

LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES of 2023-08-02

Walpole Island Kinomaagaazdaa Education Hub OR via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT in person:

Phyllis George, Chair, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation
Bernita Brigham-Jacobs, Vice-Chair, Walpole Island Post Secondary Program
Kurtis Gray, Associate VP, Student Success, Lambton College
Jane Manning, Director, Indigenous Education, Lambton College
Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Jarvis Nahdee, Director of Lifelong Learning, Walpole Island First Nation Education
Andrea Auger, Indigenous Professor, Lambton College
Summer Catt, Indigenous Student Navigator, Lambton College
Holly Altman, Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Student Centre, Lambton College

PRESENT via Teams:

Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Ky Nahmabin, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Lambton College

EXCUSED:

Mary Vaughan, Senior VP, Academic & Student Success, Lambton College
Jody Noah, Post Secondary Manager, Southern First Nations Secretariat
Melissa Ellis, Co-President, Indigenous Student Council
Leela Thomas, Program Manager, Walpole Island Employment & Training

Copies to:

Chris Plain, Chief, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Daniel Miskokomon, Chief, Walpole Island First Nation
Kimberly Bressette, Chief, Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
Justin Logan, Chief, Delaware Nation
Joe Miskokomon, Chief, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Roger Thomas, Chief, Munsee-Delaware First Nation
Todd Cornelius, Chief, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Mary Duckworth, Chief, Caldwell First Nation
Rob Kardas, President, Lambton College

Phyllis opened the meeting at 10:22 am.

1. Welcome & Minute of Silence

Phyllis welcomed everyone to the meeting. We then observed one minute of silence.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Kurtis Gray provided the land acknowledgement.

3. Minutes of April 13, 2023

ACTION ITEMS:

Holly emailed the Mental Health report to members a few days after our last meeting.
Jane had our EBAT student do some research of other college's IEC Terms of Reference about having observers at their meetings. Handout provided.
Jane provided a handout of IPEC Terms of Reference; can send electronically.
Jane and Andrea revised the faculty survey. Will report at Item #7.

Updates – Program Maps will be accessible with the launch of the new Lambton College website in early September. In the meantime, program maps can be sent to Bernita.

It was noted, for Action Items in the future to add Approval.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes of April 13, 2023, as presented.

Moved by: D. Dolson

Seconded by: V. Ware

CARRIED

4. Observers at IEC Meetings

- Handout provided.
- Jane did ask at the IPEC table and informally, for those present, no one has observer status at any of their meetings.
- Now looking for direction

Discussion: Observers would have to be excluded from confidentiality items and motions being made. Representatives to the IEC have always been appointed by each First Nation. It was noted that at AGM meetings, observers are appointed by Chief and Council.

MOTION: To not update the Terms of Reference to include observers.

Moved by: B. Brigham-Jacobs

Seconded by: V. Ware

CARRIED

5. Lambton College Updates

- Aaron Klooster is the new Dean of the School of Fire and Public Safety.
- Lisa Janisse is the new Dean of the School of Nursing.
- New programs for September 2023 include Medical Esthetics & Advanced Skin Care Therapies, and Agricultural Automation Technician – Greenhouse Systems Controls
- New Lambton College campus in Ottawa starting September 2024 with availability of 250 students to enroll in 5 programs – have posted for a Director and will be hiring faculty.
- Have met with officials regarding the Indigenous Outdoor Gathering Space.
- Minister of Education is coming to the college on Tuesday next week. As part of her tour, she will be meeting with the employees of the Indigenous Student Centre.
- Funding Futures Capital Campaign has donated 10 million to a recreational outdoor space. Another one million is going to the Indigenous Outdoor Space and one million to employees who choose to further their education.
- Grand Opening of the Campus Shop is in September. Everyone is invited.
- As of July 23, domestic applications for fall admissions is up 9% to just over 6,000 – so far 1,570 students have confirmed.

Phyllis requested a picture of Minister Jill Dunlop's visit to the Indigenous Student Centre.

6. Indigenous Outdoor Space

- Ground Preparation Ceremony was held on June 21
- Had about 200 staff, students and community members attend the event.
- Going to have a time lapse camera mounted to observe progress.
- Received Section 28 approval which is Ministry policy.
- Preparing to break ground any day now.
- Hoping to have the Indigenous Outdoor Gathering Space complete by May/June of 2024.

7. Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce

- Handout provided.
- Faculty survey had been revised.
- Held an Information Session on the Taskforce work and for faculty to fill out the survey.
- Deans have been engaged in getting faculty to participate.
- 114 faculty have responded to the survey so far.
- There is need for professional development and communications, so faculty are not including Indigenous content in their courses without proper understanding; may be offensive.
- The T&R Taskforce are looking at ways faculty can be supported in moving forward with Indigenous inclusion in their courses.
- Question: How is this being monitored? Faculty are currently approaching Jane and Andrea for feedback.
- Claims of Indigenous identity is becoming a problem – faculty teaching Indigenous material who are not Indigenous.
- The history of Indigenous peoples was not taught in schools, need to approach the idea of consultation appropriately.
- Discussed commercialization of Indigeneity and concerns around anyone contacting the communities, smudging, etc.
- Currently looking at policies such as declaration, truth, engagement, and events
- Discussed Indigenous people of South America and other parts of the world and appropriation of their regions.
- Discussed separation of identity - Bill C31, blood quantum; enfranchised individuals; 60's Scoop.
- Discussed reserved spots for Indigenous people in oversubscribed programs.

8. Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) Update

- OCAS Data Pilot Project:
- Purpose: empowering Indigenous Student Services offices with the Indigenous applicants & incoming students information for proactive student supports
- Report to flow directly to Indigenous Student Services area
- Process included conversations around Indigenous Identity and need to change Indigenous Ancestry to Declared Indigenous Citizenship, 15 choices down to 4 choices.
- Report will be refreshed daily
- CEC (College Employer Council) & OPSEU (Faculty, counsellors, librarians):
- Went to Arbitration in Sept. 2022 to resolve outstanding, disputed issues regarding the collective bargaining agreement.
- With the classification plan for faculty & under the appointment factors, there is A) Experience (relevant teaching & occupational), B) Relevant Formal Qualifications & C) Indigenous Knowledge
- IPEC is discussing this matter as a collective and have also met with one of the bargaining parties (CEC); IPEC members expressed many concerns.
- Discussed non-Indigenous groups defining Indigenous Knowledge; they do not know what Indigenous Knowledge is, yet non-Indigenous employees deciding Indigenous knowledge levels of current faculty, controlling Indigenous people within their colonial structures, First Nation leading First Nation education, needs to be anchored in treaty rights, out of their jurisdiction, sovereign rights, issues around self-identifying faculty when not federally or provincially recognized, pitting Indigenous against Indigenous

- IPEC requested to meet with the OPSEU party, but yesterday they declined a meeting with IPEC.
- If OPSEU wants to support Indigenous employees and peoples at the bargaining table, then address the underrepresentation and allow for equal access to full time appointments by allowing federally & provincially recognized Indigenous people to compete alongside full-time faculty as well as strategic cluster hires of Indigenous peoples.
- Suggestion that every college's IEC write a letter of support for IPEC.
- National Indigenous Symposium is August 16, 17, 18, 2023.
- Discussing IEC gathering at Higher Education Summit in Toronto in November
- Colleges Ontario asked IPEC about EDI initiative & Data inventory and best practices.
- Discussion included: the need for distinction between EDI & Indigenous Work and the need for colleges to invest in Indigenous work and address barriers that have been longstanding.
- New Director at the Indigenous Education branch, Hillary Blain, announced Indigenous funding moving to multi-year funding (3 years), the Ministry asked for input on how to improve Ontario Indigenous Travel Grant to be utilized to fullest.
- Blue Ribbon Panel formed with focus on post-secondary. It includes rep from Indigenous consortium, but it does not include an IPEC representative.

ACTION ITEM: Jane to draft a letter of support from the IEC to address the concerns of bargaining agreement as it relates to the Indigenous Knowledge

Ky Nahmabin joined the meeting at 12:05 virtually.

9. Indigenous Professor Update

- The May/June time period is for faculty to prepare for new/old courses, take professional development, program development if applicable.
- 4 Seasons has 13 participants – hoping to offer it in the fall and possibly the winter term as this might be the last year for it.
- Did further work on the Indigenous course for the standalone BSCN program to be delivered in the fall 2025 term.
- In 2022, the Ontario Ministry updated the Child & Youth Care Program standards, meaning it applies to all Child & Youth Care programs across Ontario – includes more Indigenous content.
- Andrea & Ky have been working with the Child & Youth Care program so that it reflects the CYC Program standards and includes more Indigenous content, in a good way. This work will likely continue into the fall.
- Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce is currently preparing questions for faculty interviews.
- Questions need review and approval from the Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce.
- Attended two conferences: College Education Development Program (CEDP) and the Building Reconciliation Conference.
- Teaching “Indigenous Family Structure and Child Welfare – have 8 students registered so far.
- The Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) is looking for an Indigenous student to sit at the table.
- Andrea and Jane will be meeting to discuss professional development for the fall.

10. Indigenous Student Council Update

Co-President – Madisson Mesko has graduated. Will have to look at options for a new President for the fall term.

12. Indigenous Student Centre Update

- Held Indigenous Student Success Celebration on May 30 – total of 52 graduates this year.
- Worked with the SWAC program to host an interactive Trades Event for Grade 7 & 8 students – had 114 Indigenous students in attendance.
- Convocation was held on June 7. Invited an Indian Taco food truck for post celebrations. Had an Information booth set up.
- Summer recruitment included setting up an information booth at community pow wows.
- Have been assisting students with OCAS applications and funding applications.
- Held Indigenous Scholarship/Bursary Sessions
- Drop-Ins for Indspire application assistance
- Day 11 and Day 22 reporting – contacted students that were coded.
- Provided tour to high schools as well as individual prospective students.
- Helping students with start up for the fall term including, helping with course selection.
- Ky and Sumer are working on a work plan for the academic year which will include various support workshops, monthly lunches, elder visits, student socials, etc.

13. Other Business

- Indigenous Research at Lambton:
- Lambton College is currently collaborating on 2 projects with Aamjiwnaang
- Design and Development of 3D game that includes community-verified historical, cultural, and language content, to dispense amongst the First Nation's youth and other community members. The project is in its third and final year. The Associate Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives, Andrea Hands, is presenting to Aamjiwnaang Council in September to provide an update and discuss a plan for testing the game in the community and the development of a rollout and sustainability plan for the game.
- Enhancement of biodiversity and preservation of traditional knowledge through the identification and propagation of native plants for the restoration of land in Aamjiwnaang. The project starts September 2023 and will run for 3 years.
- Andrea Hands has agreed to attend the next IEC meeting to provide an overview of what their area provides and the opportunities associated with this area.
- Education Hub project:
- The partnering colleges have agreed to continue working together. Initially ideas were to bring general education electives that would transfer between the three college; college preparation courses/programming; program cohorts; and facilitated think tanks to possibly address areas of concern for the community that the colleges may provide support.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 12:43 pm.

Moved by: D. Dolson

Seconded by: B. Brigham-Jacobs

CARRIED