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

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 5-6 2015, 9:00-4:00 p.m.

CYFN Boardroom #1

***Agenda***

**May 5 *Day 1***

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

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

**Tab 1 Review & Acceptance of Agenda**

**Review & Acceptance of Minutes from March 3, 2015**

**Business Arising from Minutes**

**Tab 2 CYFN Education – FNEC Subcommittees (JEAP) Projects Update**

**2014-15**

1. **YFN Policy and Protocol Framework**
2. **Student Achievement (Data Strategy)**
3. **Parent/Community Engagement**

**2015-16**

1. **YFN School Feasibility Study**
2. **FNEC/CELC/ESW/EOC Professional Development and Training**
3. **Parent/Community Engagement**

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

**Tab 3 FNEC TOR**

1. **CYFN Education / FNEC**
2. **Funding Proposal and Budget**

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

**Tab 4 Yukon Education**

1. **Labour Market Strategy Update**
2. **Literacy Strategy Update**
3. **Final Review of the Yukon Literacy Strategy**
4. **FNEC-YLS working group meeting May 19**

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

**Tab 5 Yukon Education**

**Curriculum Redesign**

**Nicole Morgan**

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

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 5-6 2015 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CYFN Boardroom #1

***Agenda***

**May 6 *Day 2***

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

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

**Tab 6 Student Financial Assistance Act Review**

**Yukon Education, Mosaic Communications**

1. **Questionnaire**
2. **BN Leadership**

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

**Tab 7 Health Behaviours of School Age Children Yukon Report**

**Jennifer Wykes**

**Tab 8 Rural Strategy Meetings**

**Tab 9 Gadzoodsaa Update**

**Subcommittee members**

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

**Tab 10 Yukon Education**

**Departmental Update: Judy Arnold**

**Tab 11 Joint Education Action Plan Implementation Strategy Review**

**JEAP Working Group**

***2:30-2:45 Coffee Break***

**Tab 12 Cape Breton and Yukon College youth Mentorship**

**4:00 p.m. Next Meeting & Closing Prayer**

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

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 5-6 2015 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CYFN Boardroom #1

***Draft Minutes***

***Day 1 – May 5th***

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

**Attendance:**

FNEC Elder: Mark Wedge, Elder representative

FNEC Appointed Members:

Roberta Hager-Ball, FNEC Co-Chair, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun

Tosh Southwick, FNEC Co-Chair, Kluane First Nation (came @10:30)

Ashley Doiron, Tr’ondek Hwech’in First Nation

Geraldine James, Carcross / Tagish First Nation (came @ 2:30)

Lynn Sparks, Ta’an Kwach’an Council

Paula Banks, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation

James Smarch, Teslin Tlingit Council

Jennifer Wykes, Education Director, Council of Yukon First Nations

Regrets:

Jeremy McCulloch, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

Julia Joe, Selkirk First Nation

Observers:

Therese Lindsay, Kwanlin Dun First Nation

Pat Cassidy, Kwanlin Dun First Nation

Alma Wrixon, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Appointments Required:

Ross River Dena Council (Absent)

White River First Nation (Absent)

Liard First Nation (Absent)

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (Appointment Required)

Guests/Presenters:

Day 1 – May 5th

Nicole Morgan, Director of Learning Support Services, Yukon Education

Note Taker:

Rose Sellars, Education Programs Coordinator, Council of Yukon First Nations

**Quorum requires 66% (9 out of 14) of the membership in attendance. Quorum was not achieved at this meeting base on 57% of the membership present.**

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

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

**Tab 1 Review & Acceptance of Agenda**

Roberta Hager-Ball (Roberta) went through the agenda.

Tab 5 Student Financial Act (SFA)

There was a discussion regarding what this was about and how there needs to be a better way to work with Advanced Education (Advanced Ed) because there was no consultation on this review.

Tab 7 Advanced Education – Labour Market Strategy

There was discussion about fundin, and about how the personnel changes in the Dept. of Education (Yukon Ed/Dept./Dept. of Ed/YG) affect Yukon First Nations (YFNs/FNs).

Mark suggested having FNs keep in contact with Michael Hale who is the new Chief of Staff for the Yukon Party.

|  |
| --- |
| Motion: |
| Motion to accept agenda as presented. Ashley Doiron (Ashley) moved, 2nd by Roberta. All in favour. |

**Review & Acceptance of Minutes from March 3, 2015**

* **Business Arising from Minutes**

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Spelled Daryn Leas’ name wrong, Jennifer Wykes (Jenn) to make the correction. |

|  |
| --- |
| Motion: |
| Motion to accept minutes as presented. Paula Banks (Paula) moved, 2nd by Lynn Sparks (Lynn). All in favour. |

**Tab 2 Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) Education – FNEC Subcommittees**

**(Joint Education Action Plan (JEAP)) Projects Update**

**2014-15**

1. **YFN Policy and Protocol Framework**
2. **Student Achievement (Data Strategy)**
3. **Parent/Community Engagement**

**2015-16**

1. **YFN School Feasibility Study**
2. **FNEC/Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC)/Education Support Worker (ESW)/Education Outreach Coordinator (EOC) Professional Development and Training**
3. **Parent/Community Engagement**

Jenn provided some background for the projects that were completed in 2014-15. She also talked about the budget that was passed in the Department of Ed. Roberta mentioned how there doesn’t seem to be many services for the smaller communities.

**a) YFN Policy and Protocol (PP) Framework**

Jenn provided an overview on the PP Framework (framework) and inquired about how to proceed. Mark worked on this documents as well as Janie Lee Silas and Lynn Sparks with contractor Lori Eastmure. The document does not speak to policies regarding how YG should consult with YFNs but does speak to the JEAP.

Discussions arose around who owns the document and how to get YG to accept it, whether it should be a policy document for YG or for YFNs. Need to ask Judy Arnold (Judy) how this document can be implemented in the Dept. Also need to take this document to leadership and obtain approval to move it forward.

There was a lengthy discussion on whether the framework should become a policy for YFNs and YG and about how, or if it’s possible, to use this document to move forward on the design and implementation of YFN Acts. Discussion about what the process would look like and would they want to develop their own legislation and if they did, what would be the purpose of it.

The group determined that there is a need to assess students in all schools to find out how many words they know in a FN language by the time they are in Gr. 5.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Jenn Wykes to present the document *“This is How We Work”* to leadership as an update.  Question for Judy: How can we get the department to work with this framework?  Jenn Wykes to send minutes from the Education Summit to Roberta Hager.  FNEC members need to take this document to their leadership for approval. |

**b) Student Achievement (Data Strategy)**

Jenn gave some background on the *How Are We Doing? (HAWD) Report.* Discussed how data could not be obtained from the Dept of Ed and had a discussion with Judy. The following week Judy brought a data-sharing document as reference to use as a template for a data sharing agreement.

The document was passed around. There was discussion about why the data sharing document came from the Dept. Commission will review the document and bring comments back tomorrow before taking it back to leadership.

Jenn pointed out the copy of the Student Enrolment Form that was in the binders. There was discussion about the form regarding what content it should contain and how the FNs could use it. They determined to ask Judy if FNEC could have input into the creation of a new Student Enrolment Form that would contain information relevant for FNs to use.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Commission will review the data sharing TOR and bring comments tomorrow.  Ask Judy if FNEC can have input into the creation of the student enrolment form. |

1. **Parent/Community Engagement**

Jenn provided background about the project. A contractor worked with CTFN on a Parent/Community Engagement project. CYFN will be expanding the work that the contractor did to all communities. This is one of the projects for which funding was applied for.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Jenn to create a briefing note to let the communities know what this parent/community project is about and why it’s coming to all communities before it goes to the communities. |

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

1. **YFN School Feasibility Study**

Jenn provided some background about the project. Jenn feels this might not happen this year as the Pro-D piece should come first.

There was some discussion about how this project tied in with the JEAP. There are a lot of action items on the JEAP that CYFN needs to find funding for. Why can’t Dept of Ed help with funding these projects if this is in the agreed implementation plan?

1. **FNEC/CELC/ESW/EOC Professional Development and Training**

Jenn drew a diagram of how she imagines training should go -in a pyramid shape: political on top, school board and admin in the middle and student learning on the bottom. Top is tier 3, middle tier 2 and bottom tier 1.

Jenn applied for funding to bring two people from “outside” with example of success to talk about what has been done in their community – maybe from Mi’kmaq? Also would like to have someone knowledgeable about land claims and the power to draw down education in the future.

There was a discussion and drawing of training models that everyone thought should be used. A template model should be developed so that all FNs could use it and make it individual to the FN. No matter what the diagram might be, the focus should be on the student. A long discussion regarding wording or meaning for “school”, curriculum content, and how FN children can be successful in the education system.

There was also discussion about language and how traditional names should be used for landmarks, how FNEC should find a word in FN language that means education. Mark told a story about travelling with a Masters student to find information for their thesis. How the Elders named these places after what could be found there. Eg. Big eagle nest – when they arrived there were two eagles in a tree. YG created a “Place Names” book and FNs should be using that.

More discussion ensued regarding the Dept. of Ed and the JEAP, as well as the Minister’s radio interview this morning. Dept. of Ed needs to say they are behind the JEAP Implementation Strategy before it goes to the FNs. More information and discussion was exchanged about the JEAP and how Education seems to be committed and excited about the JEAP.

1. **Parent/Community Engagement**

[Mentioned above in c).]

**Tab 3 FNEC TOR**

1. **CYFN Education / FNEC**
2. **Funding Proposal and Budget**

Tosh gave some background about TOR, and then went into a different topic. CYFN executive (the Executive Director and Grand Chief) had a meeting with the College President about how Tosh created problems among FNs on education initiatives.

There was a long discussion about this. Some of the commissioners said they would take the issue back to leadership as CYFN should not be speaking on behalf of the FNs. The members didn’t feel there were any issues with Tosh and they asked if she would like to stay on as Co-Chair. Any problems or issues with FNEC members should be brought to FNEC before going elsewhere.

Jenn felt that it’s important to get CYFN executive’s perspective as only one side is being presented here. The YNLC is implicated in this and this is a sensitive area that the executive must address. She is not in a position to discuss.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Tosh would like any of the commission members to have a discussion with the President of the College if there is any issue with her creating a rift between all the FNs.  Tosh would like to step down as the Co-Chair of the Commission  Jenn will invite Michelle to join on teleconference at 1:00 to partake in this conversation.  Commissioners to take this issue back to their Leadership to discuss. |

There was more discussion about the confusion over what FNEC has authority over, or if they have any authority, how they need a budget just for FNEC. The Commission feels they should sit on any interview board to any position in an education role – especially management positions.

Mark asked Tosh how she was feeling. She expressed hurt and anger and felt there are barriers to moving forward.

Tabled until tomorrow to try and get Michelle on the phone to hear her side.

1. **CYFN Education / FNEC**

FNEC TOR:

The second paragraph was changed to include culture and language. Commission was asked to review 2.1.2 and 3.3

Roberta read through each section of the document. There was discussion about whether the commission was a technical or political advisory board. There were more changes the commission wanted to make and will take this back to Leadership for discussion and recommendations.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Members should highlight this section and go back to leadership for discussion, bring back their recommendations at the next meeting. |

Janet McDonald (Janet) from Dept. of Ed had asked if she could attend FNEC meetings.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| FNEC to ask leadership about how they feel about Dept of Ed (Janet McDonald) attending meetings. |

There was discussion about roles and responsibilities. Overlap between FNEC and CYFN education staff creates some confusion.

Here are the changes the commission would like:

|  |
| --- |
| Actions: |
| Jenn to make the following edits in track changes and send out to Commissioners for review:  3.1 KFN feels this section should be struck. Should be changed so that each YFN can appoint a technical representative to FNEC regardless of if they are signatory to the MOU.  5.1.1. KFN recommended change: “the commission will be the main link between their FN and the commission.”  5.3 KFN recommended change: take out the word “including” and specifically define using bullet form. Add responsibilities as defined by FNEC. For financing use the term “flow through” not “administer” financing. Add briefing notes.  KFN recommended change – CYFN will facilitate the involvement of FNEC in the hiring process regarding positions of concern to FNEC. (FNEC wants to be involved in the hiring of the Director of YNLC).  Add another bullet: FNEC would like to be involved in the hiring of any Education Position.  Take out reference to CYFN in the TOR and replace with CYFN will be the administrator.  Make sure roles and responsibilities are in there for:  Commissioners – designates and alternates  CYFN  Education Director  HOMEWORK: Board members were to read over the TOR, make changes and share their changes with the group.  CYFN will bring forward the budget and provide quarterly updates to the commission. |

**Tab 4 Yukon Education**

**a) Labour Market Strategy Update**

**b) Literacy Strategy Update**

**i) Final Review of the Yukon Literacy Strategy**

**ii) FNEC-YLS working group meeting May 19**

Postponed until Day 2 (Wednesday May 6/15)

**Tab 5 Yukon Education**

**Curriculum Redesign**

**Nicole Morgan**

Nicole Morgan (Nicole) provided a ppt presentation: *“The Changing Role of the Teacher”.* Judy will discuss most of this topic tomorrow. A formal invitation will be made government to government to start a conversation for what this process will look like. Dept of Ed is participating in conversations at a national level about curriculum redesign.

There were a multitude of questions on this topic. There are a lot of changes happening with the curriculum – hopefully for the better. For instance, Nicole described what the role of a teacher is now if they are no longer teaching what you need to memorize. “They are teaching you *how* to learn. Teachers and students are learning partners. Partners have no power; they are equal. Teacher is the designer and activator of learning, not delivering content - going back to questions as a way of learning.”

Nicole showed a video from Watson Lake School and the Blended Learning model that was piloted there. It was a big success according to the teachers and students. She talked about how this model moves from talking about curriculum to engaging ideas. Need to help students find their passion so they love school instead of find it challenging. We’re getting away from what kids need to know and turning instead to what skills do they need to know. How do we have that conversation and what will be the process for that? How do we show the students that they have the capacity within themselves? There is lots of work to be done around their pilot project and there is change that will happen.

There was discussion about this and how the commission is happy to hear about the changes coming and that the Dept. will be working with FNs and others to make the curriculum more relevant to Yukon.

Day one ended at 4:35 pm.

***Day 2 – May 6th***

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

**Attendance:**

FNEC Elder: Mark Wedge, Elder representative

FNEC Appointed Members:

Roberta Hager, FNEC Co-Chair, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun

Tosh Southwick, FNEC Co-Chair, Kluane First Nation (came @ 9:30)

Ashley Doiron, Tr’ondek Hwech’in First Nation

Geraldine James, Carcross / Tagish First Nation

Lynn Sparks, Ta’an Kwach’an Council (left @ 3:30)

Paula Banks, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation

James Smarch, Teslin Tlingit Council (left @ 3:30)

Jennifer Wykes, Education Director, Council of Yukon First Nations

Regrets:

Jeremy McCulloch, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

Julia Joe, Selkirk First Nation

Observers:

Therese Lindsay, Kwanlin Dun First Nation

Pat Cassidy, Kwanlin Dun First Nation

Alma Wrixon, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Appointments Required:

Ross River Dena Council (Absent)

White River First Nation (Absent)

Liard First Nation (Absent)

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (Appointment Required)

Guests/Presenters:

Day 2 – May 6th

Michael McBride, Director Policy, Yukon Education

Marnie Bramadat, A/Manager Financial Assistance, Yukon Education

Amanda Leslie, Contractor for FA Review, Yukon Education

Judy Arnold, A/Deputy Minister, Yukon Education

Janet McDonald, Director, First Nation Initiatives, Yukon Education

Note Taker:

Rose Sellars, Education Programs Coordinator, Council of Yukon First Nations

Quorum requires 66% (9 out of 14) of the membership in attendance.

**Quorum was not achieved at this meeting basedon 57%(8 out of 14) of the membership present.**

**Review of Previous Day & Outline of Day**

*Started here on Day 2*

**Tab 7 Health Behaviours of School Age Children Yukon Report**

**Jennifer Wykes**

Jenn Wykes gave an overview of the document. Based on Lori Duncan’s opinion, the survey was not done in a good way. Although the data is not disaggregated, FNs make up the majority in most rural communities. YFNs were not engaged in the survey process (question development or survey administration). Findings were shocking – especially for rural Grade 9/10 girls. Accuracy of the data comes into question given the way it was done. How does FNEC want to respond to this? Jenn drafted a letter for FNEC’s review, comments or changes.

There was discussion about the report and general concern expressed regarding the data contained within the report - especially as pertains to girls, and that FNs should pay attention to it. FNs need to address the needs and help our vulnerable youth. We require more information and intervention. We should talk to Yukon Education to find out if there is any targeted communication with the troubled age group. It was also mentioned that financial resources are required to address the needs of the youth. This information could be used to help our kids. Parent education is important too.

There was also concern regarding the way the survey was developed and administered, without the input of YFNs, especially since it concerns YFN student-citizens. (The REES survey is an example of best practices.) FNEC should be involved at the beginning of these surveys. It was suggested by Mark that the accuracy of the data be looked into and determine the cultural relevancy of the survey (eg. regarding accuracy, in one section it says cyber bullying is rare in Yukon. That is not true.). How to phrase the letter is important. There is a need to ensure the accuracy and cultural relevancy in reports.

Health Commission is drafting a response.

There was some discussion on counselling services and curriculum development as an interventionist strategy, such as the coming of age ceremony, sharing circles and life skills.

What is Yukon Education going to do with this report? This is something to ask Judy.

It was noted and suggested that FNEC combine their next meeting to align with the Health Commission meeting on June 16-17th. FNEC did not jump at the opportunity.

|  |
| --- |
| Actions: |
| Jenn began rewriting the letter with advice and direction from the Commission present. Roberta and Tosh will work with Jenn to get the letter done and will send it around to the rest of the Commission for approval.  Jenn to talk to Lori Duncan about requesting more information on this data. |
| Motion: |
| James motions to draft a letter to send to Health & Social Services reminding them of the government to government protocol engagement that is to take place prior to the start of any Yukon wide initiative. Geraldine 2nds the motion. All in favour. |

**Tab 3 FNEC TOR**

1. **CYFN Education / FNEC**
2. **Funding Proposal and Budget**

*Continued from yesterday (day one)*

1. **Funding Proposal and Budget**

Jenn went through the budget proposed to Yukon Education for FNEC.

Geraldine James voiced some concerns regarding the administration cost by CYFN within the budget.

There was some discussion around the budget and confusion over the CYFN Education budget and roles between CYFN Education and FNEC.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Tosh will have a conversation with Judy Arnold about FNEC funding to be automatically budgeted every year rather than proposal-driven. $170k for three years followed by a review. |

**Tab 4 Yukon Education**

**a) Labour Market Strategy Update**

**b) Literacy Strategy Update**

**i) Final Review of the Yukon Literacy Strategy**

**ii) FNEC-YLS working group meeting May 19**

*Postponed until Day 2(today) – Wednesday May 6/15*

1. **Labour Market Strategy Update**

Tosh provided an update. Not much has happened recently. She was pretty clear with Shawn that this is a major undertaking. KFN and other FNs have told them that this needs to be done properly. He has come has come along way in understanding the importance of engagement.

Mark inquired about what is being done to train FN employees to obtain jobs? There was a little dialogue about this. The Labour Market Strategy is developed with funds available for job training. FNs shouldn’t want a separate labour market strategy. Tosh clarified that it wouldn’t be a separate strategy. Rather it would be a separate “pillar” within the labour market strategy. This is something YFNs have wanted all along. Individual FNs can participate in the Labour Market Strategy and access funding. Therese Lindsay (Therese) shared positive changes happening in the labour market unit at Yukon Education.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| FNEC reps should talk to their leadership about the Labour Market Strategy and determine if they want a separate section for FNs within the Labour Market Strategy. |

1. **Yukon Literacy Strategy Update**

Roberta shared the incredible amount of change with this version of the Literacy Strategy as compared to the original ones. Tosh remarked that it’s not perfect, it doesn’t have everything we want in it but it’s miles ahead of where it was. Not all FNs have participated but those that did were vocal. The purpose of YFN input into the strategy is to open up channels for YFNs to apply for funding so they can have their own literacy programs.

There will be a follow-up meeting with the Literacy Strategy Working Group on May 19th. It would be good to have FNEC review the current version of the document, provide further feedback and represent YFNs at the May 19th meeting. The next step after that meeting is to take the document back to leadership and let them know this is what FNEC had input into.

Mark remarked that it might be good to say something in the message of the strategy like “we applaud the movement of the strategy. It’s moving in the right direction.”

Jenn pointed out that on page 15 there is a section under First Nation Learners to add information to. FNEC made suggestions while Jenn inputted the information. There is also a section at the front for “Message from Yukon First Nation Leadership”. Mark suggested some mention that this should be a framework that leadership can adjust or add to (localization). Leadership needs to hear that there is movement and we feel good about it.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| The commission can review over lunch, make some notes and at the end of the day we can try to draft something. |

**Continued later…**

**Tab 6 Student Financial Assistance Act Review**

**Yukon Education, Mosaic Communications**

* 1. **Questionnaire**
  2. **BN Leadership**

Prior to guests entering the room, Tosh informed the group that the SFAA review process is not going as hoped (ie. timelines and communication). She also suggested that FNEC ask for changes to the questions. She also requested the need to be clear that this meeting is not consultation, rather, is just one stop.

Guests: Yukon Education - Michael McBride (Michael), Marnie Bramadat (Marnie) and Amanda Leslie (Amanda) (consultant)

Amanda, consultant for the Dept., provided an overview and explained that she will be taking a “hands off approach” to the review. Ask the questions plainly, with nothing leading, to make each individual’s response equal across the board. Consultations will go to end of June and she’ll be meeting with YFNs, educational institutions, school boards and will host open houses, to extend public consultations broadly— face to face or however people would like to be consulted.

The questionnaire was designed by Education and attempts were made to make it user friendly. Michael McBride explained the cabinet-driven process.

Tosh made mention of the tight timeframe which may need to be adjusted. She also stressed that it’s important to not refer to FNEC as stakeholders. Amanda agreed and FNs are referred to as YFNs.

Marnie said she is available to come to meetings if anyone wanted her to come and explain the subject to the FN.

1. **Questionnaire**

Areas for which public consultations are being sought:

Yukon Grant for eligible students.

FN grants

Students that didn’t finish high school but want to go back for post-secondary

Residency requirements (If families move should students still be eligible for the Yukon Grant?)

Once consultation is complete, we go back to the oversight committee and present the findings. They will provide us with direction to amend the Act.

On schedule for the fall session but may be bumped to the spring. Tight timeframe is due to upcoming election.

There was discussion about the timeframe and how long the process can take in FNs. There needs to be time to review the questions to ensure the response is done correctly.

It was noted that in order to remain objective there is a script that is read so everyone has the exact same experience with this survey. There was discussion about the difference between FN government’s and other governments and that this should have been taken into consideration. Michael said in the future they would try to be better at developing a relationship with FNs prior to starting a process.

There was some discussion about timing of the applications. The funding can be applied for starting May 1st and the latest it can be applied for is 6 weeks after course start.

1. **BN Leadership**

Not discussed.

**Tab 8 Rural Strategy Meetings**

Jenn gave some background on this meeting. Nothing has really come out of these meetings yet. There will be a document that will be presented at the Rural Strategy Meeting tomorrow. There are a lot of overlaps with the Rural Strategy and JEAP. She is under the impression that there will be quite a lot of investment in YFN education going forward.

Tosh mentioned her attendance at a previous meeting where the former ADM made a promise that a high school would be built in each community. She has requested that there be a rural strategy in every community.

FNEC is represented at the Rural Strategy (Tosh Southwick, Ashley Doiron and Julia Joe).

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Once the rural strategy document is released, it will be sent to the Commission to read. There will be an update at the next meeting. |

**Tab 9 GadzoodsaaUpdate**

**Subcommittee members**

James Smarch read from a briefing note provided by Robin Smarch. The review took three days and consisted of interview of all the staff and students at Gadzoosdaa, parents and Chiefs.

Example of questions asked: From your perspective what are the strengths of Gadzoosdaa? Where does it need to grow? How would you describe Gadzoosdaa’s efforts with language and culture initiatives? Students at Vanier and FH were interviewed.

Simon Blakesley compiled the information.

Jenn Wykes asked for the report but it cannot be released until it’s been reviewed by the department and residence headmaster.

James had suggested to Shereen (Headmaster at Gadzoosda) that there be a procedural handbook created for dealing with things like drugs.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Tosh to send a note to Mike Woods asking for the Gadzoodsaa report to be presented at FNEC. |

**Tab 10 Yukon Education**

**Departmental Update: Judy Arnold**

Guests: Judy Arnold and Janet McDonald.

Judy thanked the FNEC for welcoming her. She highlighted the development of the partnership, with open communication and mentioned that we are embarking on something wonderful together. Feel free to ask any questions. Judy has been acting Deputy Minister since March 16th, and there have been changes within the department.

The JEAP work currently resides in the DM’s office. It usually resides with the Public Schools Branch, but it is going through transitions.

Judy showed some slides:

2015-16 Commitments:

* *Data Sharing*

There was some dialogue around the Student Enrolment Form and whether FNEC could have input into the questions placed on it. It was suggested that the form include asking what language students want to take and language should be mandatory for everyone, not just FNs. Judy will look into what the software can support.

* *Experiential studies*

Judy talked about experiential studies and trying to offer some programs to the communities. Education has an international system for curriculum, but how it is used is Yukon’s design. Communication from the Dept. has not been a strength. There hasn’t been communication on what we are doing and we need to be better about talking about what we have been doing.

* *The Learning Together Program*

Evaluation in 2015-16. We’re thinking through what it will look like in the rural communities.

* *Literacy*

The goal is to have students “read to learn” by the end of grade 3 or 4. Studies show students who have this strength have a 90% graduation rate.

There was discussion about passing kids from grade to grade without knowing what they need to know. Reading recover should be offered throughout elementary school and cultural inclusion should have more departmental support. Judy agreed that if children are going to make it, they need supports in the classroom - not in addition to.

Judy continued on with:

* *How Are We Doing? Report*

This will be a report of your design. We can continue to refine this process. I know early learning is important. I’ve connected with the DM of Health and we need to look at a wraparound process. We all need to work together to make this work.

Roberta brought up the Health Behaviours report. There are concerns about how the report came about and some of the data content. Need to ensure there are programs and supports to deal with the issues in this report. Judy agreed. There was some discussion on this topic.

* *School Growth Plans*

Next guidelines for school growth planning will be going to the FNs. FNEC will have an opportunity to review the guidelines before it goes to FN Leadership.

* *FN Languages in Schools*

This has been started. The discussion about this will be continuing. I think we need to have a clear picture of the “inventory” we have right now. Information collecting has been started.

Other areas that Judy is focusing on are:

* Experiential-integrated studies
* Programming/curriculum
* Early learning-wrap around supports
* Secondary Students – upgrading issues and programs
* Yukon-wide and local cultural training for teachers
* Inclusive schools
* Curriculum Redesign

There was explanation and dialogue of these topics.

Tosh Southwick expressed concern about funding. Judy replied that this will come under the (JEAP) funding piece.

Judy discussed the work being undertaken in the department regarding connecting/integrating all of the plans and moving to action (New Vision): JEAP; REAP; Department Annual Plan; curriculum and resources; agreements, engagement and actions related to individual First Nations.

There was some dialogue about how some FNs want to work outside the Education Plan for cultural inclusion. We need to figure out how to do both. It is about what is important for our kids.

Judy mentioned that she met with the Minister and he’s not crazy about more reports. He’s ready for action and he wants to do it well. We know it’s going to take a few years. I will send a Deputy’s update to Jennifer who can distribute it to FNEC.

One project Judy has done with Yukon College is the academic student studies profile (who is upgrading, etc.). Judy handed out the “Academic Report and Skills Profile”.

There was a question for Judy: Does this report look at the students that dropped out or only the ones that have gone to the college? Judy answered, only the ones that have gone to the college. An interesting fact from this report is that 25% of the kids that do their upgrading are not from Yukon.

There was some discussion about how great it is that the FNs are finally being involved in the education of Yukon students. Working together is an important opportunity to start working together and maybe we can look at a “Yukon Act” and this would be an act that we would all adhere to, as well as a Yukon based curriculum.

Judy showed a PowerPoint with slides called “My Dilemma(s)”. The headings were: We are in transition; CYFN and other FNS; How can we be equitable, inclusive and transparent; To whom do I speak related to involvement as we begin the work of the new vision?; Who needs to be communicated with on an ongoing basis so that everyone feels included?

Funding 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017

The budget for 16-17 will be developed in August. If you have anything to request, the latest to get it in is before December. If we have to ask for more money there is a significant process. We actually start the process in August.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| FNEC to work with Jenn to determine budget needs prior to August.  Jenn to set a mtg w/Judy & FNEC members in August to discuss budget needs for both CYFN and FNEC. |

There was some discussion around funding requests, budgets and the process for YG. Tosh wanted to ensure it was understood that there is an overlap between FNEC, CYFN and the FNs, and they need to be treated separately.

There were comments about these being exciting times with moving forward with changes after 30-40 years of the same. There will be mistakes along the way but this journey should be taken together.

There was discussion and dialogue about “Judy’s dilemmas”. No actions from this.

There was more discussion around funding.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Tosh, Roberta, Jenn, Michelle and Rose will meet with Judy next Thursday (May 14) about funding requirements for FNEC and CYFN. |

There was discussion about the residential school curriculum and whether it should be mandatory and what the supports would look like.

Discussion moved to budgets again and ideas for staff support being provided.

Judy left.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Judy will send a Deputy’s update to Jennifer who can distribute it to FNEC.  Judy will look into the system that creates the enrolment form to see if it can be changed to add questions FNEC would like answered. |

Prior to Janet leaving, the table asked Janet to find out if it would be possible to have FNEC representation for the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister interview process at the Dept. of Ed.

**Tab 11 Joint Education Action Plan Implementation Strategy Review**

**JEAP Working Group**

Jenn Wykes provided some background. Talked about the MOU and how the JEAP was created by primarily by YFNs over the course of three Summits and was proposed to YG who agreed and approved of the needs to be addressed. Parties to JEAP include Yukon, Canada and YFNs. We had a FN summit in March to create an implementation strategy. Jenn would love to have the whole commission attend the meetings to help drive the strategy. This could be the working group table that ensures YG follows through for the next 10 yrs.

