



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Special Budget Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 – 1:00 pm
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Council Members:	Elder Wilfred Barnes Westbank First Nation Elder	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation
	Jordan Coble Westbank First Nation	Brad Dahl Kelowna Métis Association	Chantelle Desrosiers Board of Education
	Cheryl Dodman Kelowna Métis Association	Candace Jack Indigenous Parent & Family Education Council	Peggy Joe Okanagan Indian Band
	Allan Louis Okanagan Indian Band	Bill McKenna Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Deanna Necan Indigenous Parent & Family Education Council
	Aaron St Pierre Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Lee-Ann Tiede Board of Education	Nicole Werstuik Westbank First Nation
School District Staff:	Jesse Bruce Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity	Yvonne Hildebrandt Secretariat	
	Kevin Kaiser District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education	Christie Russell District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education	
Absent:	Lisa Guderyan Board of Education	Kevin Kaardal Central Okanagan Public Schools	Raquel Steen Assistant Superintendent

1. Opening Prayer

Elder Barnes led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble thanked everyone for coming to the IEC meeting. The Chair shared that OKIB recently elected a new Chief and Council who appointed OKIB Councillors Peggy Joe and Allan Louis to the IEC table. The OKIB representatives were welcomed to the IEC. The Chair reminded the IEC of the importance of acknowledging that we are on the territory of the syilx nation and that it takes a community of people to protect the waters, the salmon, and the children so they grow strong and healthy. Council members introduced themselves.

FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

3. Adoption of the May 7, 2025 Agenda

MOVED by Allan Louis, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik
THAT: The agenda for May 7, 2025 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

4. 2025/2026 Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget Update and Indigenous Education Program Staffing

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, provided a short review of the 2025/2026 Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget that was presented, discussed and approved by the Council at the February 4, 2025 IEC Budget meeting. The preliminary budget presented to the IEC in February included the anticipated surplus of \$49,893, down from \$561,000 the previous year. At the February 4th IEC meeting, the Council approved the following remedies to balance the resulting budget pressure:

- Remove Indigenous Cultural Presenters (2 FTE to 0 FTE)
- Reduce Indigenous Student Advocate allotment (54 FTE to 51.4)
(currently 49 FTE Advocates are staffed in schools)
- Reduce Middle School Indigenous Success Teachers (1.5 FTE to 1.2 FTE)
(resulting in 0.5 FTE reduced to 0.4 FTE at three schools)
- Reduce Early Learning Teacher Consultants (2 FTE to 1 FTE)
- Reduce Clerical Support (1.57 FTE to 1.4 FTE)
(55 hours/week reduced to 52.5 hours/week between two staff members)
- Minor reductions in various General Program expenses

Since the February 4th IEC Budget meeting, the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced that the per pupil funding will be increased by \$20 per Indigenous student for the 2025/2026 school year. In addition, the Indigenous Education Department has also found savings within the budget. The net result is an anticipated increase in the Targeted Funding surplus to \$156,157.

The Chair led the IEC members in a round-table discussion about how to best utilize the expected 2025-2026 Indigenous Education Targeted Funding surplus of \$156,157.

1:44 pm – KMA Representative Cheryl Dodman joined the meeting.

The IEC spoke about the need to clarify what Targeted Funding can be spent on; the possibility of investing in a Junior Advocate Program; the role of the Indigenous Cultural Presenter; the process of booking cultural presentations by the schools, and the cost sharing of cultural presentations between the schools and the District; the need for lunch-time and after-school programs at specific schools, and the implications of the CUPE Collective Agreement on staff wages when considering an after-school program; the need for more direct services for the Indigenous students in schools; the role of the Indigenous Student Advocate; the importance of providing enough wellness support for the Advocates; and, the need for an additional Lead Advocate to mentor and support the Advocates.

1:55 pm – WFN Representative Denise Clough left the meeting.

The IEC made the following MOTION:

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik

THAT: The Indigenous Education Council support the reinstatement of one Indigenous Cultural Presenter position, explore the opportunity for an additional Lead Indigenous Student Advocate position, and use the balance of the surplus to start exploring an Afterschool program and a Junior Advocate program. CARRIED

OPPOSED: Ann Bell, Bill McKenna

ABSTAINED: Peggy Joe, Aaron St Pierre

2:29 pm – OKIB Representative Peggy Joe left the meeting.

At the next IEC meeting, an updated 2025-2026 Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget will be shared, showing the additional budget items that were approved by the Council at today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

NEXT IEC MEETING: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 – 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm