

First Nation Education Commission (FNEC) Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon
March 3 2015, 9:00-4:00 p.m.
CYFN Boardroom #3

Draft Agenda

8:30 a.m. Coffee & Muffins/Fruit

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

**Tab 1 Review & Acceptance of Agenda
Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Jan 12-13, 2015
Business Arising from Minutes**

**Tab 2 Leadership Meeting (Jan. 20-22nd)
Tosh Southwick
a) YFN EAC
b) FNEC TOR**

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

**Tab 3 YFN Education Summit
a) Review of Agenda
b) FNEC Panel**

Tab 4 Literacy Strategy – Final Draft Review and Endorsement

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

**Tab 5 Student Financial Aid Consultation
Tosh Southwick**

**Tab 6 Public Schools Update
Tosh Southwick**

**Tab 7 Advanced Education
Labour Market Strategy**

2:30-2:45 p.m. Coffee Break

**Tab 8 CYFN Education Projects
a) YFN Education Data Strategy, Framework & Reports Update
Parent Satisfaction Survey**

First Nation Education Commission (FNEC) Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon
March 3 2015, 9:00-4:00 p.m.
CYFN Boardroom #3

Draft Minutes

8:30 a.m. Coffee & Muffins/Fruit

Attendance:

Mark Wedge, Elder representative
Roberta Hager (teleconference), FNEC Co-Chair, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun
Tosh Southwick, FNEC Co-Chair, Kluane First Nation
Ashley Doiron (teleconference), Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation
Janie Lee Silas (teleconference), Ross River Dena Council
Corinne Carvill on behalf of Geraldine James, Carcross / Tagish First Nation
Lynn Sparks, Ta'an Kwach'an Council
Vera Owlchild, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation
James Smarch, Teslin Tlingit Council
Michelle Kolla, A/Education Director, Council of Yukon First Nations
Jennifer Wykes, Council of Yukon First Nations
Miranda Chitze, Observer

Quorum not achieved based 64% attendance.

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

Mark Wedge led the opening prayer. A roundtable introduction was done.

Tab 1 Review & Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was accepted with the following additions: 1) Training Policy Committee Funding Proposal (Tab 9) and 2) an update on the CYFN Education Director position.

Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Jan 12-13, 2015

January 12-13 2015 minutes were passed via email (Tosh Southwick, Janie Lee Silas and Lynn Sparks) with a minor amendment.

Business Arising from Minutes

A question was asked about the mandate of FNEC and whether it takes away from individual mandates. It was clarified that jurisdiction always remains with the individual YFNs. FNEC deals with items at a central level and partnerships are good (ie. the JEAP).

Due to staffing transitions and capacity, a number of items were carried forward from the January meeting.

Funding constraints due to capacity issues. Letter to be written regarding the letter to Albert Trask. The next FNEC agenda must address this.

Action:

Tosh will follow up with Michelle regarding Copyright policy that Darren Leas would have knowledge about.

Lawrence Ignace and Albert Trask have committed some resources to YFN Education at the last JEAP meeting. Mark Wedge remarked that as an election year, there is a window to get them to commit. The question is, how to maximize it. The JEAP has a number of action items. It would be good to get them at this time to commit. Michelle shared the stresses of CYFN. EPP funding and Northern Contaminants funding have been grouped in under the umbrella funding for CYFN. There will be departments competing for funding and our core will be limited. Canada will not be contributing anything. The only funding will be from Public Schools Branch and Advanced Education. AANDC funding will only be on reserve and not North of 60. Mark commented that KDFN, CTFN, TKC, RRDC and THFN all have reserve status as negotiated in SGAs. There are 11 reserves in total.

Action:

Michelle Kolla will get more information from Darren Lease regarding reserve status.

Mark Wedge suggested putting a proposal together for a YFN school. Roberta Hager remarked that enrolment is down because YFN students are not self-identifying. They can't shut down a school based on declining enrolment but they can if there is no enrolment.

It was suggested that we do some research on the CIEA. It can really make a difference in YFN Education if we enact this. YG and Canada knows there is funding attached to this and it is on the FNEC strategic plan. The French school and board is an example. It is the main part of the JEAP. Regarding this, Janet McDonald wants to present DoE actions within the JEAP at the next FNEC meeting.

Action:

Invite to Janet McDonald to present at the next FNEC meeting.

Regarding Curriculum Redesign, (curriculum is being revised by YG) there is a pillar for YFNs that is outcomes-based. YFN EAC was the original body for these discussions. We are looking to building the capacities of CELCs/ESWs to participate in the process. What are the expected measurable outcomes and philosophies?

