



Where Learners Become Leaders

NATIVE EDUCATION COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, January 25, 2024,
5:00PM – 6:30PM, Virtual

BOARD ATTENDEES:	STAFF ATTENDEES:
Tony Robinson, Treasurer	Tammy Harkey, President
Andy Phillips Senior, Director	Valerie Yermolova, EA
Mary Point, Director	
Chas Desjarlais	
Bruce Underwood, Director	GUEST
Jen Thomas, Director	Peter Lockie, Consultant (joined at 6:10pm)
Eden Fineday, Director	
Shawnaditta Cross, Director	DIRECTOR REGRETS:
Louise Point, Director (joined at 5:30pm)	Ed John, Board Chair

Meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm

1. AGENDA

The President suggested changes to the meeting agenda. She informed the Board members that the VP of Academics was unable to attend the meeting because of sickness.

ACTION: The President suggested that a discussion about the policies would be postponed and presented by the VP of Academics at the next BOD meeting.

The agenda items 4a and 4c1 are removed from the current Board meeting kit and an updated kit was sent before the meeting.

The President also suggested adding an agenda item to introduce Peter Lockie, Consultant, who will make a new campus' assessment.

MOTION: That the Native Education College (NEC) Board of Directors (BOD) ACCEPTS the revised agenda for January 25, 2024.

**MOVED BY (JEN THOMAS) AND SECONDED (BRUCE UNDERWOOD)
CARRIED**

2. MINUTES OF September 30, 2023, NEC Board Meeting

MOTION: That the NEC BOD accepts the minutes of the October 3, 2023, meeting.

**MOVED BY (Eden Fineday) and SECONDED (Mary Point)
CARRIED**

3. EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

3a) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President delivered her report to the Board. She also briefed the Board regarding her meeting with the provincial government on Jan.25, 2024, and about the challenges that the NEC encountered in communication with the government concerning the public announcement of the College's status change. The Ministry saw a breach in our Confidentiality Agreement in the NEC's unofficial announcement of going public. She also commented on the new database system and the new software system. The President briefed the Board regarding her meeting with DM Bobbi Plecas, who expressed her concern that there might be a barrier if NEC is not going to collaborate in delivery of the provincial outreach programs. Apparently, the Ministry didn't know that NEC had been delivering the provincial outreach programs for over 56 years, our relations with NBIT has never been waved.

ACTION: NEC need to write a strong letter to elaborate the conversation in the Ministry to remind us that we have choice and autonomy and to copy this letter to other Ministries.

Everything we do – we do in a transparent manner, unlike the Ministry. In reconciliation, the correction should come from the province. It was mentioned that there will be only 2 public Indigenous Institutions among 26, including NEC.

ACTION: At our 2nd meeting with the Ministry, we need to push back on western narrative.

We have a very strong academic team, but NEC was given conditional approval for delivering this? program with a list of conditions that NEC must meet. No NEC representative would reach the Ministry or other Ministries regarding this issue.

There were a number of institutes that did not go through the process, but NEC will be under special circumstances. How are we different, there was no conversation with any Minister about the process. The President considers such state of things deeply inappropriate.

Maybe NEC needs to meet with the Premier and tell him what is going on. NEC needs clarity,



but everything is verbal, not on paper. The approval was outside of the Ministry's normal approval process. How we choose to respond will be within our rights.

The President informed the Board regarding challenges with the admission staff, this department needs changes, but there is a lot of resistance and adding more staff doesn't help.

3b) VP ACADEMIC'S REPORT

The report will be moved to another meeting.

ACTION: a special meeting will be arranged for the presentation of the Education Council policies and Voting Procedures by VP of Academics to the Board.

3c) VP FINANCE REPORT

The report was reviewed, it shows the prediction for the second quarter of 2024. Our 1st quarter is an unknown area, no information about what we are getting from the province. The province needs to be more transparent than just giving us money here and there. The President informed the Board that the province will provide no funding for new hires.

4 & 5 NEC NAME CHANGE AND INFORMATION ONLY

The President briefly informed the Board that NEC had hired a branding company, about the Story-telling event on Jan.24 and the future event on Feb.8, 2024. Bruce Underwood, Director, shared his opinion on Jan 24 event. He was talking about the beginning of the College, when Indigenous people due to education in the College became professionals and self-sufficient adults. He heard one of the speakers mention that everyone is given two names, and we carry both of them – with the name changing, NEC will move forward as a united group.

The Directors Mary Point and Chef Jen Thomas thanked Tammy for the sense of unity that the event had given to those who had attended the meeting.

4e) PROVINCIAL CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT AND LETTER OF INTEREST TO CABRO

The President informed the BOD that the province had given the NEC Board of Directors an updated form of the Confidentiality Agreement, that wasn't provided by the NEC BOD meeting on September 30, 2023. We are still waiting for a few more signed forms of the Confidential Agreement and the Letter of Interest from the Directors.

4f) ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM KPMG

In received Engagement Letter, KPMG outlined the terms of our engagement to audit the annual financial statements of NEC Native Education College commencing for the period ending March 31, 2024.

4g) NEW CAMPUS ASSESSMENT

The President briefed the Board regarding the Campus re-development. NEC has identified the need for a new campus in its Strategic Plan. This Opportunity Assessment Report is written in the format required by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills from post-secondary institutions. The decision has been made to submit an early version of the Opportunity Assessment Report in order that the province is made aware of these major capital needs as part of its decision-making process.

6. INTRODUCTION OF PETER LOCKIE, CONSULTANT

At 6:10pm, Peter Lockie, Consultant, joined the meeting. After a brief introduction, he mentioned that as a task when he was in the Ministry, he had to complete a review regarding NEC, and that was when he learned more about the College. He also expressed his opinion that if we decided to go public – now is the best time for NEC, with an open window of opportunities. The NEC needs to answer whether the College appeals to its own goals, and to answer this question, Peter will submit a preliminary draft of his assessment to the President.

Mary Point, the Director, praised Peter Lockie's work.

After Peter Lockie's introduction, the Board Directors introduced themselves to Peter.

7. MEETING ADJOURNEMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the BOD Meeting

**MOVED BY (CHAS DESJARLAIS) AND SECONDED (SHAWNADITTA CROSS)
CARRIED**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm