**First Nation Education Commission (FNEC) Meeting**

Whitehorse, Yukon

June 17-19, 2014: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Draft Minutes***

**June 17, 2014 – Day 1: CYFN: BOARDROOM #3**

In Attendance:

Geraldine James – Carcross Tagish First Nation (designate)

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

Tim Cant – Teslin Tlingit Council (designate)

Shelby Blackjack – (Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (designate)

Julia Joe – Selkirk First Nation (alternate)

Helen Loots – Liard First Nation (alternate)

Vera Owlchild – Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (alternate)

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

Tina Jules – CYFN Director of Education (designate)

Lynn Sparks – Ta’an Kwachan Council (observer)

Quorum was not achieved until the afternoon at which time at least 67% of the membership was present.

**9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer, Welcome and Introductions**

Opening prayer led by Geraldine James. Roundtable introductions were done.

Housekeeping item: Quorum is required for a meeting. Issues around planning (admin and delegate travel) were raised around last minute decisions to attend, affecting quorum.

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| Motion |
| FNEC meetings will be cancelled if quorum is not achieved three working days prior to a meeting.  Moved by: Tim Cant  Seconded by Ashley Doiron  All in favour.  Adopted by consensus. |

FNEC to let other members know about the motion.

**Tab 1 Review & Acceptance of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed. Tina clarified that the agenda is determined by FNEC, not CYFN. CYFN is only administrative. Agenda items come from the meetings and also pre-meeting calls for agenda items.

Tab 9 moved day 3 to accommodate Tosh Southwick. Add FNEC Elder appointment under Tab 2c. Add Yukon Grant and SFA review under Tab 12 and PSB language review under Tab 12.

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| Motion |
| Motion to approve agenda as amended.  Moved by: Shelby Blackjack  Seconded by: Helen Loots  All in favour.  Adopted by consensus. |

**Tab 2 Review & Acceptance of Minutes**

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| Motion |
| Motion to approve minutes from May 21-22, 2014 with amendments.  Moved by: Helen Loots  Seconded by: Geraldine James  All in favour.  Adopted by consensus. |

1. **Business Arising from Minutes**

Review of action items tabled from the last meeting.

1. **Chair Selection for FNEC**

Tina shared the difficultly of coordinating two co-chairs from an administrative point of view and suggested the appointment of a chair and alternate.

Chair/co-chair and alternate selection tabled to 9:00am Day 3 to accommodate Tosh Southwick. Also required is a review of FNEC’s role.

**c) Elder Selection / Appointment to FNEC**

Due to budget constraints, the Elder is to be from Whitehorse or driven in and accommodated by FNEC rep. Honoraria can be provided. A roundtable was done and names were forwarded.

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| Motion |
| FNEC agrees on interim Elder selection (until further notice) to advise FNEC was as follows:  1st – Mark Wedge  2nd – Pat Van Bibber  3rd – Pat James  Geraldine James to approach Mark Wedge inviting him to FNEC.  (Mark accepted on June 19th.) (867) 399-3507 [mwwedge@gmail.com](mailto:mwwedge@gmail.com).  Moved by: Tim Cant  Seconded by: Julia Joe  All in favour.  Adopted by consensus. |

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

**10:30-12:00**

**Tab 3 FNEC Annual Report & Presentation to CYFN AGA**

Tina distributed and reviewed the CYFN Draft Annual Report and requested feedback. Currently the Deputy Minister is reviewing the JEAP with the Minister.

Tim requested an edit (Duu Chuu Management in lieu of Cant & Jim). There was some discussion on the JEAP and questions on YG control. Tim stressed concern for the unknowns. Tina Jules shared her knowledge of the process behind the development of the JEAP. Also, this is a living document, subject to change and implementation plan that has yet to be developed.

There was some discussion on the need to improve communications. Not all Commissioners are, or can take things back to their Leadership and communities. We should look at how we can improve communications and info transfer.

Tina Jules distributed the FNEC Annual Report to be presented at the CYFN AGA.

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| Actions |
| Report edits: Tina Jules to attach the Resolution to the report; acknowledgement of Ed Schultz and Shelby Blackjack (who will be leaving the Commission for higher education); take out the picture with Julia Joe and insert a photo of the Commission; include the list of priorities, work being done to address issues and roll out of projects at the local level; overhaul page 3 to instead inform Leadership that FNEC seeks direction on an engagement and consultation process.  FNEC members to seek out appointments: LSCFN (requires appointments); TKC (requires appointments); LFN (requires designate); FNNND (requires alternate). |

Local problems came to surface (rift between YFN, families and school resulting in high dropout rates). Education survey / scan / mediator required at the local level.

Tina Jules made the changes and re-presented the document with further edits done at the table on day three (June 19th).

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| Motion |
| That the FNEC Annual Report (final) is accepted with final amendments.  Moved by Julia Joe  Seconded by Ashley Doiron  All in favour.  Passed by consensus. |

**Tab 4 YFN Literacy Framework – Interim Sub-Committee**

1. **Shelby Blackjack, Geraldine James, Jeremy McCullough**

Has not been moved on because Tina Jules was informed of funding only in principle ($20 000) to allow for one pilot project that requires a contractor (who will seek out further funding to push this further). Once funding is in place, we will act on forming the interim (to develop the TOR) and formal (to develop the Project Charter and Strategy) subcommittees.

**Yukon Literacy Strategy – FNEC action was to follow-up by reviewing at First Nation level**

Tina Jules reviewed the histories of the YLS and YFN LF and where we’re at with the two documents. It was suggested that FNEC request from YG acknowledgement of the YFN LF in the YLS. It could be a way to “link” without compromising.

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| Motion |
| That FNEC will draft a letter to the Minister requesting a commitment to promoting the YFN LF within the YLS and support the development of a YFN LF implementation strategy as per the attached proposal. FNEC will request funding for the subcommittee, implementation strategy and pilot project.  Moved by Ashley Doiron  Seconded by Geraldine James  All in favor.  Adopted by consensus. |

Roundtable thoughts on the YLS and the motion above. Lynn Sparks is not sure how this will all play out. She would like to see the YLS supporting the YFN LF and some way to connect the two. Tim Cant sees the YFN LF as the way to close the gap: should be reflected in the YG Education system. It should be recognized and acknowledged by Advanced Ed. Ashley Doiron sees the significance of the YFN LF document. It should be celebrated and acknowledged by YG and not made to fit in to the YLS. Julia Joe is in agreement. Helen Loots is okay with having ‘two trains’. Shelby Blackjack: the framework focuses on indigenous methodologies. It should be our contribution to their strategy. Geraldine James has shared info with Leadership and Executive Council. They have been in support. Roberta Hager will seek feedback from her FN.

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| Action |
| FNEC to follow up with this discussion at the community level (Chief and Council/supervisor). |

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

**1:00-2:00**

**Tab 5 Tabled from last meeting: Discussions re: Consultations, Involvement and Engagement**

**Activity: Direction & Next Steps from FNEC**

**Direction re: Consultations, Involvement and Engagement**

Tina Jules distributed the handout: Consultations, Engagement, Involvement, Feedback. There are many issues and areas and there is no process/policy/protocol for involvement or engagement in place. Discussion took place on how areas needing First Nation involvement, engagement, perspective and/or consultations.

Engagement/Consultation needs and issues that were identified:

Labour Market Framework

Yukon Literacy Strategy

Student Information System

School language programs

Curriculum dev/redesign

FN Education Programs – EIS, CI, CBTO, Tutoring

Summer Academy

New Teacher Orientation

New Programs – REM, Blended Learning, Learning Together, CHAOS, ACES, MADD, ILC

Policy Reviews/Dev. Code of conduct/behaviour

Legislation Rev/Dev – Student Financial Assistance Act / Guaranteed Reps

New Positions – FNPP Linguist, 4th Super

Staffing/Hiring/Formula

Yukon Excellence Awards / School level / YFN Awards

How do we engage with so many initiatives?

🡪 YG (FNPP, PSB, AE) 🡪 CYFN (YNLC) 🡪 FNEC 🡪 local FN 🡪 School Council (guaranteed reps) 🡪

Also: AYSC, AYSA, YTA/School reps, sub-associations, language teachers, YNTEP, Yukon College

There are many stakeholders. There is a need to clarify roles and responsibilities.

YG has a lot of resources (financial and human). For FNEC representatives, FNEC is only one of many files. We need policy and protocol to be developed. Research existing protocol policies; identify issues and impacts is also needed. A policy developer will be contracted to assist. For now, we should map out/ initiate a plan on how to proceed.

Roundtable discussion identifying top priorities that will be the focus of the contractor (in the development of policy and protocol):

1) Localized curriculum development;

2) System-wide changes such as curriculum redesign;

3) Guaranteed Representation

Ideas put forward (be explored at the retreat): strategic plan (outlining who does what) which will act as a foundation; actions with timeline; organizational / flow charts; communication strategy, handbook development; recommendations to Leadership.

