review/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda for Nov. 3, 2025

Motion – THAT the Indigenous Education Council adopt the agenda of its meeting dated November 3, 2025, as amended:

- No introductions were required.
- Remove Alison Sutherland name from TRU Minute taking meeting Nov. 4, 2025

Moved: Leah Briault

Seconded: Emma Rigoni

Review/Approval of the Minutes of the October 6, 2025 Meeting:

Motion – THAT The Indigenous Education Council adopt the minutes of its meeting dated October 6, 2025 as amended:

Tracy to add notes received from Calvin Dubray - as approved by IEC.

Moved: Leah Briault

Seconded: Catherine Groundwater

C. BUDGET AND STAFFING LEVELS:

i) Budget for 2024-2025 – Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction

Grant Gustafson presented the final budget costs for 2024-2025.

There was discussion to keep the same or different costs for each budget item this year 2025-2026:

Grant noted that since the Oct. IEC meeting the Indigenous Student numbers are now at 1,389.

Setting Budget for 2025-2026: Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction

Grant explained the budget costs and what they cover. He entered any requested changes by IEC into the spreadsheet and added that this can be a fluid document as the year progresses.

New Ideas to look at for future discussion included a possible Indigenous Student Council. Leah Briault suggested that we find out how Kamloops and Penticton have theirs set up.

In addition, some members would like to see an Elder's dinner take place where the Elders are acknowledged.

For Presenters: IEC members agreed that they like the idea of bringing positive, local Indigenous role models in to speak to students. Ex. Indigenous lawyers, health care professionals.

IEC agreed to purchase Laptops (3) per Band to distribute.

Potential new items:

Documentary Lease: The spirit who Swims costs. \$750.00

Possible graduation gifts for students: for ex. Moccasins.

Cultural Production: This was discussed. Grant shared that he did investigate this before with movie producers and there was not one who got back to him.

Another suggestion for discussion: We could support bands in supporting students with good attendance and good marks. The bands shared what they currently do to encourage and support their students.

ii) Staffing for 2025-2026: Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction

Grant presented the current staffing.

There was discussion. It was noted that some positions were increased, no one's hours were decreased. There are times one worker may not be able to be increased as they are maxed out in their hours or perhaps, they have another EA position they also do for the district.

Motion: Approve the expenditure plan as presented:

Moved: Leah Briault

Seconded: Michelle Noskey

Consensus

D. PROPOSALS:

1. 100 Mile Elementary School Proposal: \$

Grant noted that this proposal is still not signed by an IEC member.

TABLED until Proposal is signed

E. BUSINESS:

i) WLFN/District Pow Wow:

There was discussion on WLFN hosting a mid week pow wow for different schools to attend each day.

Grant noted that we have provided \$10,000.00 to Columneetza for their annual Thomas Dueck Pow Wow for 2026.

Catherine Groundwater asked "Has anyone talked to Columneetza Jr. re the possibility of their pow wow moving to WLFN? How do they feel about it"?

Calvin Dubray wants Grant to talk to the person who initiated the Columneetza Pow Wow.

Grant shared that he did let Columneetza know that this is coming up as an agenda item at our IEC meeting today.

Rosalie Montgomery: Chief Sellars suggested instead of several schools having pow wows; they could have one whole one where students could be bused to WLFN.

IEC all agreed that if this were to take place at WLFN that it would have to be mid week in the school year. Not during exam week.

More information needed whether this would be a Competition or Traditional pow wow. Leah Briault felt that this would be a more educational (teaching) pow wow.

Grant Gustafson noted that would change expenses.

Marlene Swears: IEC need to talk to Chief Sellars and see what answers he has. What is WLFN including? The IEC have questions re bussing and costs for that. Maybe we can form a committee to work on this?

Action: Item: Grant Gustafson to talk to Chief Sellars re this suggested Pow Wow and see if he can attend IEC meeting Dec. 1.

Grant to talk to the person at Columneetza who initiated the pow wow there.

ii) **Equity Scan – Anti-Racism: Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction**

Grant would like to see us resume with this and take part again. He asked IEC if they would be interested. It was started when Chris Van der Marke was here.

