

**Indigenous Education Advisory Committee**

**December 9, 2021**

**Virtual Teams Meeting**

Brock University	Samuel Charal Cindy Biancaniello
DSBN	Groat, Georgia ReimerFriesen, Marian Lockhart, Tamara Steinbach-Parker, Kya (Student Trustee)
Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre	Gary Parker
Niagara Catholic	Magazzeni, Marco Pigeau, Nicole Bowering, Marie Kon, Brian
Niagara Chapter of Native Women	Wendy Sturgeon
Niagara College	Ashley Buck (Co Chair) Emily Schutt
Niagara Region Métis Council	Derrick Pont Connie Johnson
Niagara Regional Native Centre	Karl Dockstader (Co Chair) Willow Shawanoo
NPAAMB	Jason Shawana

1. **Welcome & Opening** Karl Dockstader
2. **Approval of Agenda** approved by consensus

- Gary commented on the importance of Opening words and why they are given. There is a small group of people who continuously are asked to do Openings but this needs to be shared among a larger group.
- Introduction of new members
  - Samuel Charal – Brock University
  - Connie Johnson – Niagara Region Métis Council
    - Connie will replace Derrick Pont on the BAP subcommittee
- Georgie provided an update about Helen McGregor. Helen recently moved to Vancouver as Director of Education. She wished to extend appreciation for many years working with IEAC and how much she learned, supported and challenged by committee and is grateful. Anne Gilmore is the new superintendent but may not be on IEAC

### 3. **Minutes of October 19, 2021** approved

### 4. **Business arising from Minutes**

- NPAAMB and NCNW yet to confirm membership
  - NCNW:
    - Louise Hickey
    - Wendy Sturgeon
  - NPAAMB
    - Jason Shawana
    - Jackie Poulin or Rhonda

### 5. **Quorum established**

### 6. **Discussion**

Wendy questioned the status of the student census performed by Ministry of Education at each of the Boards and stressed the importance of IEAC being part of the process from the beginning.

DSBN: Marian responded that DSBN has completed the census. However, results have not yet reviewed but will bring to IEAC.

Niagara Catholic: Brian responded they are in the midst of creating the census tool and has formed a subcommittee of IEAC members to assist with the wording and questions.

### 7. **Student Voice updates** – Kya Parker, Indigenous student trustee for DSBN presentation

- Focus on student success and mental health of Indigenous students
- Attended the OSTA fall general meeting provided:
  - professional development opportunities, and
  - connect with other indigenous trustees

- Creating Indigenous leadership steering circles of secondary students -- bringing their perspectives and ideas to the board. First meeting (December 8) was intended to make students feel comfortable with jam board to identify things they want for next year. For example, before graduating students asked for more indigenous events and to meet those with others who have shared experiences. Other topics discussed: advertising, land acknowledgement, community supports, more representation in schools (for example display art and posters). More promotion of NCV courses because there was low enrollment and courses were not offered.

## 8. Subcommittees

A) **Finance:** Marco – no meetings to date

B) **Membership:**

a. Discussion of replacement for Sandra

C) **Terms of Reference:**

a. keep membership as is for the rest of the year

b. aim to hold a meeting before next IEAC meeting

## 9. BAP Update & Discussion

- Still nothing from the Ministry re: new format.
- Karl reminded everyone of the three points within IEAC's letter of refusal to both Boards. He provided reminders in the Chat (see below):

*1. We require more details about how the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) and the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) establish their BAP priorities, how they get input from stakeholders outside of the IEAC, and how they can provide meaningful updates to Indigenous leadership and community members.*

*2. Our IEAC table to know how many Indigenous students are in each of the Boards annually and how much of the designated funds will support their education from all revenue sources.*

*3. It is unclear what plans the Boards have to recruit, retain, and mentor Indigenous leadership.*

- General discussion followed including:
  - Gary: both boards need to take a look at their evaluation process. What tools are in place to measure success at both boards? What supports are in place can be determined with an evaluation.
  - Karl: need to determine the path to be followed for the BAPs to be signed.
  - Wendy: concerned about lack of promotion of Indigenous courses and without Kya nothing would have happened -- it shouldn't come down to student trustee to make it happen.

- iv. Marie: student voice is imperative as well as a proper process for schools and students to navigate to community resources.
- v. Marco: IEAC members need to create list that identifies who to call, and the boundaries between agencies.
- vi. Karl asked for this to be an actionable item – bring boards and organizations together to know what is available. – formal session is crucial – after February meeting.
  - o Marco offered to host a working session – plan a date in new year of half or full day.

## **10. Community updates**

### **Brock University**

- o Sandra is no longer with Brock, Sam will attend IEAC in her place. Matthew has moved on to be a curriculum writer under Robyn Bourgeois.

### **FENFC**

- o Stay tuned to FENFC Facebook page for most current information. Programs are ongoing and more will be happening in the new year.

### **Niagara Region Métis Council**

- o MNO hosting a number of virtual events such as camps for youth in grades 10 – 12 and an Early Years family social event.
- o Spark Career on December 7. Early learning committee putting together proposal for funding for next year.

### **Niagara College**

- o Preparing presentation for both Boards to share new process for graduating students to self ID to take part in selected programs that provide enhanced enrollment opportunities for self-IDed students.

### **Niagara Chapter of Native Women**

- o In process of hiring new staff:
  - o family support worker (family violence) –
  - o crisis worker who will help with antihuman trafficking.
  - o resource development assistant.
- o Getting ready for blockers and attackers event.
- o Christmas event is now a drop off. Don't close over Christmas with skeleton crew to be available.

### **NPAAMB**

- Opportunity Knocks was attended by 106 youth as a virtual event. Hoping to go back to in person next year, November 2022.
- Services are provided on a hybrid model for staff working remote and in office, expect to be back to normal in January.
- New Youth Success Mentor – working with students with disabilities.
- Starting to provide services as early as grades 6 to 8.
- MPower, starts in January -- currently virtual.

#### **NRNC**

- Offering a “walk through children’s’ Christmas party”,
- Last drum night of the year on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Go to NRNC’s Instagram account and Facebook page for most current information.
- Indigenous peoples court had 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

#### **10 Karl closed the meeting**

**Meeting adjourned**

**Next meeting February 10, 2022**