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| Motion |
| FNEC supports Tina Jules and Tosh Southwick’s development of a common draft briefing note for ensuring appropriate FNEC involvement, participation, collaboration and engagement in Yukon education initiatives as related to YFN education.  Moved by Tim Cant  Seconded by Ashely Doiron  All in favour.  Adopted by consensus. |

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

**2:30-3:30**

**Tab 6 Tabled from last meeting: Discussions re: Committees/Boards/Councils**

**Activity: Direction & Next Steps from FNEC**

**Direction re: Committees, Boards and Councils**

Tina Jules led an activity to help think through the organizational system as pertains to Yukon’s education system:

Level 3 – SYSTEM (Ministry/Province/ sometimes Boards and Councils)

* Yukon Education
* **FNEC – Advises Leadership**

Level 2 – SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION & SCHOOLS (Ministry/School Board/School Council)

* **YFN EAC – Advises YG**
* Guaranteed Reps
* FNPP
* CELCs/ESWs/EOCs

Level 1 – SCHOOLS

* Local ed. Committees
* Elder in the School
* Language Teachers
* FN Study Teachers
* Principals
* Teachers
* EAs
* RTs

Tina provided a brief historical overview of YFN education bodies and departments from her perspective to explain the history of YFN EAC. At a certain point FNEC will need to identify what to advise Leadership in terms of YFN EAC Co-Chair and TOR.

The membership requested time to learn more about YFN EAC. When and if there is a letter to Leadership from the ADM, it will likely come to FNEC.

Some FNs need to consult at the local level.

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| Actions |
| FNEC members to read over and become informed about the TORs of the various bodies including YFN EAC.  Tina Jules and Tosh Southwick to develop a draft briefing note (at least five days in advance) on YFN EAC to Leadership. |

**June 18, 2014 - Day 2: CYFN: BOARDROOM #1**

**In Attendance:**

Geraldine James – Carcross Tagish First Nation (designate)

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

Tim Cant – Teslin Tlingit Council (designate)

Shelby Blackjack – (Littell Salmon Carmacks First Nation (designate)

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

Shandell McCarthy – Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (designate)

Julia Joe – Selkirk First Nation (alternate)

Helen Loots – Liard First Nation (alternate)

Vera Owlchild – Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (alternate)

Tina Jules – CYFN Director of Education (designate)

Lynn Sparks – Ta’an Kwachan Council (observer)

**9:00 a.m. Review of Previous Day & Outline of Day**

**Tab 7 YFN Education Protocol & Policy Framework**

1. **Project Charter**
2. **Priorities**
3. **Sub-Committee and TOR**

\*\*\*\* See Tab 5 and Tab 6 as this area was discussed then.

***10:15-10:30 Coffee Break***

**Tab 8 Awareness & Promotion of FNEC: Brochure, Group Photo, Community Tours, Education Week, and YFN Graduation**

**(FNEC action was to forward photos and brief bio)**

A photo was taken for promotional purposes.

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| Actions |
| FNEC members to send in a brief bio.  Each community will decide when Tina and her team will come out to provide an update based on a FN invitation. |

Shandell McCarthy provided the example of FNESC going out to inform communities of its work. It was suggested that the co-chairs attend community visits.

Ideas put forward:

That we host our own YFN Education Week (territory-wide) – fits within FNEC’s mandate. To be further discussed.

An FNEC calendar highlighting FNEC members each month.

Creating/pioneering an award (named after Elders) that celebrates and recognizes traditional skills/ is based on the YFN Literacy Framework to be presented to a champion of YFN Literacy (possibly both an Elder and youth).

A post-secondary / trades celebration / graduation.

***12:00-1:00 Lunch Break***

**1:00-2:15**

**Tab 9 Yukon Labour Market Framework – Pillars, Strategies & Action Plans**

**Discussion: Review Letters & Advisory Committee**

**Activity: Direction & Next Steps**

Tosh Southwick shared her knowledge of the YLMS (deals with labour shortage). ASETS is sun setting. The LMF has unfolded with a similar process as the Yukon Literacy Strategy: FNs not adequately engaged, not on the LMF decision-making committee and not represented. Immigration given priority. YFNs do not see themselves reflected in the strategy. There has been push on the part of YFNs for a fifth pillar. YFNs want to be considered as governments, not NGOs and want to revisit the original LM document. Shawn Kitchen has suggested a FN committee that engages in the four existing pillars. The relationship is not working – they need to be asking us how we want to be involved in this. There is also a review of the Financial Assistance Act and Yukon Grant on the horizon. YFNs are demanding a voice in this review.

