



IPEC Minutes

April 17, 2026

Office of Indigenous Initiatives

General Meeting: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, held at Wemple Vitali Lounge, King's University College

Present

ELIJAH, Bruce
BIG-CANOE, Katie
BRESSETTE, Christy R.
CORNELIUS-HEDGEPEETH, Paula
DE SHUTTER, Don
DUCKWORTH, Ian
FEHR, Rick
GILL-JOHNSON, Mindy
GLUSHKO, Robert
HAY, Jessica
HOOGTERP, Sean
JAKOB, Molly
McNIVEN, Katie
MORADIPOUR, Melinda
O'GRADY-BOMBERRY, Bernadette
OSBORNE, Sherry
ROBINSON, Jennifer
SINAPOLE, Candida
VENTRESCA, Rob
YENSON, Mark

Regrets

ANTONE, Chantel
ARMSTRONG, Deborah
BAXTER, Jamie

Affiliation

Elder
Indigenous Research Specialist, Western Research
Co-chair, Vice Provost/Associate Vice President, Indigenous Initiatives
Indigenous Engagement and Wampum Learning Lodge, Director
Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC)
Southern First Nations Secretariat
Indigenous Studies, Acting Director
Saugeen First Nation
Western Libraries
Faculty of Sciences (Alternate)
Affiliated Huron University College
Caldwell First Nation
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)
Administrative Coordinator, OII, Western
Mississauga of the Credit First Nation
Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC)
Western Libraries
Aamjiwnaang First Nation
President, King's University College
Affiliated King's University College

Affiliation

London Health Sciences Center
Nokee Kwe Occupational Skills Development
School of Graduate Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), Western

BRESSETTE, Arielle	Indigenous Staff Member
DARNELL, Regna	University Faculty Member Appointee
DOLSON, Debbie	Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
GROAT, Cody	Indigenous Faculty Member
HILL, Renae	N’Amerind Friendship Centre
JIBB, Andrea	Atlohsa Family Services
KEWAYOSH SAMUEL, Ashley	Indigenous Student Centre, Coordinator
MONTURE, Rick	Six Nations of the Grand River
MOSER, Desmond	Dean, Faculty of Science, Western
OCHOA, Lissette	Western Staff
PITAWANAKWAT, Niibin	Indigenous Student Association (ISA) Designate, Western
POETA, Lauren	Indigenous Staff Member, Wester
SUMMERS, Bette	Oneida Nation of the Thames
TICHENOFF, Bill	Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
VICKERS, Grace	Indigenous Student Association (ISA) Designate, Western
WHITEYE, Jolene	Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit
ZAVITZ, Claudia	Indigenous Relations Coordinator, University Student Council (USC), Western

1. Traditional Opening – Elder Bruce Elijah
2. Welcoming Address – Christy R. Bressette
3. Welcome from King’s University College President – Rob Ventresca
 - a. Highlight the importance of the calls to action for Truth and Reconciliation
 - b. Opportunities for continued learning and shared knowledge
4. Introductions – Round Table
 - a. Welcome new members: Katie McNiven, Candida Sinapole, Don De Shutter, and Molly Jakob
 - b. Quarterly meetings – mix of on-campus and in-community locations
 - i. Open call for hosting next meeting and future meetings
5. Highlights
 - a. Open call for community members to voice concerns, projects or initiatives that require support or advice – all ideas are welcome and can be discussed in meetings
 - b. Mastercard Foundation funding
 - i. Working closely with campus and community members to create training and support opportunities – make them more accessible
 - ii. SFNS – Jennifer Whiteye and Ashley Sisco – created an assessment program to prioritize where support and training is needed

- iii. This includes access to the Sciences, Anthropology, Education, Ivey Business – creating supports to dismantle barriers for community who normally would not have access
 - iv. Relational approach with all
 - c. Western Advancement – Donors (philanthropic opportunities)
 - i. Continue to fund opportunities in:
 - 1. STEM – decolonize the disciplines
 - 2. Engineering – hiring a curriculum and pedagogy advisor to help with course delivery to allow Indigenous students to see themselves within these types of disciplines
 - d. SFNS Meeting – April 21
 - i. Collaboration and meeting with local communities
 - e. Chief’s Dinner – June 1
 - i. IPEC Representatives and their Nation’s Chiefs in the LDCC
 - ii. Discuss gaps and offer solutions for student opportunities and supports
 - iii. Paula and Christy to meet with all Chiefs this spring (before dinner), to grow the relationships with Western
 - iv. Equip everyone with the support and skills needed to bring back to community
- 6. General Updates
 - a. King’s: affirmation policy underway – would appreciate some guidance from Paula and Christy
 - i. Lecture Series “Veritas Series” – September 24 – Tanya Talaga
 - b. Indigenous Studies: interest and emphasis on Indigenous language courses and language building at Western
 - i. Students approached Rick to implement the return of a language course – actively bringing it back – course to be available in September 2026 for 4 months, as a .5 credit.
 - ii. Potential to have the course partly in community as well.
 - c. Earth Science: Greenhouse work – currently planting and prepping for summer – working with an agreement of understanding
 - i. STEM curriculum updates and changes – suggestions of the type of information that is taught, which should include learning about treaties, and policies when it comes to the land, water, and food systems within London region, and Indigenous communities
 - ii. Access Programs (funding, courses, etc), reach out to OII staff
 - d. White Corn Project: combination with micro-credentials, earth science, geography, etc.
 - i. Aligns with Guardians Programming
 - ii. Creates employment opportunities
 - e. SOAHAC: Supports communities and has strong ties – needs more support in finding those in crisis and helping navigating barriers (application fees, access to specific spaces, etc.)
 - i. Connections to Western – Mandy Bragg, Academic Advisor, has many good connections and can be a liaison for many aspects.
 - ii. Arielle Bressette for admissions support
 - iii. Katie Big-Canoe for research support and community outreach
 - iv. Program schedules can be shared with OII for continued distribution

- f. Caldwell: May 1st is application deadline for students going to university or college – expecting approximately 100 applicants
- g. Huron: Brand unveiling on Feb 26 – Myrna Kicknosway supported the unveiling by providing an Indigenous interpretation of the branding – designed by Hawlii Pichette, with a Woodlands lens
 - i. PD group – support from Ashley Sisco and Corall McNickel – May 8, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
- h. Saugeen: April 1st deadline for students – currently working on over 100 applicants in preparation for September start
 - i. Supports with application fees – contact Mindy with any Saugeen students who need this support
- i. Western Research: Allyship guide – soon to launch an online module that will be open globally
 - i. Activities and videos will be available
 - ii. Indigenous research gathering proposal – next spring – a wholistic approach for research collaboration
- j. Mississauga of the Credit: Return of the Career Job Fair! May 14, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- k. Metis Nation: May 1st application deadline for students going to university/college in September
 - i. Online app that can support the application process and other information sessions, including budgeting, housing, etc. (google play store)
- l. Aamjiwnaang: May 1st application deadline for September start – currently at 100 applications
- m. SFNS: May 1st application deadline for September start – currently at 300 applications!
- 7. Guest Speakers: Western Libraries – Robert Glushko and Jennifer Robinson
 - a. Community Scholars Program
 - i. Access to digital information – teaching how to access the library, where to access items like treaties, and other collections
 - ii. Hoping to decolonize and increase collections
 - iii. Different ways to engage and support for strong relationships
 - iv. Sharing resources as a possibility with other communities (Aamjiwnaang for example)
 - v. Tours available for incoming students to feel more comfortable using the spaces and resources available to them
 - 1. The libraries staff are very approachable!