First Nation Education Commission (FNEC) Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 21st & 22nd, 2014: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Draft Minutes*

May 21, 2014 – Day 1: CYFN: BOARDROOM #1

**In attendance:**

Shandell McCarthy Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (Designate)

Ingrid Johnson – Selkirk First Nation (Designate)

Roberta Hager – First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (Designate)

Geraldine James – Carcross Tagish First Nation (Designate)

Ashley Doiron – Tr’ondek Hwetch’in First Nation (Designate)

Shelby Blackjack – Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (Designate)

Tim Cant – Teslin Tlingit Council (Designate)

Jeremy McCulloch – Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (Alternate)

Helen Loots – Liard First Nation (Alternate)

Kluane Adamek – Kluane First Nation (Alternate)

Linnea Rudachyck – Ta’an Kwatchan First Nation (Observer)

Tina Jules – Council of Yukon First Nations

Jennifer Wykes – Council of Yukon First Nations (Minutes)

**Quorum achieved with 83% of the membership present.**

8:30 a.m. Opening Prayer, Welcome and Introductions

Opening prayer by Roberta Hager.

Shelby Blackjack introduced herself as the new designate for Little Salmon Carmacks, as did Kluane Adamek, recently appointed as the alternate for Kluane First Nation. Round table introductions were done.

**Tab 1 Review & Acceptance of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed by Shandell McCarthy. One addition to be made to Tab 9 – Kluane to present on Jane Glasgow Fellowship.

Shandell makes mention of one vote per First Nation even if there are two members (both designate and alternate) present at meetings. (By extension, the previous Feb 11-12th meeting was short of quorum.)

Agenda was passed by a motion: moved by Roberta Hager, seconded by Ashley Doiron.

**Tab 2 Background & Review of JEAP approved by Leadership**

Tina Jules presented the Student Success video by the Individual Learning Centre, as well as the history of reports and recent workshops, as background to the Joint Education Action Plan. Tina noted the gap between what the Commission is working on and students’ lived realities and suggests that the Commission involves students more in the work they do. Geraldine James shared what CTFN is doing to get students back to the land. Tina Jules shared her thoughts on measures of determining level of cultural inclusiveness. The JEAP was whittled down after a series of meetings with the partners and was passed at the Leadership table with huge support.

Questions regarding FN endorsement of the JEAP arose (as pertains to both those Chiefs who were not present at the Leadership table to endorse the document and those that have not signed onto the MOU). There were mixed opinions on awaiting endorsement through FNEC/Grand Chief/Leadership driven processes versus moving ahead to keep up the momentum, noting that the JEAP was passed by resolution at Leadership and that Chiefs are informed.

The JEAP is currently under review by YG and we are awaiting written confirmation and agreement on the part of the Minister prior to a major media release.

There was a discussion on Canada’s lack of involvement (since devolution) noting that FNs were left out of talks and decisions made by INAC and YG during the devolution process. The results of this exclusion continue to hold YFNs back. Shandell McCarthy voiced that we are not to miss out on funding available to other FNs across Canada and recommended that Leadership draft a letter to the feds. Tina Jules agreed stating the duty to consult has not been respected, nor have YFN Self Government Agreements.

Tina Jules continued with the presentation of the JEAP. It was asked if anyone is not in support of the JEAP. Tina emphasised that FNs can withdraw from the MOU at any time and Shandell McCarthy reminded the membership that the JEAP does not take away from local initiatives. All who knew about their Chief’s (and citizens’) support were in favour with the exception of Tim Cant who explained that TTC was undergoing restructuring of their Education Department. It was decided that FNEC would hold off on endorsement.

**Tab 3 Draft YFN Literacy Framework Report & Imp Strategy– Motion to Accept & Support**

Tina Jules reviewed the YFN Literacy Framework then presented the Project Charter, pilot project and local literacy plans. Funding is required for a literacy coordinator to roll out the project, materials and supplies, evaluations etc. Tina requested a motion to endorse the report as well as the establishment of a sub-committee to further the work and report back to FNEC. The motion was moved by Geraldine, seconded by Roberta – all in support of the report with the exception of Tim Cant (abstained).

*10:15-10:30 a.m. Coffee Break*

10:30-12:00

**Tab 4 Yukon Literacy Strategy: Background, Strategy & Action Plan**

 **Discussion: FNEC Involvement & FNEC Endorsement**

 **Activity: Next Steps & Planning Presentation for Joint Meeting**

Shandell McCarthy read the YLS background document. Tina Jules explained the history of the Yukon Literacy Strategy (2001) and the Working Group comprised of stakeholders who attend meetings – versus the (2013) YFN Literacy Framework funded by AANDC. There are differences between the YLS and YFN LF but some commonalities. (Note that the Yukon Literacy Framework is not consultation, rather, it was a workshop.) Shandell also mentioned the timeline for the Strategy, the approval of which has been postponed until December to allow for YFN feedback. The action plan is a living document that will change from year to year. The purpose is to provide awareness on what is being worked on and enhance collaboration. The question is what are we going to do tomorrow in the joint meeting?

The discussion touched on various points: YFNs are not stakeholders, rather they are partners—and not a ‘level’ of government, rather an ‘order’ of government; Geraldine James voiced her interest to have that *fifth pillar;* Tim Cant is concerned about showing up and having YG call our meeting ‘consultation’; he also feels YG is sticking its hands onto YFN agreements and calling it ‘for all Yukoners’ incl. immigrants and the French; Shandell McCarthy questions where this is going—what YG is getting out of it, if YFNs will get anything out of it and what YFNs miss out on if they don’t engage; Kluane Adamek feels that the YG doc is oppressive yet there are opportunities to be involved and YFNs are missing the boat—any opportunity to increase literacy levels is good.

Tina Jules read the YLS additions as pertains to YFNs and also highlighted areas specific to FNs: *‘YFNs were invited’; ‘Yukon Culture’ (paralleling the visual);* some acknowledgement (on page 14) and the vision, which is broad enough to capture YFN visions.

There were question regarding the working group email distribution list and decision-making processes. Kluane Adamek wishes to request the TOR for reference on the working group governance structure. Both Kluane and Shandell McCarthy feel that FNEC needs to be strategic, have a conversation with the working group and get a common understanding of what’s on the table. If there’s no movement, then take it to a higher level.

FNEC did a roundtable: The group was divided as some felt that the YLS and YFN LF are incompatible. The YFN LF reflects the hearts and souls of YFN peoples and is far deeper than reading, writing and gaining skills to get a job. It was noted, however, that the YLS does try to capture this reflection through a holistic approach to the whole person (mental, spiritual etc.). Others felt that the opportunity for the kids should not be missed and that the fifth pillar needs to be integrated into the YLS. The incorporation of YFN perspectives into the YLS is an opportunity to gain visibility. There was, however, an overall feeling of mistrust of YG and it was suggested that the meeting be one of information gathering. It was also suggested that a subcommittee be formed to bring forward recommendations on processes for consultation and means to collaborate.

FNEC-YLS Working Group meeting planning notes:

Shandell McCarthy to explain who FNEC is (to change the way YG selects its representatives).

Tina Jules to present on the Joint Education Action Plan and Yukon First Nation Literacy Framework. (Linnea Rudachyk can support and speak to the framework.)

FNEC presentation on why YFN perspectives are important: Tim Cant to tell a story.

Jeremy McCulloch, Ashley Doiron and Kluane Adamek to field any questions.

Three stars, one wish activity (but no feedback) and Shandell McCarthy and Shawn Kitchen to lead next steps.

**Sub-Committee: YFN Literacy Framework – Motion to Establish & TOR**

Shandell McCarthy furthered the discussion on a subcommittee, which would refine the Project Charter and implementation strategy as well as the coordinator position once funding has been secured. Ashley Doiron, Shandell McCarthy and Shelby Blackjack are willing to put a call out to community members.

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| Actions |
| FNEC to draft a generic letter putting out a call among citizens for subcommittee members on which each YFN can put its own letterhead.FNEC to post the callout.Shelby Blackjack, Geraldine James and Jeremy McCulloch comprise the interim/ ac hoc subcommittee, which will develop a Terms of Reference (to line up with FNEC’s TOR) for the subcommittee.  |

Tina Jules also suggested improved efficiency on how the Commission works (ie. developing one briefing note that members can take back to Leadership). Tina read the Draft Briefing Note re: Yukon Literacy Strategy.