Tosh suggests the development of a committee that deals specifically with Advanced Ed and develop a means and process of engagement. (It’s at the FNEC table because it’s lifelong learning and there is a lot of money attached. Tosh proposes a meeting with Advanced Ed. in the fall. Time is required to get direction from Leadership. A roundtable was done. Capacity issues were voiced, yet it is recognized as a very important issue.

Tosh explained how the Health Commission works to map out a way that FNEC should work in terms of a process. (FNEC discussions with YG = engagement; consultation = YG discussions with individual YFNs). Tim Cant expressed his view that we need to go political to strengthen FNEC.

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| Motion |
| That Tosh Southwick develop a briefing note regarding the situation around engagement with Advanced Ed. to be presented at the CYFN AGA and to take back to Chiefs and Councils. Briefing note to outline the urgency: FNs not being consulted; relegated to stakeholder status; undermining SGAs.  Recommendations: to move this to a political level and FNEC will have a solid plan to move forward to present to Leadership if requested.  Moved by Shelby Blackjack  Seconded by Helen Loots  All in favor.  Passed by consensus. |

***2:15-2:30 Coffee Break***

**2:30-4:00**

**Tab 10 YFN Secondary Graduation & Grad Committee**

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| Action |
| FNEC to invite a committee member / Kim Rumley to present on the Grad Committee: background info on the TOR, how the committee evolved, who comprises it, decision-making processes, budget etc. |

**June 19, 2014 - Day 3: CYFN: BOARDROOM #1**

**In Attendance:**

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

Tim Cant – Teslin Tlingit Council (designate)

Shelby Blackjack – (Littell Salmon Carmacks First Nation (designate)

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

Tosh Southwick – Kluane First Nation (designate)

Julia Joe – Selkirk First Nation (alternate)

Helen Loots – Liard First Nation (alternate)

Vera Owlchild – Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (alternate)

Tina Jules – CYFN Director of Education (designate)

**9:00 a.m. Review of Previous Day & Outline of Day**

**TAB 11 Discussion: FNEC Strategic Planning – Retreat**

**Decision: Location, Agenda**

Tina Jules said she was still waiting to hear back from YG regarding funding. The retreat will center on the development of an organizational chart, strategic plan and handbook for FNEC.

Tentative date: August 6-7th tagging on to the CELC retreat in Dawson City.

**Update on Joint Education Action Plan – Roberta, Tosh, Tina**

Covered under the Draft Education Report. Valerie Royle, Deputy Minister, is meeting with Minister Taylor to determine what they will support. The implementation strategy is not developed yet and there are a lot of unknowns, therefore some caution on the part of YG. They are also working out their vetting mechanism.

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

**10:30-12:00**

**Tab 12 Updates:**

1. **FN Student Achievement Reports – Tina**

Tina Jules distributed a package “Sources to the YFN Joint education Action Plan” and provided an update on work being done with Judy Arnold and the YFN Statistics Branch (Melissa Carlick and Gerry Ewertt). She explained that we have draft reports but the data isn’t accurate and it’s not public yet. We’re getting to a place where we can share and access data. Tina explained the pilot projects. We need to know where our kids are at and we need to be able to identify the resources being put in by YFNs – helps determine ways and directions for drawing down.

1. **Guaranteed Reps – School Councils**

Another area that needs FNEC attention. Roberta Hager explained the SC election and GR appointment processes.

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| Action |
| Find out how many school councils and how many guaranteed reps. |

1. **YFN EAC discussion from FNEC attendees**

YFN EAC was previously discussed.

1. **Student Financial Assistance Act review and Yukon Grant**

How many / who is involved in this review?

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| Action |
| Add this as an issue to be brought up through the briefing note to Leadership as it concerns the area of Advanced Education. |

1. **Discussion on Co-Chairs**

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| Motion |
| That FNEC hereby appoints Roberta Hager-Ball as the Co-Chair of FNEC, passed by consensus. |

***12:00-1:00 Lunch Break***

**1:30 – 3:00 Commissioner Roundtable: Successes, Challenges & Priorities**

Roberta Hager shared transportation / bus issues in her community.

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| Action |
| Request a policy related to transportation in the community. |

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

**3:15 – 4:30 FNEC Meetings for 2014-2015**

August 6-7, 2014 (Retreat)

October 22-23, 2014

Feb 18-19, 2015

May 5-6, 2015

YFN Education Summit: March 3-4th 2015.

**Agenda Items for next FNEC meeting**

Retreat: Strategic planning (pending secured funding).

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

Tosh Southwick led the closing prayer.