

# Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

## Attendance: via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:**

Present: Dr. Joanne Dallaire (Elder), Pauline Shirt (Elder), Dr. Duke Redbird (Elder), Dr. Susan Dion (YorkU), Mary Doucette (OA), Robert Durocher (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Marilyn Hew (TYRMC), Tracy Mackenzie (Community Liaison, TDSB), Dr. Bob Phillips (Community), Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Christina Saunders (CAVP, TDSB), Tanya Senk (P, TDSB),

Waabshka-Mkwa (2Spirits), Brandie Wilson (Native Learning Centre - NCFST), Justin Broderick (Maplewood), Paige Kreps (Toronto, Inuit Association), Ixchel Bennett (VP, Eastview)

**TDSB Trustees:**

Present: Trixie Doyle, Dan MacLean, Jennifer Story, Alexander Brown

**TDSB Staff:**

Present: Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, TDSB), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal, TDSB), Michael Griesz (Principal, TDSB), Melissa Mohammed (OA,TDSB), East), Elise Twyford (VP, TDSB), Saby Chandi (TDSB Principal)

**Guests**: Paige Kreps (Toronto Inuit Association), Justin Broderick (Maplewood Secondary School)

## Regrets: Selina Young (City of Toronto), Joe Rock (City of Toronto), Lisa Dilworth (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 March 23rd, 2021 was approved by consensus.  |  |
| Review and Approval of the minutes of January 19, 2020 | The minutes of February 16th, 2021 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.

**Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)*** Feeling very optimistic that we have laid the groundwork and look forward to our next facility meeting with all the folks who were with us previously to make sure that we have that level of continuity and we're excited for the work to continue.
1. Indigenous TDSB Student Trustee.

**Tanya Senk (P)*** We are very pleased to announce that we have an Indigenous Student Trustee. He will be making himself known shortly and he has been in contact with Sandy Spyropoulos. The student was chosen through the Toronto Indigenous Youth Council.

**Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)*** Sandy Spyropoulos is the Executive Staff member who works with the students and provides support and mentoring part of their work to make sure they have everything they need to be successful around the board room.
* We welcome our newest Indigenous Student Trustee who will be onboarding in time for the March meeting. This is part of our commitment to self-determination. The Student Trustee was selected through a process that was completely undertaken by Indigenous students, staff and community.

**Jennifer Story (Trustee – Ward 15)*** Jennifer and her Trustee colleagues, namely Trixie, Dan and Alexander would be more than happy to support Sandy in any way with the onboarding of the new Indigenous Student Trustee. Jim to provide Jennifer’s info to Sandy for follow up.

**Tanya Senk (CAP)*** UIEC Tsitra McKay will be providing support to our Student Trustee. He is also a member of the Indigenous Youth Council through the TDSB
1. Hiring practices, recruitment, retention and mobility.

**Deferred** |  |
| Staff Update: | **Elder Pauline Shirt:*** Extended thank-yous to everyone for all the hard work that we have been doing. A special thank you to Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent) for his continued support to Kapapamahchakwew. It is going to be a great year and I wish everyone all the best.

**Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire:*** Nothing new to report

**Elder Dr. Duke Redbird:*** I've been giving talks about the difference between cultural tourism and cultural reality to various groups. The message comes down to cultural tourism, and learning about Indigenous cultureand, what people can learn from us and not just about us.

**Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)*** Extended thank-yous to Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire, Elder Pauline Shirt and Elder Dr. Duke Redbird for continuing to be a consistent presence throughout all phases of our work**.**
* Today was the first day back to school for many students. For many a very happy day, and a very difficult day. There also was a great degree of fear due to the new word variant. We are blessed with an amazing group of staff that can bring calm to our students.
* We have additional measures in place with respect to screening and the details of those are available on the TDSB website.We continue to receive direct guidance from Toronto Public Health around these matters.
* Our Human Rights document was made public last week and it's the very first of what is going to be an annual Human Rights report moving forward. The reason it's before the board today, is that it is part of our accountability structure. I will do a presentation to the board on the data and the importance to have this document shortly.

**Tanya Senk (CAP)*** Extended thank you to the Elders for the reports that have been made.
* At Kapapamahchakwew, we have a meeting with the Toronto Public Health Nurse, Cassandra Churm on February 18th.  We are working with AHT and Women’s College Hospital Centre for Practises Indigenous Health. We continue to have our monthly COVID screening clinics with AHT. We will be providing students with saliva test kits to take home as well as nasal swabs for staff on site. This will take place on February 19th.
* Instructional leaders continue to do the work and support the implementation of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit studies and courses for NAC10 and NBE3U. The action plan is to address cultural tourism, anti-Indigenous racism, cultural safety and strength-based approaches.
* The work from Aanse support for Indigenous student success, well-being achievement will continue through the pandemic.

**Saby Chandi (Principal) Sir Wilford Laurier and Native Learning Centre East** * Staff will continue to work on re-engagement with students upon their return to in-class learning.
* With the support from Native Child, we continue to build relationships with the students.
* We are currently looking for a language teacher and are working with the UIEC on finding someone for our program.
* We have five students who will be graduating this year and earning their Ontario Secondary Scholl Diploma (OSSD).

**Ixchel Bennet (Vice Principal) Eastview*** We introduced and completed our first Indigenous Caregiver Circle for parents/caregivers. This is an open discussion for community to share their thoughts and feelings and make recommendations to the team at Eastview for discussion and consideration.
* Elder Dorothy Peters will continue to open and close our circles.
* We continue to work on initiating the Girls of Empowerment Group. Prior to COVID we would meet face-face and then moved to virtual and look forward to getting the group back together.
* We are in the final stages of finalizing “The Way We Soar” document. We are committed to bringing the document alive during staff meetings and lunch and learns and it will be an ongoing document moving forward. Thank you to Christina Saunders, Barb Felschow, Thunder Jack for their hard work and continued support with creating the document.
* Extended thank-yous to the UIEC team for the TASSC donation of gift cards. We were able to hand deliver gift cards directly to caregivers at Gabriel Dumont which was nice to see community and make ourselves visible instead of thru email. In addition, we received many emails from parents expressing their gratitude.
* We are currently looking for a Culture and Traditions Instructor. Due to unforeseen circumstances our newly hired instructor had to step down due to a family emergency.

**Christina Saunders (CAVP)*** We have received COVID-19 relief from Toronto Aboriginal Social Service Council (TASSC). With the funding we purchased bundles of PC gift cards to help support community.
* We are supporting Indigenous families to ensure they are getting support with food security during the pandemic.
* In addition, the work we do within the UIEC is having the Student Support Team (SST) support Indigenous students across the system. If there are any families that need support. Please reach out to Tanya Senk, Christina Saunders, Natasha Gleeson, Adrienne Plumley, Robert Durocher or Tracy Mackenzie.

**Tracy Mackenzie (UIEC Acting Community Liaison)*** We completed a mailout to 120 families in the community as well as supported 61 families at Eastview with the Toronto Aboriginal Social Service Council (TASSC) funding.
* We will continue to support community.

**Marilyn - Metis Nation of Ontario*** We have also received funding from Toronto Aboriginal Social Service Council (TASSC). If there are any Metis families that need support, please reach out and we will be happy to assist.
* We have Educational resources and info for those who are interested.

**Darren Wilson - Native Learning Centre (Central)*** NLC coordinators continue to work with students virtually as well as face- face.
* Coordinators have been doing door to door wellness checks with students and families. They are also providing gift cards to help support families.
* Brandie Wilson has been exceptionally supportive to her team and students during the pandemic.

**Brandie Wilson - Native Learning Centre (Central)*** Continue to do wellness checks and walks with students and caregivers.
* Student attendance has been exceptionally well during the pandemic.
* Students are adapting as well as can be expected.
* Native Child has been providing medicines for NLC students and caregivers.
* Extended thank you to Natasha Gleeson, for her continue support.
* Extended thank you to Christina Saunders, for the additional support of PC gift cards.
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| New and Other Business | **No New and other business**  |  |
| Future Topics: |  |  |
| Traditional Closing: | Dr. Elder Joanne Dallaire closed the meeting. |  |
| **Adjournment** | The next UICAC will be on March 23rd, 2021 @ 6:00pm on Zoom. |  |