*12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch Break*

1:00-2:00

**Tab 5 Discussions re: Consultations, Involvement, Engagement, Committees**

 **Activity: Direction & Next Steps**

The issue of having too many initiatives/strategies, committees/boards to allow for adequate and effective involvement was briefly discussed. There is also the issue of FNEC being shut out from some important YG directives. The Commission has yet to discuss how it wants to be consulted. The question remains: how does FNEC want to be engaged and at what level? Tina Jules suggested the FNEC review its TOR: to be further discussed at the next meeting.

**Sub-Committee: YFN Education Protocol & Policy Framework – Motion to Establish & TOR**

Tabled.

 **Resolution for Leadership: YFN Consultations, Involvement, Engagement, Committees in Yukon Education initiatives (interim process in the absence of a protocol) and proposed direction to Yukon to support the development of a YFN Education Protocol and Policy Framework.**

Tabled.

*2:00-2:30 p.m. Coffee Break*

2:30-3:30

**Tab 6 Yukon Labour Market Framework – Pillars, Strategies & Action Plans**

**Discussion: Review Letters & Advisory Committee**

**Activity: Direction & Next Steps**

(Carried over to day 2.) Tina Jules announced the Yukon Labour Market Summit that took place at the same time as this meeting. FNs have requested their own pillar and Jean Sebastian-Blais is seeking engagement with YFNs. Tina suggested the establishment of an advisory committee to develop that fifth pillar. Jean will facilitate the process and assist with development of the TOR.

JOINT MEETING

First Nation Education Commission (FNEC)

And

Yukon Literacy Strategy (YLS) Working Group

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 22nd, 2014

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Draft Agenda*

May 22, 2014: YUKON COLLEGE – GLASS ROOM

*8:30 Welcome & Introductions*

**In attendance:**

**FNEC**

Shandell McCarthy Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (Designate)

Ingrid Johnson – Selkirk First Nation (Designate)

Roberta Hager – First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (Designate)

Geraldine James – Carcross Tagish First Nation (Designate)

Ashley Doiron – Tr’ondek Hwetch’in First Nation (Designate)

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Kluane Adamek – Kluane First Nation (Alternate)

Linnea Rudachyck – Ta’an Kwatchan First Nation (Observer)

Tina Jules – Council of Yukon First Nations

Jennifer Wykes – Council of Yukon First Nations (Minutes)

**YLS Working Group**

Chris Rider (Bringing Youth Towards Equality)

Beth Mulloy (Yukon Literacy Coalition)

Debbie Parent (Yukon Learn Society)

Shephanie Hammond (Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon)

Nancy Paldy (Health and Social Services)

Mike Snider (Yukon Education)

Colleen Segriff (Yukon Literacy Coalition)

Janet McDonald (First Nations Programs and Partnerships, Yukon Education)

Patricia Brennan (L’Association Franco-Yukonnaise)

Claudine Morin (Employment Central)

Carole Kroening (Child Development Centre)

Rongo Wetere, Marcia Krall (Arrowmight via teleconference)

Michelle Crossfield (Advanced Education)

Shawn Kitchen (Advanced Education)

8:45-10:00

**Introductions**

Geraldine James led the opening prayer.

Roundtable introductions were done.

Shandell McCarthy and Shawn Kitchen made opening remarks and laid out the purpose and expected outcomes for the joint meeting: the groups have been brought together to share what they are working on, build a relationship and develop a common understanding. Shandell acknowledged the work that’s been done on the YLS.

**Background and Overview of the Yukon Literacy Strategy**

Shawn provided a background and overview of the Yukon Literacy Strategy 2014-2024, which remains a draft, and the Action Plan, which will be a living document. He explained the consensus-based model that informed its development and clarified that all governments are stakeholders. The Literacy Strategy emerged from a dated adult literacy strategy that required updating. It was determined that the old strategy was limited – that it should wholistic and cover lifelong learning. Unlike most strategies (usually undertaken by provincial governments) this strategy engaged, was developed and is owned by community stakeholders (not just YG but non profits, YFNs, private sector etc.). What has emerged is the idea that we all have literacies that we can develop. Everyone should be able to see themselves in the strategy.

Questions remain on what FN consultation looks like. FN participation has been limited – which is why we’re here today. The strategy is not going to be perfect for everyone, but it should be workable for everyone. This is the first time all literacy stakeholders have come together – the purpose is to break down the stovepipes – communication, info-sharing, collectively share options, create partnerships, avoid duplication, learn from and share experiences, building effective programs.

The Working Group began meeting in January 2013 after the New Horizons Symposium (2012). The deadline for the strategy was March 2014. The deadline has been extended to December 2014 to allow for YFN input.

Currently the YLS and Action Plan comprises:

Draft definition; Scan of services; Research on Best Practices; Vision; Goals; Objectives; Outcomes; Action Plan; Website.

Public messaging will be determined by /for the stakeholders. Eg. If YFNs don’t want to ratify, we won’t say they’ve been consulted.

Next Steps:

Finalize the YLS action plan

Implementation

Question: How will the YLS and YFN LF connect and support one another?

What are the next steps of engagement?

Shandell McCarthy raised a question about accountability.

Shawn Kitchen answered: We’re all responsible. If an org puts something into the action plan, they are responsible to their constituents. This group is not a policing body.

Shandell McCarthy questioned if there is a TOR for the working group.

Michelle Crossfield: yes, she will make it available as well as website link.

**Background & Overview: Joint Education Action Plan 2014-2024: *A Blueprint to Strengthen Our Roots and to Close the Education Gap***

Kluane Adamek introduced the Education Partnership Program and the opportunity for the three orders of government to come together to determine common priorities. This led into the MOU.

Tina Jules provided a background into and reviewed the JEAP (as requirement of the MOU).

**Draft YFN Literacy Framework, Implementation Strategy & Connections**

Tina Jules presented the YFN Literacy Framework and the workshop process. Geraldine James and Tim Cant expressed their take on literacy as ‘spiritual, mental, physical, emotional’. Ingrid Johnson, Roberta Hager and Linnea Rudachyk shared experiences from participating in the YFN Literacy Framework development workshop hosted by CYFN Education in January 2014.

Kluane Adamek reiterated that some YFNs will need to take the Yukon Literacy Strategy back to their community for further input and direction. There is the opportunity and need to incorporate YFN perspectives and the YFN Literacy Framework into the Strategy. Her FN will look at how they will be engaged in the strategy.

Janet McDonald suggested that each FN input what they are doing in the area of literacy into the inventory to understand where there are gaps, especially with language revitalization as the situation is critical.

Roberta shared her views and understandings on gaps in services as pertains to her community in Mayo, as well as possible solutions.

Roundtable comments by YLS and FNEC officials.

*10:00-10:15 Refreshment Break*

10:15-11:00

FNEC Presentation

Sharing, stories, why the YFN Lit Framework is important, why YFN languages are different from others – good lead into the definition of literacy. Kluane and Jeremy – to pose questions.

11:00-11:45

FNEC Members and YLS Working Group Roundtable Talks / Activity

The group shared a roundtable talk infused with personal/community and family stories to discuss perceptions on literacy.

11:45-12:00

Review next steps for YFN Literacy Framework & Implementation Strategy

Review next steps for Yukon Literacy Strategy and Action Plan

\*\* See Attachment.

Shawn Kitchen provided closing comments. The session ended with a closing prayer.

*12:00-1:00 Lunch*

First Nation Education Commission (FNEC) Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 21st & 22nd, 2014: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Draft Agenda*

May 22, 2014 – Day 2: CYFN: BOARDROOM #1

*\*1:30 Continuation of FNEC business from Day 1*

*1:30 Back to CYFN Boardroom #1*

1:30 – 3:00

**Tab 7 Discussion: Awareness & Promotion of FNEC: Brochure, Group Photo, Community Tours, Education Week, and YFN Graduation**

Tina Jules raised the idea of having FNEC gain greater visibility and promoting the Commission at functions / venues (ie. graduation and Education Week) and through the newsletter. Members should be role models and known in their communities. It was also suggested that FNEC go to the communities to promote the work of FNEC at the community level.

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| Actions |
| FNEC members to come prepared with their traditional regalia to take a group photo at the next meeting. FNEC members to send in individual photos and a brief biography.FNEC to start a brochure.Tina Jules to draft and send out an advertisement for and FNEC logo contest which members can circulate.Funding pending, FNEC members to participate in community presentations.FNEC to plan for participation in Education events (ie. Education Week, YFN Graduation).Tina to draft an FNEC annual report for the GA.  |

There were a number concerns raised around graduation and the authority to decide the benchmark for graduation. It was suggested that FNEC exert some measure of oversight: a review (with members and former members of the Grad Committee) should be conducted.

