



IPEC Minutes

January 16, 2025

Office of Indigenous Initiatives

General Meeting: 10:00 am to 1:15 pm, held at Hillside School, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

Present	Affiliation
Danielle ALCOCK	Jordan's Principle Program Manager, Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC)
Christy BRESSETTE	IPEC Co-Chair; Vice Provost/ Associate Vice President Indigenous Initiatives, Office of Indigenous Initiatives
Kylie BRESSETTE	Secondary/Post-Secondary Indigenous Lead, Hillside Elementary School, KSPFN
Arielle BRESSETTE	Manager, Indigenous Admissions and Enrollment, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Kimberly BRESSETTE	Chief, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Robert BRESSETTE	Principal, Hillside Elementary School, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Sara Mai CHITTY	Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Paula CORNELIUS-HEDGEPEETH	Director, Indigenous Engagement and Wampum Learning Lodge, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Lorraine DAVIES	School of Graduate Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), Associate Vice Provost, Western University
Debbie DOLSON	IPEC Co-Chair; Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Ian DUCKWORTH	Post-Secondary Secretariat, Caldwell First Nation
Rick FEHR	Director, Faculty, Indigenous Studies, Western University
Verna GEORGE	First Nation Manager/CEO, CKSPFN
Sean HOOGTERP	Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator at Huron College

Jeff HUTTER	Deputy Provost, Faculty of Science, Western University
Ashley KEWAYOSH-SAMUEL	Student Opportunities Coordinator, Western University
Barry and Deb MILLIKEN	Elders
Melinda MORADIPOUR	Administrative Coordinator, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Desmond MOSER	Assistant Dean, Faculty of Science, Western University
Carla OLIVER	Education Portfolio, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Lauren POETA	Communications Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Alison PRICE	Education Portfolio, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Melissa SCHNARR	SAGE Coordinator, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Jennifer SLAY	Director of Equity, Decolonization, Inclusivity, and Diversity, King's University College
Laura SPERO	Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Post-Secondary Counsellor
Bill Tichenoff	Director of Education, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Regrets	Affiliation
Deborah Armstrong	Programs Director, Nokee Kwe Occupational Skills Development Inc. Representative
Emilie Campbell	IEC Rep for Thames Bluewater Metis Community Council, Métis Nation of Ontario
Regna Darnell	University Faculty Member Appointee, Faculty of Social Science
Natalie Fletcher	Indigenous Student Success Manager, Fanshawe College, Indigenous Learning Centre
Mindy Gill-Johnson	Education Administrator, Saugeen First Nation
Renae Hill	Interim Executive Director, N'Amerind Friendship Centre Representative
Andrea Jibb	Director of Healing Services, Atlohosa Family Services

Rick Monture	Post-Secondary Education Office, Six Nations of the Grand River
Lacey Smith	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Munsee Delaware Nation
Bette Summers	Director of Education, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Jolene Whiteye	Education Manager, Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit
Claudia Zavitz	President, Indigenous Student Association, Western University

1. Traditional Opening – Elders Barry and Deb Milliken
2. Welcoming address – IPEC Co-Chairs Christy R. Bressette and Debbie Dolson
3. Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Updates
 - a. **Chief Kimberly Bressette:** lobbying some of the universities for free tuition - making routes to Western soon
 - i. Lobbying for more school funding to best support their students, being inclusive for our students with disabilities and attention disorders.
 - b. **Kylie Bressette** - Indigenous Lead: Supporting students in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary with any needs they may have including applications, accommodations, and guidance. **Melissa George, RN** - Integrative Care Nurse: Helping students maintain healthy lifestyles throughout their educational journey. **Mel Shone** – Indigenous Student Advocate, NLSS: here to support, help, and mentor students by providing them a safe, quiet space in the Rosemary Room at NLSS. **Kim George** - FNMI Student Support: Here to support students and their families with barriers concerning attendance. **Rose Wolfe** - Indigenous Graduation Coach: Assisting and implementing programs, services, and other supports to meet the needs of our students with a focus on student success and graduation.
 - c. Students need support starting as early as grade 4 in preparation for high-school, and later, post-secondary, based on their current need.
 - d. OUAC, OCAS, SFNS days
 - i. Providing support to students who are filling out applications to university, college, and funding – high school student projected to graduate this year.
 - ii. Often, colleges visit, but universities rarely do (if ever), which makes accessibility to universities, and the attainability of applying to universities, much more difficult.
 - e. “How to apply to school” walk through for both OUAC, OCAS, and SFNS applications
 - i. Western visits Tyanna Soucy visited North Lambton Secondary School North Lambton Secondary School in November
 - ii. Hillside participates in Track and Field Day in February
 - iii. NLSS visiting Western in March for a tour – what is available to them (resources, spaces, etc.)
 - f. Starting at the elementary school level: Alumni speaker series
 - i. Peer wisdom visits