Action:

Jenn Wykes to request update on curriculum redesign and the process from Nicole Morgan.

Regarding the Gadzoosdaa Review, there needs to be First Nation representation: Robin Smarch, Sam Johnston and Randall Tetlichy are on the review committee. There is a proposal on the table that Gadzoosdaa be opened up to international students because a number of dorms are vacant. This will change the dynamics of the dorm in a big way. Val Royle is looking to begin a Gadzoosdaa Board that FNEC could sit on.

Action:

Jenn Wykes to request an update from review committee members to be presented at the next FNEC meeting.

Mark suggests a student studying Psychology to develop a research project developing a culturally relevant YFN student assessment tools.

**Tab 2 Leadership Meeting (Jan. 20-22nd)
Tosh Southwick
a) YFN EAC**

YFN EAC has not had quorum for eight meetings. It hasn't been functioning well for three years and is only advisory not consultation. The funding for YFN EAC is in the process of being transferred. \$120 000 + funding from Advanced Education will provide for six FNEC meetings/year plus CELC in services as well as admin assistance.

b) FNEC TOR

Regarding the Leadership motion supporting the inclusion of culture and language within FNEC's mandate and accompanying changes to FNEC's Terms of Reference, Michelle Kolla informed that Leadership minutes are not yet complete and have yet to be passed.

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

**Tab 3 YFN Education Summit
a) Review of Agenda**

The JEAP Implementation Strategy has to be complete by the end of the fiscal year. When Tina left her position the JEAP process paused as the other partners have not been proactive. Jenn came up with the idea that the JEAP Implementation Plan be developed at the Summit with breakout groups being led by the Working Group. The more YFN input into the strategy the better. It was decided that Tina would facilitate with the information to be compiled by Jennifer Wykes. The JEAP Implementation Plan will assist with the funding.

b) FNEC Panel

The Summit FNEC Panel: Tosh Southwick, Roberta Hager and Janie Lee Silas.

An overview of Summit attendees was done.

Tab 4 Literacy Strategy – Final Draft Review and Endorsement

Geraldine James and Jeremy McCulloch are on the Literacy Subcommittee. Tosh provided a background on the YG Literacy Strategy: KDFN was the only YFN that was active on the committee. Advanced Education wanted the document ratified by YFNs. FNEC said it did not reflect YFNs aspirations for literacy. At the same time, CYFN developed a YFN Literacy Framework. We have been negotiating and co-developing with YG ever since. Tosh provided an update on her last meeting with Shawn Kitchen. Shawn wants to know where we are at with the process. The document currently reads that NGOs are mandated to work in the communities. Tosh suggests that the current draft be taken back to the individual YFNs for approval so we can move ahead. Some YFNs will not ratify the document because they weren't involved from the beginning. However, funding is tied to the strategy. Michelle suggests that YFNs be given the opportunity to sign on when they are ready. Tosh feels that FNEC's presence reflects cohesion. We did provide an update to Leadership last spring. As Commissioners, we provide recommendations to Leadership and they make the decision.

Tosh stressed the need to make a decision and move forward as we've put them on hold too long. Janie Lee expressed her dissatisfaction that not all YFNs are on board with the Strategy.

Advanced Ed is mandated to consult. Tosh has asked for funding for 2 FNEC meetings, plus .25 admin assistant. This would give Advanced Ed a process for engagement, not consultation. It's currently on Shawn's table for his consideration. Tosh thinks the only thing that would hold them back is the new minister. Their strategies (ie. Labour Market and Literacy) have been on hold because they have not been ratified by YFNs, so it's in their best interest. The transfer agreement represents YG's purchase of YFN engagement.

Action:
Tosh Southwick and Jenn Wykes will go through the document, incorporate changes and circulate to the commissioners with a deadline for final review. We will then arrange a meeting with the Literacy Strategy Working Group. Tosh and Roberta will follow up on the contract with Tina regarding the completion of the Literacy Strategy.

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

**Tab 5 Student Financial Aid Consultation
Tosh Southwick**

Tosh Southwick reviewed the request for consultation letter from Public Schools Branch. Tosh expressed issues within the SFA Act that have been contentions for eight years. The major issue at hand: status students under Indian Affairs are supported by their YFNs because the Act currently allows those students access to the Yukon Grant but not student financial assistance or the training allowance. Oftentimes FN students don't have access to acquired wealth. It needs to be equitable. The letter asks how YFNs want to be consulted on this and invites FNEC to be part of the consultation. Also, YFNs are invited to consult

directly, outside of FNEC. Janie Lee expressed concern regarding RRDC specifics. It's difficult to get the council to even meet. The matter requires a Leadership resolution.

