



# Meeting Highlights

April 11, 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)

**Staahsisttayaaki - 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:

**Sarah Pearce** – Director, Northern Region Rural, Urban, Métis and Inuit Education Branch

**Ron Taylor** – Director, Indigenous and North Services Branch

**For more information, please contact:**  
Your representative and/or David Keohane  
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## Opening Prayer

A beautiful opening prayer was offered by Staahsisttayaaki, Dr. Genevieve Fox.

## Land Acknowledgement

Cindy Stefanato offered the land acknowledgement.

## Introductions

Committee members were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

## Update on the Indigenous Education Gathering

CASS Leadership Consultant Dr. Dianne Roulson and ARPCD Knowledge Keeper Jason Bigcharles shared updates to the Gathering program.

- 10 Elders are being sponsored by CASS from 26 nominations received.
- Pipe Ceremony as the spiritual opening of the Gathering will be held at the beginning of the pre-conference Round Dance on Wednesday instead of the usual early morning ceremonies on Thursday and Friday.
- There will be male and female Pipe Teaching sessions Friday morning.
- Elder Helpers are confirmed to be involved in ensuring Elders are supported through out the Gathering.
- An open invitation was sent to all delegates to have their flag represented.
- The Lieutenant Governor is confirmed to attend the Wednesday evening opening.

Dianne shared appreciation to the Education Action Committee for the recommendation to have Elders serve as the keynote speakers.

## Seeking Advice on CASS Conditional Grant: Deliverable 3

CASS Leadership Consultant Dr. Dianne Roulson shared updates about steps she has taken regarding the projects assigned to her through the CASS Conditional Grant. She asked for guidance and advice from action committee members.

## CEP Course - Indigenous Education Data Analysis/Accountability/Planning

- The CASS Continuing Education Program scheduled for full implementation September 2024 will include 12 courses, with 2 courses focusing on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education.
- One course, *Sharing Stone Keeper's Wisdom*, was developed last year as a land-based session with an advisory team, the majority of whom were Indigenous senior leaders.
- The second course being developed this year by Dianne and an advisory of 5 members will focus on Indigenous student success data and grant accountability.

## Webinar Series

Dianne is working with Crystal Clark, an incredible educator, to host the series focusing on stories of practice about respectful reciprocal relationships that are unfolding between provincial school authorities and neighbouring Indigenous communities. Details can be found on the [CASS Online Learning webpage](#).

## Mentorship

One of the recommendations from the [Report on Indigenous Teachers and Leaders](#), is offering a mentorship program and creating a network of Indigenous educators who could offer support, guidance, and mentorship to one another. Dianne is working with 4 Indigenous System Education Leaders and CASS Consultant Dr. Edgar Schmidt to design of an Indigenous parallel mentorship program. The group is planning to invite Elders to provide guidance to ensure the best design for the program.

## Cultural Protocol Guide

A survey will be created to do a scan of the work provincial school authorities are already undertaking to learn and honour local cultural protocol. 7 Indigenous educators and system education leaders and an Elder are guiding the content of the survey and final document.

**Next Meeting:** May 21, 2024, 10-11:30