

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL RELATIONSHIP COUNCIL

Date: November 5, 2021

Location: ZOOM Meeting

Members Present		
Myeengun Henry	Sana Banu	Luane Roberts
Nicole Robinson	Tammy Webster	Trish Weigel Green
Clarence Cachagee	Shawna Powell-Guerard	John Tibbits
Katrina Graham		
Guests:		
Regrets:		
Jennifer Parkinson	Brandi Bilodeau	Christina Restoule
Lois MacDonald	Tauni Taunooki	Shawn Brake

STANDING ITEMS	ACTION
<p>DISCUSSION ON LAND-BASED INITIATIVE</p> <p>Myeengun: sharing about the land-based initiative with the City of Kitchener and Conestoga College. TRC committee and the land-based project.</p> <p>DISCUSSION RE: TRC COMMITTEE</p> <p>Priorities: TRC committee to build a strategy?</p> <p>Nicole: What are the measurables to track the project? Combined effort with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working together.</p> <p>Sana: Has recognized that there isn't an Indigenous voice on the board. Has welcome international students to the board. Created a stage for Indigenous students, created a space for an Indigenous Director and associate vice presidents were hired for TRC/CSI Updated land acknowledgement.</p> <p>Shawn: Introduction of prior work with Indigenous people and providing education. Student representation, how many students do we have? How to help student qualify to get into post education. Indigenous Faculty, Indigenous studies, having the Indigenous voice at the table of change and growth. Looking for Indigenous community voices to help mold and advise the college.</p>	

Tammy: Relationships, resetting the right relationship. Top tier work, accountability to establish change. Metis Inuit and First Nation voice to lead and drive this initiative forward.

Jennifer: Needs to have a clear mandate and goals.

Myeengun: Sharing about the value of getting a strong foothold to move this forward.

Katrina: Importance of being an all-level approach, work on the initiative together. What is already being worked on, not duplicating services.

John: Outcome and measurables are what we are interested in. Work with High schools, more student grow in community. Land based project, priorities, 2011 MCE framework. Make a difference and being recognized for this initiative. Youth unemployment make a difference in the live of Indigenous people. Move forward in a meaningful way.

Garrison: Taking us through the garden at Doon Campus, talking about partners. Corn beans squash medicines tomatoes strawberries, kale and cabbage. What would the garden look like if colonization didn't happen? This is the beginning of a larger project. Garrison shared that he's transitioning out of his role at the college. Relationship merging between the college, city, and local First Nations. Land is on the Grand River, historical relationships, relationship with the land, animals, and the river. Sustainable Indigenous food insecurity needs will be addressed from the land-based initiative.

Shawn: Thank you to Garrison for his work and helping families with food insecurities. White Owl Seven Generation, food bank. Teaching space at the garden regards to traditional foods and preparation.

CHANGES TO COLLEGE STRUCTURE

Trish: Sharing about the changes within the college structure and Myeengun's role at the college. Advisory capacity at a senior level will be Myeengun's role in the new year.

Lu: Great initiative, partnerships and happy to be apart of this new direction.

Action plan for reconciliation: Building principles and ideals, strategies to move the initiative forward.

Nicole, Action plan and foundational pieces. Sharing about connection with Garrison and White Owl. Partnerships/ housing at college?

Trish: lots of folks at the college willing to do the work, take on the action, take on the work at a college level.

Sana: creating a plan-CSI, presentation of priorities. Student voice is important!

All in favor of moving this initiative forward