

**LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

**MINUTES of 2023-12-07**

**Flex Meeting (Room C1-211 OR via Microsoft Teams)**

PRESENT in person:

Phyllis George, Chair, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation  
Kurtis Gray, Associate VP, Student Success, Lambton College  
Mary Vaughan, Senior VP, Academic & Student Success, Lambton College  
Jane Manning, Director, Indigenous Education, Lambton College  
Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation  
Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Ky Nahmabin, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Lambton College  
Andrea Auger, Indigenous Professor, Lambton College  
Robyn Gray, President, Indigenous Student Council  
Summer Catt, Indigenous Student Navigator, Lambton College  
Nadine Kroner, Executive Assistant, Student Success & Foundation Board (Recorder)

PRESENT via Teams:

Bernita Brigham-Jacobs, Vice-Chair, Walpole Island Post Secondary Program  
Jody Noah, Post Secondary Manager, Southern First Nations Secretariat  
Leela Thomas, Program Manager, Walpole Island Employment & Training  
Jarvis Nahdee, Director of Lifelong Learning, Walpole Island First Nation Education

REGRETS:

Holly Altman, Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Student Centre, Lambton College

GUESTS:

Andrea Hands, Associate Director, Development and Strategic Initiatives, Applied Research & Innovation, Lambton College  
Karen Hendra, Associate Director, Co-operative Education & Experiential Learning, Lambton College for Enactus  
Matt Abercrombie, Enactus Coordinator, Lambton College  
Sohaib Syed Mohammad, Enactus Student President

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  
Todd Cornelius, Chief, Oneida Nation of the Thames  
Justin Logan, Chief, Delaware Nation  
Joe Miskokomon, Chief, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation  
Roger Thomas, Chief, Munsee-Delaware First Nation  
Mary Duckworth, Chief, Caldwell First Nation  
Rob Kardas, President, Lambton College

Phyllis opened the meeting at 10:07 am.

*1. Changes to the agenda*

- If time permits Mary Vaughan will bring forward the draft pillar of the academic plan under agenda item 14, Other Business
- Agenda item 3, Minutes of August 2, 2023, to be moved below agenda item 4, Indigenous Research, and agenda item 5, Enactus, to allow guests to present and adjourn.

*2. Welcome & Minute of Silence*

Phyllis welcomed the attendees to the meeting, followed by one minute of silence.

### 3. Land Acknowledgment

Mary Vaughan provided the land acknowledgement.

### 4. Indigenous Research (Andrea Hands)

- A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Andrea Hands, Associate Director, Development & Strategic Initiatives
- The Research & Innovation (R&I) department is currently collaborating with Aamjiwnaang First Nation (AFN) on two projects:
  - o The first project has entered its third year and is focused on developing an interactive online game to pass historical and cultural information down to the community youth. The research team is currently finalizing the game and is hoping to start testing it in the community in late spring. A sustainability and deployment plan will also be developed for the community.
  - o The second project is in its first year and is focused on helping AFN to increase the community's biodiversity by extracting native species seeds that are no longer growing from the land and propagating them to grow in AFN's greenhouse. The plants will then be planted in gardens in the community. A business plan for the greenhouse to grow and sell the native plants will be developed.
- A third project is under development with Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS)' Woman's Interval Home and the Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre to look at the experiences of those who have affected by intimate partner violence and the family court system. The goals of the project will include a developed guide and recommendations for system change. R&I has engaged Sisco Consulting firm who specializes in community-based research with Indigenous communities to help support the development and delivery of Indigenous-focused projects and is currently supporting the development of the project with CLAS.
- Andrea is currently taking the Fundamentals of OCAP delivered by the First Nation Information Governance Centre. The course has been very informative, and R&I will be looking to have all researchers who support Indigenous projects enroll.
- R&I is committed to increasing awareness regarding research opportunities among the College's Indigenous students to increase their participation in research in Indigenous-focused and other student research positions.
- Discussion around opportunities for collaborative projects and funding information

**Action:** Andrea to provide an information brief and provide it to Jane for distribution to the IEC members.

For opportunities of collaborative projects, members and communities are encouraged to connect with Andrea directly at [Andrea.Hands@lambtoncollege.ca](mailto:Andrea.Hands@lambtoncollege.ca); 519.473.2366

### 5. Enactus (Karen Hendra, Matt Abercrombie, Sohaib Syed Mohammad)

- Matt Abercrombie, Enactus Coordinator & Liaison and Karen Hendra, Associate Director, Co-operative Education & Experiential Learning.
- A PowerPoint presentation was provided.
- Currently the Enactus team is building relationships, identifying opportunities and goals with First Nation communities.

