

## Indigenous Education Council

December 13, 2024 | 10am – 12pm  
Guild Room – Welcome Centre

### Meeting minutes

- Members:** Luane Roberts (co-chair), Christina Restoule (co-chair), , Brandi Bilodeau, Tammy Webster, Nicole Robinson, Roxane Shawana, Nelson Chukwuma, Michelle Rehel, , Zandra Bear-Lowen, Raven Morand
- Guests:** Bai Yang, Bela Ferreira, Ashley Waterston, Jacob Hill, Adam Miller (instead of Shawn Brake)
- Regrets** John Tibbits, Trish Weigel-Green, Danielle Boissoneau, Tracey Whiteye, Ascension A. Harjo, Brandi Tibishkogiji, Shawn Brake,
- Minutes:** Tracy Riley

**Meeting commenced:** 10:16AM

	Agenda Item	Presenter	Encl.
1	Welcome and Opening Prayer	Jacob Hill	
2	Additions to the Agenda	Luane Roberts	
Nelson going to speak in "Other business"			
3	Approval of Minutes	Luane Roberts	
September's minutes to be sent out with December's for approval at next meeting.			
4	Guest Presentation – MicroCredential Overview	Bai Yang, Chair Nursing	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Discussion on Bai Yang's Micro-Credential Presentation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggestions and questions about incorporating Indigenous perspectives and avoiding pan-Indigenous approaches.</li> <li>○ Emphasis on having instructors with lived Indigenous experience.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Collaboration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential collaboration with Grand River and St. Mary's.</li> <li>○ Christina to introduce Bai to her contacts at these institutions via email.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>Course Offering:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggestion to offer the course to Personal Support Workers (PSWs).</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>Indigenous Curriculum Consultant:</b></li> </ol>			

- Question raised about the consultant's role.
- Adam mentioned a temporary pause in hiring for this position.
- 5. Collaboration with McMaster:**
  - Jacob recommended collaborating with McMaster.
  - Mention of Dr. Karen Hill, an Indigenous doctor at McMaster, who provides an Indigenous perspective.
- 6. Allyship and Meaningful Change:**
  - Discussion on the importance of allyship and the micro-credential as a starting point for meaningful change.
- 7. Funding and Tuition:**
  - Information that micro-credentials can receive OSAP funding if they are 12 weeks or less.
  - Note that UofT, Laurier, Waterloo, Guelph, and Humber offer free tuition for Indigenous people.
  - Question raised about why Conestoga College does not offer the same.
  - Suggestion for President John Tibbits to address this at the ACASA meeting.
- 8. Course Format:**
  - Suggestion that the micro-credential should not be solely online.
  - Importance of in-person teaching for Indigenous people.
  - Recommendation for a knowledge keeper to co-facilitate with a regular practitioner to incorporate Indigenous viewpoints.
- 9. Terminology:**
  - Note that "Indigenous" should always be capitalized.
  - When referring to holistic in the context of Indigenous perspectives, it should be spelled "wholistic."

<b>5</b>	<b>Guest Presentation – Document Collection for Indigenous Seats for Over-Subscribed Programs</b>	<b>Bela Ferreira, Chair, Allied Health &amp; Life Sciences</b>	
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- Key Points Discussed:**
- 1. Verification of Indigenous Identification:**
    - Bela raised the question of how to verify Indigenous identification.
    - Raven noted that it is too much work for Jacob and Danielle to handle this responsibility.
    - Tammy highlighted the risks of fraud with Band cards and suggested using federally recognized cards instead.
    - Nikki mentioned the lack of a standard template for the process of verification of Indigenous Identification and suggested looking into existing policies at institutions like Wilfrid Laurier and Waterloo University.
  - 2. Policy and Oversight:**

- Need for a transparent process and a formal policy for verifying Indigenous identification.
- Suggestion to reserve seats specifically for Six Nations Indigenous students due to their location on the Haldimand Tract.
- Christina recommended further discussion with more stakeholders before finalizing any policy.

**3. Current Practices and Liability:**

- Christina confirmed that the college is currently collecting data but not verifying it, which could be a liability.
- Emphasis on the necessity of verifying Indigenous seats without burdening student services.

**4. Community Engagement:**

- Roxanne shared feedback from the community about the need for more Indigenous seats and content in programs.
- Discussion on making Conestoga College more appealing to Indigenous students.

**5. Collaboration and Best Practices:**

- Bela shared her experience from Fanshawe College, which works closely with Indigenous communities.
- Suggestion to reserve seats for Indigenous students in high-demand programs.
- Bela is working on this initiative and has a meeting with the registrar scheduled for December 19th at 12:00 PM.
- Christina confirmed IEC representation at the meeting with the registrar.
- Raven provided Bela with the contact information for Darren Thomas, Director of Indigenous Initiatives at Laurier University.

