



Committee Membership for 2021-2022
Chair – Elizabeth Gouthro, CASS Consultant

CASS Representatives:

David Keohane – Executive Director
Claudine Cortes – Executive Assistant

Treaty Representatives:

Brian Wildcat – Superintendent, Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (Treaty 6)
Valerie McDougall – Superintendent, Tsuut'ina Nation Department of Education (Treaty 7)
Genevieve Fox – Director of Education, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council (Treaty 7)
Chester Auger – Director of Education, Bigstone Cree Nation Education (Treaty 8)

Métis Representatives:

Dorothy Anderson – Secretary, Alberta Métis Settlements General Council
Lisa Cruickshank – Director, Métis Education and Lifelong Learning, Rupertsland Institute

Zone Representatives:

Laura Poloz – Superintendent, High Prairie School Division (Zone 1)
George McGuigan – Superintendent, Fort McMurray Catholic School System, (Zone 2/3)
Selena Frizzley – Coordinator of Indigenous Education Services, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, (Zone 4)
Lori Pritchard – Education Director, Calgary Board of Education (Zone 5)
Robbie Charlebois – Associate Superintendent of Human Services, Horizon School Division (Zone 6)

Francophone:

Brigitte Kropieinicki – Directrice Générale/Superintendent of Schools, Conseil scolaire du Nord-ouest

AISCA:

John Jagersma – Executive Director

Alberta Education Representatives:

Nicole Callihoo – Assistant Deputy Minister, First Nations Métis and Inuit Directorate
Lori Bell – Executive Director, First Nations Métis Inuit Directorate
Ronald Taylor – Director, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Services Branch

CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee

Meeting Highlights

January 27, 2021

The mandate of the CASS First Nations Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee is to collaboratively identify effective education practices for school authorities through engaging with representatives of First Nations, Métis, Public, Separate, Francophone, Charter, Independent authorities, and associations.

University of Alberta's Proposal Master of Education in Educational Studies

<https://cass.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CASS-Jan-2022.pdf>
Scott Key, Director of professional Learning Faculty of Education, University of Alberta joined our meeting to gather feedback on a proposal for the University to offer a Master of Education in Education Studies that focuses on developing leadership for supporting Indigenous language revitalization. These three questions provided guided the feedback

1. Is there a need for school leaders or for future school leaders to enhance their leadership practice including how to support Indigenous language revitalization?
2. If there is a need, how could MES program assist with this work?
3. If the MES program can assist this work, how can the faculty of education work with various school authorities to offer the MES program?

In response to these questions, there was strong support for the need for school and system leaders to enhance their practice in support of Indigenous language revitalization. Members mentioned that most Indigenous languages are not currently part of the Alberta program of studies, there are very few fluent Indigenous language speakers currently and expressed worry about the potential workload toil it would place on Elders, the scant number of language speakers, the wide variety of Indigenous languages and dialects in Alberta, and strong agreement on the need to teach language within the context of culture.

Other comments spoke to the fact that school or system leaders may not be fluent in an Indigenous language but would need to provide support to revitalization language programs in their school/system. Leaders could also make Indigenous languages visible in their schools and system through providing space to do so. By creating space to make visible Indigenous languages, we demonstrate our respect for Indigenous languages and help to support a sense of belonging by our Indigenous students, their families and communities.

Updates

The [CASS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Gathering](#) has received almost 200 registrations.

The **Indigenous Teacher and School and System Leader** report is expected to be shared with the CASS Board of Directors at their March meeting.

The Guide to Relationships and Learning with the Indigenous Peoples of Alberta

<https://cass.ab.ca/indigenous-education/> survey closed on January 31, 2022. The data will be analyzed and summarized to guide its revision. An editor has been contracted to lead this revision.

The Guide is also being translated into French to better support access and learning for our Francophone members and their staff. This work is expected to be completed in April.

Thank you to all of the members who shared their experience in using the Guide. Your voice is critical to the ongoing success of the Guide.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022.

For more information, please contact: Your representative and/or Elizabeth Gouthro 1-587-226-8256 elizabeth.gouthro@cass.ab.ca