



Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC) Western University

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2021

The meeting was held at 9:00am – 1:00pm via ZOOM and Teleconference

PRESENT: AFFILIATION:

Christy BRESSETTE	Vice-Provost/Assistant Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Kylie BRESSETTE	Proxy for Amanda Myers – Director of Indigenous Student Services
Bernita BRIGHAM-JACOBS	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nation
Holly CLAEYS	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation
Sara Mai CHITTY	Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Regna DARNELL	President's Appointee representing the Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Lorraine DAVIES	Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Joan FINEGAN	Acting Dean of Social Sciences, Western University
Janice FORSYTH	Director, Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Paula HEDGEPEETH	Community Relations and Space Coordinator/IPEC Secretary, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Tara HEDICAN	SAGE Coordinator, Western University
Joe HENRY	Dean of Students, Kings University College
Riley KENNEDY	Undergraduate Student Senator, Western University
Myrna KICKNOSWAY	Visiting Elder, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Melanie MOLNAR	Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College
Erica NEEGANAGWEDGIN	Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University
Jody NOAH	Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization
Geoff READ	Dean of Students, Huron University College
Laura SPERO	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Guests:

Billy ALEXANDER	Indigenous Executive Chef and Culinary Advisor, Caldwell First Nation
Kyra COLE	Economic Development Officer, Caldwell First Nation
Robyn PERKINS	Acting Chief, Caldwell First Nations

Carrie-Ann PETERS	Cultural Development Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation
Jan PETERS	Elder, Caldwell First Nation
Kia PETERS	Western University Student, Caldwell First Nation Member
Brianna SANDS	Environmental & Consultation Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation
Suzie SAWICKI	Administrative Assistant, Caldwell First Nation
Nikki VAN OIRSCHOT	Director of Operations, Caldwell First Nation

REGRETS:

Alia BIG GEORGE	Indigenous Student Association (ISA) President, Western University
Debbie DOLSON	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
Jennie MASSEY	Associate Vice President, Student Experience, Western University
Bette SUMMERS	Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation
Kathleen ANDERSON	Representative, Métis Nation of Ontario
Rick MONTURE	Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nation
Guy WILLIAMS	Special Advisor Indigenous Education & Development, Fanshawe College

1. **Traditional Opening**

Jan Peters, Elder Caldwell First Nation opened.

- 1. Elder Myrna Kicknosway addresses Residential School trauma.

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2. **Welcome**

- 2. Jody Noah/Co-chair.
- 3. Christy Bressette Acting Vice Provost/Associate Vice President Indigenous Initiatives.
- 4. Welcoming words from Christy Bressette on behalf of Sarah Pritchard.

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3. **Welcoming words from CFN Acting Chief**

Robyn Perkins – Acting Chief/Council Member

- 1. Moment of silence.
- 2. Education is priority.
- 3. Council is committed to ensuring funding is priority – topping up funds as needed.
- 4. Economic development – self-reliance for the future and next 7 generations.
- 5. Reserve status in Nov 2020 after 230 years of fighting.

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4. **Presentation from CFN Band Staff**

Nikki van Oirschot – Caldwell history

- 1. loss of land and reserve status
- 2. 1790 surrendered a tract of land including Point Pelee
- 3. No benefit from the surrendering and chased from the land in 1920's.
- 4. Education Program – Education is a priority for Caldwell Council

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- 5. Taking over own education program and funding – opens more opportunity to students. Currently in second fiscal year of

Kia Peters – Western University Student

- 6. Shared her experience at Western University
- 7. Curriculum was a challenge – perspective was Eurocentric – indigenous peoples are portrayed as a problem and no history to explain where the trauma comes from.
- 8. Indigenous Student Centre provided a great support for me.
- 9. Need more outreach to students on campus to get into the Indigenous Student Centre
- 10. Create a course on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

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Carrie Ann Peters – Language and Culture

- 1. Implementing Indigenous stories, culture and Indigenous elements into Point. Pelee National park.
- 2. Renaming Pioneer Park with in Point Pelee – Madbin Jina
- 3. Caldwell was denied land and language. Reclaiming land and language.
- 4. “I am Caldwell” project. Purpose to instill pride and identity.
- 5. 12 Language modules be developed.

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Brianna Sands – Environmental & Consultation Coordinator

- 1. Environmental initiatives for the nation with depends upon the Consultation Process – Duty to Consult.
- 2. Online consultation tool which streamlines the consultation process.
- 3. Sturgeon Creek Restoration Site 2017.

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Kyra Cole – Economic Dev Officer

- 1. First EDO for Caldwell
- 2. Building a community from the ground up. Community Economic Development, Housing, Cultural Centre, Cannabis.
- 3. Tourism Development – Point Pelee National Park Experiences. Ride through the Marsh. Meal cooked over open fire. Signature experience package.