- Enactus president, Sohaib, presented the ongoing projects Enactus is involved in:
  - o Aamjiwnaang- working in collaboration with their greenhouse business. Supporting business and marketing plans, supporting development and training of greenhouse staff and operators, students supporting business practices and any additional support as needed
  - o Walpole Island- The team has performed entrepreneurship sessions and drop-in sessions for community members. With the revitalization of the Enactus team and restructuring, the team is diligently working to train students to be able to continue these sessions in 2024 and beyond.
  - o Three Fires Group- The team is currently working on an agreement and partnership with the Three Fires Group which would build a mutual collaboration of resources on business principles and training.
- The Enactus team has started building a collaborative relationship with the Indigenous Student Centre to share ideas and build a trusting partnership.
- The Enactus team is dedicated to move forward with the newly implemented organizational structure changes and focus on strengthening relationships with local communities and creating an impact in our area while providing students with leadership and experiential learning opportunities.
- Project work at other Nations include support to build and develop agricultural education to meet the needs of green housing and aquaponics to ensure food security and providing a land-based learning approach for schools and communities, with a focus on community needs & sustainability.
- For opportunities of collaborative projects, members and communities are encouraged to connect with Enactus team directly at [enactus@lambtoncollege.ca](mailto:enactus@lambtoncollege.ca)

**Note:** Vicki arrived to the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Discussion:

- Based on experience of the land-based learning approach with a school through the ‘Three Sisters’ project at AFN, a trail development project for surrounding areas of AFN is underway. A combination of holistic and spiritual learning approach was offered to the students.
- An invitation was provided to connect with the Enactus group regarding project needs to determine if students can support the development of the project.

#### 6. Minutes of August 2, 2023

Discussion:

- Fraudulent claims of Indigenous identity
- Indigenous knowledge needs to be safeguarded.
- It takes away from Indigenous people – awards, employment, recognition.
- Underrepresentation of Indigenous people within colleges
- How will potential actions and consequences for fraudulency be dealt with.
- Currently, job postings use precise language and requirements to get the appropriate reach.
- Importance of the ISC to support the students.

**Action:** Jane to draft a letter of support from IEC regarding concerns of bargaining agreement as it relates to Indigenous Knowledge

**MOTION:** To approve the meeting minutes of August 2, 2023, with the revision numbering of item 12 to item 11.

Moved by: V. Ware  
Seconded by: D. Dolson

CARRIED

### 7. Caucus Meetings

- Discussion was held around the benefits of holding a short meeting prior to the IEC meeting with Indigenous representation only.
- This would offer opportunity for Indigenous representatives to deliberate, strategize and to speak more candidly.
- Indigenous employees of the college would be able to participate in the caucus meetings.

**Action:** Set up three hours meeting time for the next IEC. The first hour will be for a caucus meeting. If the caucus meeting is less than one hour, reduce the overall meeting time going forward.

### 8. Lambton College Update (Mary & Kurtis)

- Hosted a Fall Open House on November 18.
- Record number of approximately 5100 students at Lambton College in the Fall semester.
- Anticipating around 3800 students for the winter semester; system wide applications are up 13%
- Embarking on a 5-year strategic plan for Lambton College 2025-2030; Working with Strategy Corp, a firm with extensive knowledge of the college sector; There will be broad stakeholder engagement throughout the process.
- New Residence project started with possible contractors.
- Hosting three convocations: one on June 4 and two on June 5 with 600-800 students per ceremony
- Blue Ribbon Report updates:
  - o An immediate end to the tuition freeze with approval of a modest 5% increase in public college tuition for September 2024
  - o Increase provincial investment in public college students through a 10% increase in operating grants for September 2024
  - o The creation of a distinct tuition policy for public colleges that addresses the long-standing inequities between college and university education.
- Lambton College is working on developing an Academic Plan for 2025-2030.
- Consultation sessions were held with faculty, staff and students (600 students participated)
- Connected with industry on think tank steering committee; Ky and Robin are ISC representatives.
- International fashion show took place on Dec. 4
- Currently working on securing a speaker for International Women's Day on March 8
- The School of Business is being renewed to focus on ethical decision-making practices and be socially and economically responsible with a focus on impact learning.
- Lambton College and Sarnia Police collaborated to create experiential learning opportunities through a student lead crime unit, supporting victims of small crimes – four arrests have taken place since launching in Oct. 2023

#### Discussion:

- Suggestion to look for opportunities and provide bursaries for Indigenous students to live in residence

### 9. Indigenous Outdoor Space (Kurtis & Jane)

- Construction is moving well with an anticipated soft opening in Spring 2024 and grand opening in Fall 2024
- A meeting is scheduled with the IOS Steering Committee to discuss soft/grand opening.
- A time lapse camera has been installed.