- ii. Star attendance program – ways to promote and encourage students to attend school and start to like going to school again (impact from COVID especially) – prizes available
 - iii. Gives students visual representation of success stories from their own communities.
- g. Western collabs: NOTE: Trying to take the approach of building community, recruiting, and also what is feasible
 - i. Presentation to our 6,7,8s followed by a visit to campus: inspire them to consider university and also to encourage them to attend Mini U in the summer- for Mini U work with us to organize travel ahead of time to help ease that stress (ages 10-14, 15-17)
 - ii. Include people from ISC to help lead the visit on campus and in community.
- h. “See yourself at Western”: Visibility of your own self and community makes schooling at this level attainable
 - i. Alumni, staff, Elders, current students- collab with community members who have been involved at Western at these levels to show our students this is a space for them
 - ii. Map of local First Nation communities in the ISC or WLL
 - iii. Students, young people seeing their community represented in such a way could also mitigate the culture shock of going from community to campus
- i. How Western can build community and connection: Tuition waivers for local First Nation communities including KSPFN
 - i. Not a new idea and this may have built momentum, but this has to be something Western commits to at a higher level than OII OUAC waivers
 - ii. This has been done before- remove the barrier of the application fees while applying to Western
- j. Roads/buildings in the local languages
 - i. Renaming would be ideal, but if we can have the roads and/or buildings translated into the local indigenous languages this creates even more visibility for our students when considering the school

4. Hillside Elementary School Tour – Led by Robert Bressette

5. Office of Indigenous Initiatives Updates

- a. Identity Policy $\frac{3}{4}$ finished – focus on being trauma informed, discuss supporting documentation allowances for different circumstances; positionality statements/lineal connections with communities and families – policy draft included: contact Christy for any questions or clarification
- b. Paula Cornelius Hedgepeth: New Director of Indigenous Engagement and the Wampum Learning Lodge, appointed in December 2024.
- c. ISC: Track and Field Day February 18, 2025, on campus. Grades 7 and 8 – student volunteers are welcome!
- d. Allyship Guide: Provide direction on principles-based approaches to being an ally; include community feedback
 - i. Guide to Indigenous Research – how to do it well; treaty people – providing education
 - ii. Full updates included in meeting packet.
 - iii. Welcome IPEC review and feedback – reach out to Sara Mai
 - 1. Committee to review the guide and add their recommendations for engagement
 - 2. Allies actually need to want to do the work, and are already focused on improving their engagement.

- iv. Why we need allies in general
 - e. Beyond land acknowledgements course at Western – there are 60 students enrolled: how to use bright space
- 6. Faculty of Indigenous Studies
 - a. Highest number of faculty members!
 - b. 231 students enrolled in Indigenous Studies for Fall 2024 semester – Awâsis course and the Wampum classroom are a major highlight (very popular); 422 students for Winter 2025 semester.
 - i. Other instructors to step back and allow students to speak and lead in their own education.
 - c. Beyond land acknowledgements course at Western – there are 60 students enrolled: how to use bright space.
- 7. ISA: Fundraiser – Krispy Kreme for Pow Wow (allyship coordinator) – vendor and volunteer applications are out now
 - i. T-shirts and donations are needed for giveaways (prizes)
 - ii. Headshots for ISA members: call for artist in March
- 8. Affiliates Updates
 - a. King's – need support with collaborations and budgeting
 - b. Huron – movie screening – campus wide and affiliates
 - i. Working with Melissa Schnarr for events
 - ii. Some possibilities for collaboration with Mini U this summer; Scotiabank Camps as well
- 9. Micro-credentials – Rick Fehr
 - a. Provide training to meet Indigenous people where they are at versus them coming to Western
- 10. Round Table
 - a. Kimberly Bressette – thank you for the meeting, and providing good information
 - b. Land-based opportunities -WLL to promote?
 - i. Ceremonies,
 - ii. Sugar bush expansion (currently in operation)
 - c. Visits into communities will begin this month with Ian Duckworth
 - d. Melissa Schnarr is the newly appointed SAGE Coordinator – working through the ISC to connect with Indigenous Graduate students, and support them with any concerns, act as advocate as needed
 - e. Desmond is working to consult with leaders at OII to create useful title for project: working to teach science better and be culturally affected (in a good way); Environmental connection position with Paula to open in community – listening to everyone at the table to foster a good and productive relationship.
- 11. Adjournment
 - a. Items for next meeting:
 - i. ways to make the meeting accessible and efficient while in community,
 - ii. Updates on Identity policy,
 - iii. Updates for Terms of Reference document