



Meeting Highlights

January 9, 2024

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, Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (Treaty 6)

Staahtsistayaaki - 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 – Acting ADM, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Division

Sarah Pearce – Acting Executive Director, Indigenous and North Services Branch Field Services

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

Opening Prayer

Genevieve Fox offered an opening blessing in her ancestral language, with prayers of success for all.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Tim De Ruyck acknowledged the land and welcomed the group.

Introductions

Committee members were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

Appointment of Secretary to Create Meeting Highlights

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

Review of the Indigenous Education Gathering Program

CASS Leadership Consultant Dr. Dianne Roulson and ARPDC Knowledge Keeper Jason Bigcharles are planning the 2024 Gathering. Dianne shared the program to date with the theme of “Kinship Relations for Student Success”. The program considers a balance of treaty areas and nations, gender, programming for both First Nations schools and provincial school authorities, Elders as keynote speakers, strong Indigenous women’s voices, and the flexibility around longer sessions when appropriate.

As a pre-conference offering, the idea of an opening round dance in partnership with the University of Alberta is being considered. This pre-conference will focus on the teachings connected to the round dance, which is connected to the idea of kinship.

The keynote speakers that have been approached, with arrangements being finalized are:

- Chief Billy Joe Laboucan – Represents [Lubicon Lake Band](#) in Little Buffalo, Alberta and has served as Chief of Lubicon Lake Band since 2013. He is also a linguist.

- Elders Adelaide Creighton and Wilton Good Striker from Blackfoot Confederacy – Involved in traditional and spiritual ways and in all aspects of the community.
- Cadmus Delorme – Cree and Saulteaux and former Chief of the Cowessess First Nation.
- A Dene Elder to be confirmed.
- A Métis leader to be confirmed as Witness to the Gathering.

Based on survey feedback, the possibility of having youth participate in sessions, bridging Elders and youth together, is being explored.

The resource/book that delegates will receive is being arranged through Nelson Education.

Registration is expected to open by end of January.

Update on CASS Conditional Grant: Deliverable 3 and Future Meetings

David Keohane gave an update about CASS’ conditional grant, deliverable 3, which focuses on Success for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Students. Dr. Dianne Roulson has been contracted to oversee the action items related to this deliverable. A schedule for future meetings will be forthcoming.

Resources Available for Education Service Agreements

The recently developed CASS eLeadership resource was shared, which provides guidelines about ESAs. <https://cass.ab.ca/resources/eleadership-guide-establishing-and-maintaining-respectful-relationships/>

Closing Blessing

Genevieve Fox offered a closing blessing in her ancestral language.

Next Meeting: A Doodle Poll will be shared to finalize a date in February.