**Action:** At next meeting, if possible, add a campus tour including the Indigenous outdoor space

*10. Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce (Kurtis & Jane)*

- The taskforce is continuously working through action items assigned in the environmental scan of the college and reporting back to the taskforce with findings and pre-liminary findings.
- A submission to the Research Review Board for faculty interviews; Andrea Auger to speak more on this topic.

*11. Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) Update (Kurtis & Jane)*

- Kurtis attended the IEC & IPEC Forum in Toronto on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>
- Discussions around how to advocate for funding increases to meet Indigenous education needs; no increases for past 12 years.
- Discussion on Indigenous identity; OPSEU collective agreement for points on Indigenous Knowledge, but no system in place to verify identity; Conversation on need for a provincial policy.
- Discussion on Statutory Holiday for Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>; seemed to be consensus on no statutory holiday because of need for educational purposes on this day.
- Indigenous Student Data Report: all Indigenous depts at colleges receiving their respective reports of confirmed students; IPEC asked for applicants also.
- Indigenous portal at Libraries Ontario 'Maamwi Hub': asking everyone to review and provide further feedback; the portal has a feedback section; it was identified that protection of Indigenous Knowledge needs to be priority.
- Indigenous Thought Leaders Circle: Advisory capacity for the College Quality Assurance Audit Process; documenting stories to show Indigenous stories that reflect services and experiences.

**Note:** All attendees took a lunch break. The meeting resumed at 12:20 p.m.

*12. Indigenous Professor Update (Andrea)*

- Fall 2023, Indigenous Family Structure and Child Welfare course with 21 students enrolled.
  - Eight students total enrolled in the Indigenous Studies pathway program; seven identify as Indigenous; three scheduled to graduate in 2024.
  - Winter 2024, Impacts of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission course and First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Perspectives course.
  - Four Seasons Professional Development; 22 participates in the fall 2023 & 34 participants for year.
  - Faculty surveys will be delivered again in the spring then delivered yearly moving forward to track faculty progress.
  - Prepared an application for the Research Ethics Board; submitted December 6 and expected to hear back in the New Year
  - Attended APSIP and the Open House to promote the Indigenous Studies Pathway program and Indigenous electives.
  - Indigenous Student Centre logo to identify Indigenous authored books in the library.
  - Ongoing work with the Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Discussion:
- Suggestion to create a small content video with feedback of Andrea's courses and link it to the website to promote.
  - Positive feedback on the pathways program and the work of supporting students to find their educational path.

*13. Indigenous Student Council Update (Robyn)*

- Orange Shirt Day: Indigenous student panel & film screening with past students & local filmmaker
- Annual Round Dance on Dec. 2nd
- Roc your Mocs day
- Cultural bling day to show their native pride
- Student Retreat in September
- Halloween Fright Night at the park
- Student socials

*14. Indigenous Student Centre Update (Ky & Summer)*

- Weekend retreat with 20 students registered took place at the Lambton Centre Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>; Workshops included: traditional wellbeing, working in healthcare, how stress effects the body, traditional medicines, public speaking as well as activities to build social connections; expectations and safety protocols were established.
- A welcome social with approximately 65 students in attendance; served Indian Tacos
- Orange Shirt Day - full day event: sunrise ceremony, Student panel (Truths & Reflections), Indigenous-owned business showcase (Shop & Support), Film screening & Discussion
- Film Maker Meet & Greet: Derek Sands met with Indigenous students & viewed his short film.
- Round Dance - Plus, Queens and York universities displayed their joint project (Interactive Dome/Augmented Reality)
- Student lunches take place monthly.
- Regular Elder visits; traditional counselling, sunrise ceremony, beading, ribbon shirt/shirt making
- Hosted Indspire/other bursary workshops
- Continue to reach out to students to offer support for Day 11 & 22
- Participated in local APSIP tour & hosted APSIP at Lambton

Discussion:

- More communication to highlight the importance of applying for bursaries and scholarships as students may experience financial issues with inflation – particularly the cost of food and housing.
- Suggestion to bring in Leela's sister as a speaker about film and media

*15. Other Business*

Kurtis shared the Lambton College Academic Plan

**Action:** Kurtis to share the draft with the members electronically and provide context for feedback.

*16. Adjournment*

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Moved by: D. Dolson

Seconded by: B. Brigham-Jacobs

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