Tosh Southwick does not want to take this to leadership until this has approval from the Department. If anything has to be taken off the table then do it before it goes to leadership. Does the department have any paramount objections to anything in this document?

There were comments about this being the first time FNs are having an impact on YG policy. If going forward, the education commission is able to affect YG policy, that’s going to have a big impact. We need to take this to leadership for them to be comfortable to know and let this table carry it.

There discussion about the difficulties of bringing information and documents back to the FNs after these FNEC meetings. Some ideas were produced but no solutions came forth.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Tosh Southwick: FNEC to be added to leadership agenda.  Jenn Wykes to send a list of leadership dates to commission.  Jenn to ask CYFN IT if a separate website can be created for FNEC and all documents could be stored on there.  Janet to talk to the Department about JEAP and then be invited back to the next FNEC meeting to discuss it.  Janet gave out “Our Stories of Residential Schools in Yukon and Canada”. It is still in draft form. Janet asked if everyone could take a look and let her know if there are any changes or mistakes in it. |

**Tab 4 Yukon Education**

**b) Literacy Strategy Update**

**i) Final Review of the Yukon Literacy Strategy**

**ii) FNEC-YLS working group meeting May 19**

*Continued from earlier…*

1. **Final Review of the Yukon Literacy Strategy**

Jenn handed out the Yukon FN Literacy Framework document. In the Yukon Literacy Strategy (on page 15) there is a section for First Nation Learners that needs to be filled in. She thought it would be great to use quotes or messaging from the FN Literacy Framework that was put together. What would you like to add in here? Suggestions using text from the YFN Literacy Framework were as follows: [Jenn wrote changes in the document – below are a few notes.]

The YG quote page 12 under conditions for learning – “Knowing, Doing and Working Together”

Page 21 in blue – “Language fluency and cultural competency grounded in traditional law and land-based learning opportunities that teach respect for self, others, land and water.”

Page 9 the Gwitchin quote (Mary Battaja) – “Listen! Learn! Don’t talk back to your Elders. There is always a time and a place and a reason why things happen. Pray about things when they don’t work out. It is not all work – have a sense of humour. Love to laugh. Literacy was in the past, in the present, and it will be in the future. We just don’t think about it until it is put before us. The Elders and I talk. We know times are changing and technology is good.”

*At end of day…*

Paula - Today for our Children Tomorrow: #1 p 9- “The Indian People had no books. Our way of life was handed down by word of mouth. This is how we learned our history.”

#2 p 21 - “Courses about the land must be taught on the land - not just in the classroom.”

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Jenn to send it to the Commission for massaging and word-smithing. |

1. **FNEC-YLS working group meeting May 19**

|  |
| --- |
| Motion: |
| Motion to bring changes forward at May 19th meeting. Moved by Geraldine, 2nd by James. |

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Jenn & Tosh to work on a briefing note after the May 19th meeting. Draft with changes will be sent out for review prior to the May 19th meeting. |

**Tab 12 Cape Breton and Yukon College Youth Mentorship**

There is a Cape Breton mentorship program that the college is in partnership program. The manager should have been invited – Brent Hogen? He will be in contact with individual FNs.

This is based on the Membertou FN model in Nova Scotia.

Students that take this program will get credits toward a business management program.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Tosh will have Brent send her information about the Cape Breton and Yukon College Youth Mentorship and she will send it out to everyone. |

**Wrap-up:**

Updates for Commission to take back to their Leadership:

Success Stories

Literacy Update

Green Light from Education Action Plan

Update on Funding

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Jenn to put together a briefing note about the “new vision” of Yukon Education using the Ministers speech. |

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Commission to read through the JEAP and let Jenn know if there is anything relevant or important that is not in there. |

Roberta suggested looking at individual community priorities to place in the JEAP.

**4:00 p.m. Next Meeting & Closing Prayer**

Next meeting date: Week of July 13th… Wed/Thurs (July 15/16) and aim for holding it in a community (Dawson). Maybe Ashley can have an education show and tell for the Commission.

Mtg after that will be October 28/29 in Whitehorse.

|  |
| --- |
| Action: |
| Put out an e-mail asking if Dawson is ok, as the location of the next meeting, to all Commission members.  Report for FNEC needs to be done for CYFN GA. Jenn to draft and send to Roberta and Tosh for approval. |

Closing Prayer: Roberta Hagar-Ball