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| Action |
| Tina Jules to develop a draft TOR to conduct a review of the YFN Grad Committee: policy; local FN involvement; post secondary grads; FNEC overseeing the committee; involvement of current and former members of the Grad Committee; Elder/youth/parent involvement in the committee.Moved by Kluane, seconded by Ingrid.  |

Moved by Kluane, seconded by Geraldine on all of the above.

**Tab 8 FNEC Proposed Budget – Motion to Approve**

Normally, CYFN gets funding for FNEC in the amount of $20 000 annually. Shandell McCarthy and Tina Jules have cut out a budget for approval by YG. Tina reviewed the proposal, the numbers ($118 000) and the rationale. Commissioners further mentioned the in-kind contributions and provisions (both CYFN and FNEC) in terms of time and work put in.

Moved by Ashley Doiron, seconded by Helen Loots.

**Tab 9 Discussion: Federal Education Initiatives: AANDC - First Nation Control of First Nation Education Act & Other Funding/Programs & AFN**

Kluane Adamek provided some history on Bill 33 and presented it as a leveraging opportunity for YFNs. There remains a number of unanswered questions regarding the funding and what it means to FNs with SGAs. Kluane shared her insight into reasons why some FNs are opposed to the Bill (Ministerial oversight especially as pertains to those FNs that have assumed jurisdiction and accountability issues). There are also questions that have come to surface regarding AFN’s governing structure. AFN is under direction of Chiefs in Assembly. The next Chief in Assembly meeting will be on May 27th.

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| Action |
| Kluane Adamek will send all analyses and info on Bill 33 as it becomes available. |

Kluane Adamek shared her work under a Fellowship and would like to be involved in FNEC’s policy and protocol piece. The Jane Glasgow Fellowship aims to strengthen Northern involvement in federal public policy. Tina Jules suggested that Kluane’s work be tied into the work FNEC is doing—to communicate and mutually support.

**Tab 10 Review & Approval of Minutes from February 12th & 13th, 2014**

It was brought to light that quorum was not achieved at the February 12th and 13th meeting, therefore decisions made do not stand. There was follow-through on some action items and other action items became irrelevant due to changed circumstances.

Tina Jules reviewed the requests of Janet McDonald with the CYFN Executive Director and it was determined that we will not share FNEC minutes with Janet.

Tim provided the environmental scan at the last meeting.

Bill C33 – political change, currently not relevant.

Tina is working with Graham to have our historical docs on our website.

Editorial requests were incorporated into the documents.

Item for the next meeting: Selection of co-chair (Shandell McCarthy is withdrawing) and revisit chir, co-chair and alternate.

Briefing note to Leadership for direction on engagement.

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| Actions |
| FNEC to provide suggestions on an Elder to FNEC: to be approved at the next meeting.A chart of action items to be developed – stand alone with date, action, status.Request to Health and Social to present on Cultural Protocols project.Shandell McCarthy will ask for an update on PSB school language programs review.ASETS is sunsetting in 2015: FNEC to request a presentation on Work Futures.Dave Joe’s paper. FNEC to follow up with Leadership.Tosh to put in a request to Mike for an update. Followed up.Briefing note to Leadership for direction on engagement. |

*3:00-3:15 p.m. Coffee Break*

3:15 – 4:30

**Tab 11 Discussion: Student Financial Assistance Act/Yukon Grant Section**

Students caught in catch 22. Yukon Grant no longer needs the budget in order to apply for the grant. Encourage to apply for loans – if they apply, they don’t have to accept the funding. It does open the doors for other funding possibilities. New funding application is made much easier and makes other funding pots easily accessible.

SFA is under review – There remains question regarding who qualifies.

**Tab 12 Discussion: FNEC Strategic Planning – Retreat**

Tabled.

**Next Meeting, Closing Comments, Closing Prayer**

FNEC members did a round table on next steps concerning the YLS. Mixed opinions were expressed (mistrust and scepticism vs. recognition of efforts to build relationships on the part of YG).

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| Actions |
| Tina Jules to redraft the briefing note and construct a flow chart. |

Closing prayer.