This project is a project between SD27, all the nations. They look at all the data. He added that nothing negative can come of it. It would identify the gaps. Grant provided a list of names IEC could get to do this. We need to see who is available and who has time. He asked IEC who they would want to be asked. There was discussion.

Action Item: It was decided that Grant Gustafson will ask Dustin Louie if he is available to do this. Tabled to Dec. 1, 2025, IEC meeting. He was reminded that a week early is needed for the agenda and information on this to go out.

iii) **IEC Regional meeting, Osoyoos, BC November 19, 2025: Grant Gustafson**

Grant, Leah Briault, Yanos Stephenson, Lucas Kiefiuk, Dora Grinder and Joy Holt will all be travelling to Osoyoos IEC Regional meeting.

Grant is looking for feedback from IEC on what is going well in our School District. He said that he would like us to have our own discussion on some of the topics at this table, so that they were ready for Osoyoos.

Grant showed the table topics that will be discussed.

Marlene Swears requested the questionnaire for this so they can fill it out and get it back to IEC.

Action Item: Grant to please email this questionnaire to IEC group for feedback.

Grant Gustafson: What would you like our team to say? In the learning bursts, what would we say are some good practices that the IEC are doing and/or share?

The following items were decided on:

- Our role model program. It started in 2003.
- Grant would share school annual plans tied to traditional calendar. Salute CIMS and My Education Portal access.
- TV Screens and elder posters, resource room and learning kits. Learning on the land. LEA mtg pieces are successful, principals take part, and it is a good process.
- Alt. program transitioning back to the school.
- Pro D Days and feedback for IEC to have input into that.

iv) Minute Taking & Meeting Protocol Course at TRU November 4, 2025:

Reminder: This course takes place tomorrow in The Gathering Place at TRU.

v) Future invites – when? Grant Gustafson

- **Sean Cameron:** How are we doing report STATS **FEB. 2026**
- **Kelvin Parent:** Trades and Dual Credit & 1st year Education at TRU. **FEB. 2026.**
- **Debbie Peters:** Culture Camp **DEC.**
- **Feeding Futures:** Grant will invite. This is the group who organized Star fish back packs and what all goes to each school. How it is distributed. **DEC.**
- **Dec. IEC:** **Willie Sellars for Pow Wow.**

In addition:

Nov. 20: 530 to 730: Youth in Trades (Kelvin Parent to WLFN).

Action Item: Leah to send invite to Tracy to get out to all members.

Leah suggested: National Food Program representative come and talk to IEC. It is Federal dollars, but each public school can receive it. First Nations can help put cultural food into the school.

Grant Gustafson has not heard of this before. He said it could be connected to Community Links program.

Action Item: Grant will investigate this.

Jan. 22, 2026: Michelle Archie shared that Paul Davis is coming to present at Tsq'escen. She will invite all IEC.

Action Item: Michelle to send Paul Davis' information to Grant Gustafson.

vi) **Policy Review: Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction**

IEC asked to put this on the November agenda. IEC cannot write policy, but we can comment on, give feedback to the Trustees. It is in the Terms of Reference. Leah Briault suggested that we can look at this at our quarterly meeting.

Grant added that it could also be good to look at the Procedures book. What trustees are looking at: We find out and check it out first, then give our feedback to them. It must be in writing.

Action Item: Grant to find out Boards policy review cycle.

F. Feedback to the Board from TOR: Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction

Grant Gustafson asked if IEC have any items to send to the Board for feedback. It needs to be 'In Writing'! Rosalie is to present this.

On-line Training: Leah Briault said that some things come from Principals, could some of this come to IEC?

Action Item: Grant to ask Hattie Darney who oversees Safer Schools.

- Have Capacity Building on Next Agenda: Add TRU Minute Taking workshop.
- Jan. – FNESC and Regional Sessions.

G. CLOSE OF MEETING:

Adjournment:

Recommended Motion – THAT the meeting of the Indigenous Education Council dated November 3, 2025 be adjourned 2:47 pm.

Motion: Leah Briault

CLOSING PRAYER: Provided by Rosalie Montgomery