



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 – 1:30 pm
School Board Office – Board Room 1
 (1040 Hollywood Road South, Kelowna, BC)

MINUTES

Council Members:	Elder Wilfred Barnes <i>(Via Zoom)</i> Westbank First Nation Elder Jordan Coble <i>(Via Zoom)</i> Westbank First Nation Julia Fraser Board of Education Nicole Werstuik Westbank First Nation	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association Brad Dahl <i>(Via Zoom)</i> Kelowna Métis Association Allan Louis Okanagan Indian Band (Alternate)	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation Chantelle Desrosiers Board of Education Bill McKenna <i>(Via Zoom)</i> Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (Alternate)
School District Staff:	Terry Beaudry Deputy Superintendent of Schools Jesse Bruce Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity	Kevin Kaardal Superintendent of Schools Christie Russell District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education	Yvonne Hildebrandt Secretariat
Absent:	Rachel Marchand Okanagan Indian Band	Ashley Power Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Guests:	Dr. Bill Cohen <i>(Via Zoom)</i> Okanagan School of Education Bruce McKay Acting District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education	Dr. Natalie Cohen Okanagan College Jordan Kleckner Director of Instruction – Learning and Innovation	Kelly Terbasket kinSHIFT

1. Opening Prayer

Okanagan Indian Band Alternate, Allan Louis, led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting. Bruce McKay, Acting District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, was introduced by Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, and welcomed as a guest. Bruce McKay will support the Indigenous Education Department until the vacant position for the District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education is filled.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3. Adoption of the September 24, 2024 Agenda

MOVED by Ann Bell, SECONDED by Allan Louis

THAT: The agenda for September 24, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

- 4.1 MOVED by Allan Louis, SECONDED by Ann Bell
THAT: The Minutes for June 4, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED
- 4.2 MOVED by Nicole Werstuik, SECONDED by Ann Bell
THAT: The Minutes for August 29, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

1:40 pm – Elder Barnes joined the meeting.

1:45 pm – Bruce McKay left the meeting.

5. Presentation

5.1 Research Project: KINdling q'wɪłmi?st: Putting kinSHIFT Schools into Practice

Kelly Terbasket, IndigenEYEZ and kinSHIFT; Dr. Natalie Cohen, Okanagan College; Dr. Bill Cohen, Okanagan School of Education; and, Jordan Kleckner, Director of Instruction – Learning and Innovation, spoke about the multiyear (2023-2026) collaborative research project that began with the delivery of kinSHIFT Schools, a professional learning four-part workshop series, to five school teams and over forty educators during the 2023-2024 school year. The workshops focused on experiential, relational work to support school teams and educators to become more effective communities of practice in decolonizing and transforming school culture by shifting their stories, actions, visions, and relationships. During the 2024-2025 school year, the research project called "KINdling q'wɪłmi?st: Putting kinSHIFT Schools into Practice" will build upon last year's kinSHIFT Schools sessions and will deepen the participant's learning through proposed research activities that will support them to put their learning into practice.

The Superintendent of Schools and the Deputy Superintendent of Schools shared that the District fully supports the "KINdling q'wɪłmi?st: Putting kinSHIFT Schools into Practice" research project transition to year two and is committing budgetary contributions to the project. IEC members around the table each shared their support of the research project.

Chair Coble queried the IEC if they support the continuation of this learning in the schools and if they approve the use of \$1500 from targeted funding to support the work. The IEC unanimously agreed to support year two of "KINdling q'wɪłmi?st: Putting kinSHIFT Schools into Practice" in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

2:20 pm – Dr. Bill Cohen, Dr. Natalie Cohen, Kelly Terbasket, and Jordan Kleckner left the meeting.

6. STANDING ITEMS

6.1 District Updates

The Superintendent of Schools announced that Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, has accepted a temporary secondment to the Ministry of Education and Child Care from October 1st to November 30th to support the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) annual report review work. Terry Beaudry shared that it will be a wonderful privilege to join the Ministry team to review all the District FESL annual reports from around the province and that she has confidence in the leadership of the Indigenous Education administration team during her absence.

The Superintendent of Schools shared that the District is actively recruiting for another District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education and will be looking to the IEC members for participation in the process as in the past.

The Superintendent of Schools commended the IEC for the amendments made to the IEC Terms of Reference last spring 2024, and that the Ministry used the IEC TOR as an example while creating the template Terms of Reference for all IECs in the province. This District is a model for the rest of the province and this IEC is part of the model.

Terry Beaudry shared that the Powell River School District is in the process of developing an Indigenous Education Council and are hoping to meet with IEC leadership via Zoom for helpful insight. This request will be shared with Chair Jordan Coble and Vice-Chair Nicole Werstuik.

Jordan Coble congratulated Terry Beaudry on her secondment with the Ministry and shared that the legacy and consistency of the work of everyone around the IEC table needs to be acknowledged. This is a team victory and shows that the work is being done for the right reasons.

The Superintendent of Schools shared that Central Okanagan Public Schools is a growing District of over 25,000 students; however, enrolment is not growing as fast as was projected last spring. The District's budget is a projected, or estimated, budget which is funded by actual student enrolment numbers at the end of September. Since enrolment did not grow as much as expected, there is a significant cost pressure that the District is currently addressing. The Superintendent of Schools shared a few examples of how the District may find savings in the District budget. The District is still growing in student numbers, newcomers are still arriving, school startup was relatively smooth, and students are excited to be back in school.

6.2 Community Updates

Indigenous Education Council members spoke of the following:

- The WFN youth outdoor kitchen has been made available to be used by the Land Based Love (LBL) program from October to January, and the use may be extended for the full school year. WFN would like to pilot a similar project and hope to drop into the kitchen and see the work being done by the LBL program.
- WFN youth and students at MBSS are now able to earn external credentials through cultural activities and programs offered by Westbank First Nation. The process of authorizing the external credentials with the Ministry was lengthy, although necessary, and benefits students struggling to acquire enough credits for graduation.
- The construction of the new Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) Cultural Immersion Elementary School is scheduled to be completed in 2025. The school capacity is outgrown before the school is finished and OKIB is now in the process of adding an addition to the building.
- The Lake Country Native Association (LCNA) Traditional Pow Wow will take place on November 23rd and posters are coming out soon. The location of the gathering is still to be determined. Forty-three people attended the September 15th LCNA cultural gathering which included a presentation about the return of the salmon.
- The Kelowna Métis Association (KMA) is contributing \$10,000 to the District this week to support the purchase of educational materials for students in Grades 4 through Grade 8 in Central Okanagan Public Schools. The KMA Annual General Meeting is on October 26th and KMA is still in the process of filling the empty seat on the IEC.

2:40 pm – Brad Dahl left the meeting.

- Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society will gather on September 27th from 12 pm to 4 pm to commemorate the September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Sncewips Heritage Museum is hosting a special "Work of the Heart" art exhibit on the September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Westbank First Nation and the West Kelowna RCMP Indigenous Police Service are hosting the annual Truth and Reconciliation canoe journey across Okanagan Lake on September 27th. The canoes will paddle from Kelowna's City Park across the water to Westbank First Nation Beach.
- Trustee Fraser attended an Indigenous focused conference in Toronto this past summer. Many of the workshops centered around the topic of advancing Indigenous student education.

6.3 Indigenous "Kids in Care" in the School District, Tutors, and Wrap-Around Services of Support

Chair Jordan Coble commented that when challenges are identified in the school community on an ongoing basis, there is much work that comes from this. Jordan expressed gratitude for the work of the Indigenous Student Advocates as they provide year around support to Indigenous students and build trust in the relationships with students on their educational journey. Indigenous students can also request support through the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre of Kelowna.

2:48 pm – The Superintendent of Schools left the meeting.

6.4 Bursaries and Scholarships for Indigenous Grads

This topic will be deferred until the next IEC meeting.

6.5 Parent and Family Community Engagement

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, provided an update on the selection process of Indigenous parent representatives on the Indigenous Education Council. Five parents have expressed interest to serve as members on the IEC and will attend the next IEC meeting on November 5th to introduce themselves to the Council. The Council will select two parent representatives, one from WFN or OKIB, to serve as voting members on the IEC and to support the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council. Prior to the November 5th IEC meeting, Council members will need to sign a Confidentiality Agreement, provided by Human Resources, so they can be involved in the selection process.

Jesse Bruce shared that the Indigenous Education Department is still keen to provide a Fall family event for Indigenous students and families. More information will be coming soon.

Nicole Werstuik shared that WFN is hosting a community BBQ on October 9th and invited the Council to set up an information booth.

Future Agenda Item: Selection of Two Indigenous Parent Representatives on the Indigenous Education Council. (*Jesse Bruce*)

6.6 Incamera for Local First Nation Members of IEC

Under the new Ministerial Order, the IEC First Nation members have the right to hold an Incamera meeting. This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

6.7 Incamera for Indigenous Education Council Voting Members

Under the new Ministerial Order, the IEC voting members have the right to hold an Incamera meeting. This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Draft Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation 2020-2025: Fourth Annual Report 2023/2024

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, provided copies of the draft Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation Fourth Annual Report for the Indigenous Education Council to review.

3:20 pm – Fire Alarm Test – the Council exited the meeting room.

3:30 pm – The IEC returned to the meeting room.

The IEC that attended the meeting in person divided themselves into three groups, led by Terry Beaudry, Christie Russell, and Jesse Bruce, to review a section of the report and provide feedback. Updates will be made to the final draft of the report, based on the feedback from the IEC, before the report is forwarded to the Board of Education.

The IEC expressed gratitude for the many contributors to the Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation Fourth Annual Report 2023/2024. A special recognition was extended to the District's Advocates, Wellness Workers, Cultural Department, Early Learning Team, Land-Based Team, and Success Teachers for impacting students and families in positive ways every day, which goes beyond the powerful images and articles that were captured in the annual report.

7.2 Indigenous Education Department Updates

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, and Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, shared that schools were fully staffed with Indigenous Student Advocates for the September startup. Jesse expressed appreciation to Chair Jordan Coble and Vice-Chair Nicole Werstuik for reviewing and revising the posting advertisement for the position of District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education. Applications for the position will be reviewed on October 11th and the posting will remain open until it is filled.

7.3 IEC Terms of Reference Amendments

Jesse Bruce shared that the IEC were working through refining the IEC Terms of Reference (TOR) last spring 2024 when the process was put on pause due to receiving the new Ministerial Order for Indigenous Education Councils in BC in June 2024. In mid August, the District received the Ministry's new Indigenous Education Council Policy and the Ministry's template Terms of Reference for all IEC's. At a special IEC meeting on August 29th, the IEC formed a Terms of Reference Subcommittee that met together on September 19th to continue drafting the TOR. Jesse thanked Yvonne Hildebrandt, Secretariat to the IEC, for her work ahead of the subcommittee meeting to combine the Ministry's template TOR with the IEC's amended TOR and for creating one document. The subcommittee worked through the updated combined document at the September 19th subcommittee meeting and created a new draft Terms of Reference for the IEC to review.

The IEC reviewed the first six sections of the new draft Terms of Reference, provided feedback, and made revisions. The remaining sections of the draft Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the next IEC meeting with a goal to finalize the TOR and move forward with an updated IEC Terms of Reference.

The Chair thanked the Terms of Reference Subcommittee for their work revising the new draft IEC Terms of Reference.

Future Agenda Item: Continue reviewing the new Draft IEC Terms of Reference. (*All IEC*)

7.4 Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding for Indigenous Education Councils (\$69,231)

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, spoke about setting up school-based visits or a tour of the District for IEC members, possibly in October.

Action Item: Set up school-based visits or a tour of the District for IEC members. (*Jesse Bruce*)

7.5 Updates on the September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day, and the October 11th District Implementation Day

Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education shared the District's plans for the September 27th Orange Shirt Day and the October 11th District Implementation Day. On September 27th, school learning will include teaching the history and story behind Orange Shirt Day so they understand the September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In preparation for the October 11th District Implementation Day, the Indigenous Education Cultural Department has done pre-teaching with school principals and vice-principals to ensure they have authentic ways of learning with staff on Implementation Day. The learning will include school teams going on retreats to learn about land acknowledgments and the Land Based Learning team teaching about traditional Indigenous homes.

Chair Jordan Coble shared that September 30th is a sombre day for the people in the communities; and, he loves that students can celebrate together in an environment that is about togetherness. Jordan acknowledged that all the work being done in the schools is so important. As much as it is hard and tough, the joy and sense of pride felt when survivors hold the young children is worth it. The work being done is transformational.

Future Agenda Item: Report on what students and teachers learned from the September 27th Orange Shirt Day and the October 11th District Implementation Day. (*Christie Russell*)

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

Métis Nation British Columbia – Correspondence

The IEC briefly spoke together about the letter from Métis Nation British Columbia. Without the Kelowna Métis Association representative present at the IEC table, the letter will need to be discussed at a future meeting.

Future Agenda Item: Correspondence from Métis Nation British Columbia re. BC's Bill 40

9. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

- Action Item: Spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC). (Jesse Bruce/Ann Bell)
- Action Item: Notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council. (Jordan Coble)
- Action Item: Reach out to the language speakers in the territory to ensure the translation of the acknowledgement poster into the nsyilxcen language is done correctly. (Terry Beaudry/Elder Barnes)
- Action Item: Forward the amended IEC Terms of Reference to the Board of Education after receiving the new Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils from the Ministry of Education and Child Care. (Terry Beaudry)
- Action Item: Follow up with the IEC about the selection process of two parents to serve on the IEC and IPFEC. (Jesse Bruce)

10. FUTURE IEC MEETINGS (Tuesdays 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm)

2024-2025 IEC Meeting Schedule

November 5th, January 21st, February 4th, April 8th, June 3rd

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE IEC MEETINGS

- Language Teaching
- September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day, and the October 11th District Implementation Day (June 2025)
- The impact of the new personal student digital device restrictions at school (June 2025)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jordan Coble queried the Indigenous Education Council members if an Incamera meeting was required. The IEC First Nation members and the IEC voting members responded that they did not require an Incamera meeting at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

<u>ACTION ITEMS – In Progress:</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
Spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC).	Jesse Bruce/ Ann Bell
Notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council.	Jordan Coble
Reach out to the language speakers in the territory to ensure the translation of the acknowledgement poster into the nsyilxcen language is done correctly.	Terry Beaudry/ Elder Grouse Barnes
Forward the amended IEC Terms of Reference to the Board of Education after receiving the new Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils from the Ministry of Education and Childcare.	Terry Beaudry
Set up school-based visits or a tour of the District for IEC members.	Jesse Bruce

<u>ACTION ITEMS – Completed (2024/2025):</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
Follow up with the IEC about the selection process of two parents to serve on the IEC and IPFEC.	Jesse Bruce