



CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee

Meeting Highlights

November 21, 2023

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.

Committee Membership for 2023-2024

CASS Representatives:

David Keohane – CASS CEO

Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina – Board Representative

Dianne Roulson - CASS Leadership Consultant (related to the annual Indigenous Education Gathering)

Zone Representatives:

Betty Turpin – Superintendent, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division (Zone 1)

Peter Barron – Superintendent, St. Paul Education Regional Division, (Zone 2/3)

Tim De Ruyck (Committee Chair) – Superintendent, Wolf Creek Public Schools (Zone 4)

Cindy Stefanato – Director of Indigenous Learning, Rocky View Schools (Zone 5)

Robbie Charlebois – Associate Superintendent of Human Services, Lethbridge School Division (Zone 6)

Treaty Representatives:

Tracy Swampy-Sylvester – Superintendent, Maskwaçis Education Schools Commission (Treaty 6)

Staahtsittayaaki - Genevieve Fox – Director of Education, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council (Treaty 7)

Chester Auger – Director of Education, Bigstone Cree Nation Education (Treaty 8)

Métis Representatives:

Dianne Desjarlais – Director, Alberta Métis Settlements General Council

Lisa Cruickshank – Director, Métis Education and Lifelong Learning, Rupertsland Institute

Charter:

Mavis Averill – Superintendent, Boyle Street Education Centre

Francophone:

Dolorèse Nolette – Directrice Générale/Superintendent of Schools, Conseil scolaire Centre-Est

AISCA:

Erin Murphy – Senior ECS Manager

Alberta Education:

Rod Armstrong – Director, Indigenous and North Services Branch Field Services

For more information, please contact: Your representative and/or David Keohane
david.keohane@cass.ab.ca

Introduction of Committee Chair

CASS CEO David Keohane introduced Tim De Ruyck as committee chair, serving for another term in 2023-24.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Tim De Ruyck acknowledged the land and welcomed the group.

Introductions

The committee met for the first time for the 2023-24 year. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

The committee's Terms of Reference were created when the action committee was first established in 2016 and approved on October 25, 2017. It was then revised in March 2023 based on the recommendations of the committee at that time. Upon review, one revision under the Chair section, has been recommended, which will now state, "*The Committee will be chaired by a regulated CASS member with the support of CASS administration.*"

Appointment of Secretary to Create Meeting Highlights

This has been tabled until a volunteer to serve as secretary comes forward.

Review of How to Begin and End Meetings

The committee agreed that the practice of beginning and ending each meeting with a blessing should continue.

Ideas for the 2024 Indigenous Education Gathering

CASS Leadership Consultant Dr. Dianne Roulson and ARPDC Knowledge Keeper Jason Bigcharles are planning the 2024 Gathering.

Dianne provided a high-level report on the results of the learning survey, emphasizing on what sessions the respondents are looking for at future Gatherings. There was a resounding request to offer a time for reflection, a time to slow down at the end. Other recommendations include having a youth panel, continue sessions on sacred site visits, Treaties, and having a good balance on gender. In terms of a theme, what came out strongly was kinship relationality focusing on ways to establish strong relationships within the community.

Committee members shared appreciation on what has been done so far and are looking forward to reviewing the draft program at its next meeting. The target to have the registration open is January 23, 2024.

Future Meetings, Frequency of Meetings and Future Agenda Topics

David Keohane spoke about CASS' conditional grant and deliverable 3, which focuses on Success for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Students. He further shared what the action items are and how the committee can help support these. David will provide an update at the next meeting, which will help determine the frequency of meeting and potential agenda topics related to the grant.

Closing Blessing

Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina offered a closing blessing in her ancestral language.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 9:00–10:30 a.m. Proposed Agenda Topics:

1. Review of the Indigenous Education Gathering Program
2. Update on the CASS Conditional Grant, Deliverable 3: Success for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Students
3. Determine the frequency of meetings going forward