**Action Items:**

- **Christina:** Ensure IEC representation at the meeting with the registrar to discuss the reservation of seats for Indigenous students.
- **Raven:** Provided contact information for Darren Thomas to Bela.

**Next Steps:**

- Follow up on the development of a formal policy for verifying Indigenous identification.
- Explore existing policies at other institutions for best practices.
- Continue discussions on making Conestoga College more appealing to Indigenous students.

6	<b>Terms of Reference Review</b>	<b>Trish Weigel Green</b>	<b>email</b>
<p><b>Apologies:</b> Danielle is on leave and Trish (held up in another meeting)</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief discussion on the approval of a Terms of Reference (ToR) to officially invite others to join the council.</li> <li>• Noted that there are multiple versions of the ToR and no formal approval has been made yet.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions Made:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chairs and the secretary will meet to merge the current ToR versions and draft a copy to send to IEC members.</li> <li>2. A Zoom meeting will be scheduled to discuss the draft and make necessary adjustments. If the ToR is ready for approval, it will be voted on during this meeting, and new members can be suggested at the following meeting as per the ToR.</li> <li>3. If consensus is not reached during the IEC Zoom meeting, the ToR will be approved at the March IEC meeting, and membership will be addressed following consensus.</li> </ol>			
7	<b>Indigenous Success Strategy Update</b>	<b>Danielle Boissoneau</b>	
<p>Email from Trish as both Trish and Danielle were not in attendance:</p> <p>Good Morning, Update on the Strategy.</p> <p>We contracted an organization (Archipel) to create a report. The report is based on focus groups and surveys. The report outlines many recommendations.</p> <p>Our task now is to take the report and recommendations and create a Strategy for Conestoga Indigenous Success Strategy.</p> <p>I have been able to get confirmation that Indigenous Success will be outlined in the College strategy plan that should launch around the spring. We will align the Indigenous Strategy development and launch to complement the College strategy.</p> <p>We will be engaging stakeholder groups across the College to help build out the Indigenous Success Strategy. It must be Indigenous lead but it is not the job of our indigenous team to operationalize/be responsible. Areas across the College – Applied Research as an example, will be part of a stakeholder group where they can look and see where they have responsibility for initiatives and moving them forward.</p> <p>We presented to senior leaders, including the President, and this approach has been endorsed.</p>			

We will be reaching out to IEC to share the report and the steps towards strategy development to engage you in the creation of the strategy – where appropriate and of interest. I will follow in the new year with a summary and next steps.

Trish Weigel Green  
Vice President Students

<b>8</b>	<b>Guelph Mural Project</b>	<b>Danielle Boissoneau</b>	
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Tabled – Danielle Absent

<b>9</b>	<b>Recruitment and Membership</b>	<b>Luane/Christina</b>	
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**Discussion Points:**

**1. Approval of Terms of Reference:**

- It was discussed that the Terms of Reference need to be approved before more people can be recruited.
- Membership is on hold until the Terms of Reference are finalized and approved.

**2. Recruitment Process:**

- Discussion on switching from position-based roles to competency-based roles.
- Tammy suggested creating a competency matrix.

**3. Role Definitions:**

- Zandra asked for clarification on the IEC goals and ministry requirements.
- Christina mentioned that the ministry sets the purpose and mandate of the IEC, but the IEC determines its membership.
- Christina will bring the Post Secondary Document with the Ministry Direction to the next meeting.

**4. Ministry Accountability and Reporting:**

- It was mentioned that there is ministry accountability, and Luane has to sign off on a report on behalf of the IEC.
- Tammy requested that the report Luane signs off on should be a standing agenda item at the IEC meetings.

**Action Items:**

- **Christina:** Bring the Post Secondary Document with the Ministry Direction to the next meeting.
- **Luane:** Ensure the report signed off on behalf of the IEC is included as a standing agenda item in future meetings.

<b>10</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	<b>All</b>	
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**New Business:**

Nelson requested new business be addressed based on his email regarding support for MPP Mamakwa's Private Member's Bill, Bill 221. This bill aimed to make September 30 a provincial statutory holiday for Truth and Reconciliation. Although the bill was defeated during the second reading by the PC party, Nelson sought the IEC's thoughts and support for this concept. A similar request was made to CSI's Indigenous Circle.

**Discussion Points:**

- If both the IEC and the Indigenous Circle support the initiative, the next step would be to draft and send a letter in January to all MPPs, expressing the desire for this initiative to be included in the PC's 2025 budget.

**Decisions and Actions:**

- IEC approved Nelson's request to support the bill.
- Suggestions included:
  - IEC to send a letter.
  - Engage First Nation partners.
  - Raise the issue at IPEC.

<b>11</b>	<b>Next meeting – March 21, 2025</b>		
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**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:10pm