Tosh provided a breakdown on the number of students accessing funds: Yukon Grant, Training Trust and Canada Student Loans.

It was noted that letters requesting engagement were addressed to the Chiefs, not education departments.

Actions:
To have the SFA Act review on the agenda at the April Leadership meeting.
FNEC to talk to their Leadership regarding how they want to consult.
FNEC to draft a letter to say we are appreciative to be engaged, but not consulted as decisions rest at the Leadership Board.
FNEC is seeking direction from the Leadership Board regarding consultation processes.
Corrine to find the CTFN portal for education consultation as a possible model.
Tosh to provide background on the Student Financial Aid Act.
Ashley will consider approaching Dexter, who holds the file for post-secondary regarding the briefing note he is preparing, to share as an example of how THFN is dealing with it.

**Tab 6 Public Schools Update
 Tosh Southwick**

**Tab 7 Advanced Education
 Labour Market Strategy**

Tosh Southwick shared that the Labour Market Strategy is on hold until the Literacy Strategy is finished, although the LMS is moving ahead. Mark discussed a YFN-driven labour market strategy. (Example: education and economic data = labour market dollars).

We have to tap into the Canadian to territorial financial transfer. For example transfer of funding for literacy = \$275 000 to Yukon Learn. Advanced Ed received 14M over the past five years for Labour Market and Literacy. The question is, how much went to YFNs? Funding went to the foreign workers program and the administration of that department. Tosh has requested a breakdown of the funding and her interest in redirecting the focus of the program as it is currently geared to the urban fast food industry rather than industries in the communities.

In addition, Roberta Hager is seeking information on the Community Training Fund.

Motion:

FNEC directs their co-chair to get information from Advanced Ed on how much funding was distributed to YFN communities.

Moved by Janie Lee, seconded by James Smarch.

2:30-2:45 p.m. Coffee Break

Tab 8 CYFN Education Projects

**a) YFN Education Data Strategy, Framework & Reports Update
Parent Satisfaction Survey**

Jake Lee presented his parent satisfaction survey. He explained that he did not receive questions back from the Commission. The Commission directed that he should proceed without them. There was a general discussion on privacy legislation vs. OCAP. He will be looking at the background to facilitate a data sharing agreement. We should be working in partnership with Yukon Education.

Action:

Ask Lori Eastmure to bring the Yukon Education Enrolment Form to the next FNEC meeting. Enrolment form to include a clause that this form will be shared with YFNs and CYFN.

**b) YFN Parent Empowerment Project Update
Miranda Chitze**

Miranda Chitze presented the Parent Engagement Project and her deliverables. Mark suggests expanding the title 'parents' to be more reflective/inclusive – aunts, uncles, community and family etc. Tosh suggests getting rid of measures of success explaining that it's rather a matter of kids going from grade 12 to post-secondary and should reflect measures of happiness.

**c) YFN Policy and Protocols Update
Janie-Lee Silas, Lynn Sparks and Mark Wedge**

Janie Lee provided a background on the Policy and Protocol process. With Lori Eastmure, the subcommittee looked at policy from various places in the country. Janie Lee feels uncomfortable presenting the document at the Summit because it was developed by non-First Nations. The subcommittee has requested Elder Mark Wedge introduce the document. The subcommittee will be presenting the draft framework (as an example) that will be developed further.

c) CYFN Education Director hire

Michelle provided an update on the Education Director position: the advertisement will circulate internally, then sent to YFNs, then made public. We are currently in the interview process. Michelle shared that FNEC has no involvement because FNEC is a political appointment. CYFN is administrative and is responsible for its own hiring. Tosh and Michelle had a conversation that there is a separation between FNEC and CYFN. If the Ed Director is not working favourably with FNEC, it will be addressed with CYFN.

Tab 9 Training Policy Committee

There was a consensus on the Training Policy Proposal. The Commission wants to proceed. It was suggested that we get some funding to have draft the proposal since the proposal is quite extensive. A project subcommittee will give input to the consultant. Janie Lee Silas and Mark Wedge expressed interest in the subcommittee.

Action:
Jenn Wykes to look into funding for a contractor to draft the proposal.

Next meeting date: May 5-6th.