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Billy Alexander – Hospitality and Tourism

- 1. Three Fires Restaurant & Winery – share our culture through food.
- 2. Interactive experiences of cooking
- 3. Three Fires Winery – a gift from Creator. 2.5 acres of vines planted on purchased land.
- 4. Cultural connections to the food created and served. Harvested from the land according to the cycles.
- 5. Community feedback on the development of a winery – difficult subject. Will be serving responsibly. Will not contribute to the negative aspects of alcohol amongst Indigenous people.

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5. Western General Updates

Dr. Chantelle Richmond presents Indigenous Research Report – Chair, Indigenous Research Subcommittee

1. Membership introduction – 12 members from Western community and local Indigenous communities.
2. Review of Indigenous research – concepts, definitions, and best practices.
3. Indigenous research is carried out by Indigenous scholars and allied scholars in response to Indigenous community needs and desires.
4. Indigenous research is not a priority at Western University at large.
5. Pockets of Indigenous research on campus, usually externally funded.
6. Indigenous scholars and students feel unsupported.
7. Allied scholars are seeking connections and ways to be useful.
8. Creation of Indigenous research principles; increased reliable and consistent funding, relationship building, curriculum and pedagogy and spaces of mentorship and belonging.
9. Recommend the development of an Indigenous Research Centre – as per Western Strategic Plan. Supported structurally by Vice President of Research and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. Championed by a director of Indigenous research.

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Department/Faculty Updates

Indigenous Student

Riley Kennedy, Student Representative.

1. Low student interaction due to COVID.
2. Students feeling anxiety around fall semester – course approach and gathering.
3. Riley is Chair of subcommittee for community garden at Brescia University College focusing on Indigenous food systems and horticultural practices.

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Indigenous Student Centre

Kylie Bressette (Manager of Admissions and Enrollment) proxy for Amanda Myers.

1. Paul Porter hired as Indigenous Recruitment Coordinator.
2. 7 full time permanent positions at Indigenous Student Centre.
3. Academia framework being finalized, focused on Indigenous student recruitment and marketing.
4. Valio Markkanen Awards – Joyla Furlano in Graduate studies and Kendrew Jacobs Undergraduate studies.
5. National Indigenous Scholarship – Delany Matern, Nickolas Keller and Isabelle Savard.
6. Recipients' for the first Indigenous graduate research award will be announced by end of month.
7. Local First Nations Scholarship is undergoing final review. Application is being created and will go out in August.
8. Mini University Program running virtually with 60 youth ages 12 – 17, learning about education, culture and healthy relationships.

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Indigenous Education

Erica Neeganagwedgin presents.

1. New director of Indigenous Education as of July 1, 2021
2. Acknowledge Brent Debassige who has served in this role for 13 years working to promote and advance Indigenous Education at Western.
3. Scholarship deadlines extended to August 30th – recruitment process begins for 2022.
4. 2021/2023 11 student cohort of MPED Orientation began July 3, 2021
5. Moved to vacant space in the Faculty of Education building rather than renovating a space – houses 7 faculty.
6. Hire an Indigenous Education Coordinator – posting to come.

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Office of Indigenous Initiatives

Christy Bressette presents.

1. Western is preparing and moving forward with in person learning in September 2021. Will be following restrictions and guidelines from the province to provide safe campus.
2. Three new staff coming – Indigenous Communications Specialist, Indigenous Research Evaluation and Innovation specialist, Full time administrative support. Data and trend analysis.
3. Indigenous Language Advisory Group– inaugural meeting happened on July 7, 2021. Grant from e-campus to support Indigenous Language Revitalization .Consultant company of Ashely Sisco working with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives on this project.
4. Three local community engagement – Muncey, Oneida and Chippewa of the Thames.
5. Goal to work on language revitalization through online means
6. Provost supports the development of formal indigenous curriculum – to support all faculty with engagement in indigenous curriculum with a budget of 1 million dollars.
7. The development of learning bundles lead by Candace Brunette and implemented by Sara Mai is currently being worked on. This E-Campus grant will help to provide formal incentive grant to assist faculties with this work, create online learning bundles, creating academic supports to help with the implementation.
8. Sara Mai Chitty provides highlights of the work currently being done, outlined in the Indigenous Curriculum Framework Report

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IPEC Round Table Sharing

Laura Spero, Aamjiwnaag Education Representative

1. Joel PICHE – hired as academic advisor in post-secondary working with first year students.
2. Community is looking for a Grade 1 teacher.
3. Expanding the post-secondary dept. – initiating a new data system – Laura responsibilities: council and support and provide resources to students. Work closely with Indigenous Services.

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Jody Noah, representative from Delaware Nation

- 1. Program review – evaluation of services. Student focus groups and employee interviews. program satisfaction Going well.
- 2. Student upload system to help streamline their system.
- 3. Partnership with St. Clair College that supports nine indigenous women to take an electrical program.
- 4. Wellness workshops for students – wellness boxes to students – to address remote learning and Covid.

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7. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

- 1. Jan Peters conducts a traditional closing.

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