

# Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: **Tuesday, January 19, 2021**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

## Attendance: via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:**

Present: Dr. Joanne Dallaire (Elder), Dr. Susan Dion (YorkU), Mary Doucette (OA), Robert Durocher (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Natasha Gleeson (SST, TDSB), Marilyn Hew (TYRMC), Shannon Judge (Parent Council, TDSB), Melanie Laking (Parent Council, TDSB), Tracy Mackenzie (Community Liaison, TDSB), Ryan Neepin (Teacher, TDSB), Dr. Bob Phillips (Community), Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Dr. Duke Redbird (Elder), Christina Saunders (CAVP, TDSB), Tanya Senk (P/CAP, TDSB), Pauline Shirt (Elder), Selina Young (City of Toronto), Joe Rock (City of Toronto), Waabshka-Mkwa (2Spirits), Brandie Wilson (Native Learning Centre - NCFST),

**TDSB Trustees:**

Present: Trixie Doyle, Dan MacLean, Jennifer Story.

**TDSB Staff:**

Present: Ixchel Bennett (VP @ Eastview), Lisa Dilworth (Principal, TDSB), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal, TDSB), Stephen Hepburn (VP @ Eastview), Candice O’Grady (Communications Officer, TDSB), Michael Griesz (Principal, TDSB), Melissa Mohammed (OA, TDSB), Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, TDSB), Donnie Straker (VP @ Sir Wilfred Laurier/NLC East), Elise Twyford (VP, TDSB),

**Guests**: J’net Ayayqwayaksheelth (ROM), Nick Bertrand (Ministry of Education), Paige Kreps (Toronto Inuit Association).

## Regrets: Saby Chandi (Principal, TDSB).

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATION / MOTION** |
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| Call to Order, Traditional Opening, Meeting Etiquette/Code of Conduct/ | Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire chaired the meeting. Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire conducted a traditional opening andspoke to the code of conduct for UICAC members and guests. Introductions from the membership in attendance.  |  |
| Approval of Agenda | The agenda of January 19, 2021 was approved by consensus.  |  |
| Review and Approval of the minutes of December 15, 2020 | The minutes of December 15, 2020 were approved by consensus. |  |
| Declaration of conflict of interest and Terms of Reference | None declared |  |
| UICAC Priorities for 2020-21 Re-visited:1. Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.
2. Indigenous TDSB Trustee and Student Trustee.
3. Hiring practices, recruitment, retention and mobility.
 | UICAC Priorities:1. Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.
* No updates to report.
1. Indigenous TDSB Student Trustee.

**Tanya Senk (CAP)*** We have a few candidates for Indigenous TDSB Student Trustee and will be going through the processes to see who will be filling the role.
1. Hiring practices, recruitment, retention and mobility.
* No updates to report.
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| Staff Update: | **Elder Pauline Shirt:*** Continue to meet regularly with Elders Council and Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent).

**Elder Dr. Duke Redbird:*** Elder Dr. Duke Redbird advised committee members of the passing of an Indigenous community member, Curtis Johnny (Shingoose). He was an Elder, fellow artist and singer/songwriter. He passed as a result of COVID-19.

 **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent):*** Extended thank-yous to all committee members in attendance and to the Staff and Elders that continue to do the important work to engage the community.
* New interim Director of Education is Karen Falconer. The search for a permanent Director will resume in February. Curtis Ennis has been appointed as the new Interim Associate Director.
* Schools will remain closed until at least February 10. However, the pivot to remote learning this time around has been a lot smoother than last. Connecting with students and families better.
* Advised committee members that a short survey was sent out on Thought Exchange. Asked members if they could take a few minutes to provide feedback and complete the survey.

**Tanya Senk (CAP):*** Extended thank-yous to Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire, Elder Pauline Shirt, and Elder Dr. Duke Redbird.
* Introduced Tracy Mackenzie (Acting Community Liaison), Ixchel Bennet (VP at Eastview), Stephen Hepburn (VP at Eastview), Donnie Straker (VP at Sir Wilfred Laurier and NLC-E)
* Amy White has been hired and will be teaching Ojibwe to Elementary Learning Centres LC3 and LC4.
* Bonita Uzoruo is in a Position of Responsibility in the virtual school and we are working closely with her.
* Continue to support students and families with TASSC funding (Toronto Aboriginal Services Support Council). The SST team working hard to ensure that the supports are getting out to the families. Extended thank-yous to the SST Team for all their hard work.
* SST Team is doing professional learning on Indigenous Perspectives on Mental Health and Trauma
* UIEC has been able to create a posting for an Indigenous Food Sovereignty Chef. This will be part of the land-based approached to Indigenous Education. Extended thank-yous to Shannon Judge (Chair of Parent Council) and Nick Bertrand (MOE) for their support in the endeavor.
* Kapapamahchakwew Wandering Spirit School (KWSS) is now a K-12 school and we will have our first graduates this year. Extended thank-yous to Elise Twyford (VP), Christina Saunders (CAVP) and Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal) for all their hard work and dedication to ensure that we move forward with success.
* Instructional Leaders and SST Team have been re-engaging with Aanse Schools and continue the work.
* Continue to work with the rollout with the revised curriculum for FNMI (First Nations, Metis and Inuit Studies). Working with cohorts of NAC and NBE teachers and always being guided by the vision of the Elders Council.
* We have re-ignited the Indigenous Youth Leadership group. They are meeting on a regular basis.

**Robert Durocher** **(Instructional Leader):** * In the beginning phases of planning a Pride event for June. It will be a 2Spirit Indigenous Queer event and will be inviting artists, community members, and writers to be apart of various youth led workshops.
* If any UICAC members are interested in being involved, please reach out.
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| New and Other Business | **J’net Ayayqwayaksheelth (ROM):*** There is still a gap with teachers feeling they can do Indigenous teachings respectfully. Want to ensure the programs and workshops being offered at the ROM are relevant to teachers and looking to get insights on what Indigenous content is relevant to Ontario. Shared a survey with the committee members in attendance at the meeting and asked that it be shared with their networks.
* With the feedback from this survey would like to create and scaffold relevant professional learning for educators from K-12.
* ROM offers a Youth Leadership Program for youth across cultures. If you know any youth who may be interested in participating in this program, please direct them to the ROM website to register.

**Nick Bertrand (Ministry of Education):*** Extended thank-yous to Elders Council, Staff, and Administrators – deeply grateful for the relationship that has developed over the years.
* Indigenous Education Office recently released the Board Action Plan (BAP) for 20/21 school year.
* On-going work is training for Trustees and Student Trustees across the province. This is a two-part, two-day training. Part two of this training will take place in the Spring. This training will be extended to Senior Management in the near future.
* More in-depth training modules centering around anti-discrimination are being developed and will be available in the Spring.

**Tanya Senk (CAP)*** We have received the BAP and are going through the initial assessment phase. Will be engaging members of the UICAC.
* Anti-Indigenous racism will be a central pillar when doing the work and we continue to do the work of de-colonization.
* Extended thank-yous to everyone for their dedication and commitment to Indigenous Education. It continues to be critical and imperative to look at the Truth and Reconciliation’s Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in order to move forward in a good way.
* Will be offering Part 1, 2, and 3 on-going professional learning AQ for Elementary teachers (offered through the UIEC). This will launch in September.
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| Future Topics: |  |  |
| Traditional Closing: | Dr. Elder Joanne Dallaire closed the meeting. |  |
| **Adjournment** | The next UICAC will be on February 16th, 2021 @ 6:00pm on Zoom. |  |