

# University College of the North Minutes of the Council of Elders

Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Pas Boardroom 132  
Zoom: 699.627.8649



PRESENT	REGRETS	ABSENT	Guests/Resources
M. Bignell - Opaskwayak J. Donovan - Thompson G. Guiboche - Learning Council M. Jonasson - Wabowden P. Marsden - Governing Council M. Spence - Split Lake T. Weenusk - Oxford House	M. Head-Steppan - Flin Flon T. Mendel - Swan River S. Neff - Grand Rapids		T. Pidskalny - Tri-Council Exec. Officer D. Lauvstad - President & Vice-Chancellor B. Cianflone - Governing Council Chair D. Williamson - Associate Dean, Mihcet Meskanawah Teaching and Learning T. Manych - AVP Mihcet Meskanawah Teaching and Learning

**1.0 Opening Prayer**  
Opening Prayer was offered by Elder Martha Spence.

**2.0 Presentation**

**2.1 UCN Early Childhood Education**  
David Williamson provided an update on the Early Childhood Expansion. This included new community-based sites, expansion on hiring (program administration, community sites, workplace program, childcare assistant), overview of the Post Diploma Early Learning and Childcare Administration Program (ECE III), and the Pre-ECE Program (preparation for post-secondary).

**2.2 UCN Education & Training Centres**  
Dr. Lynette Plett provided regrets. Tara Manych provided an update and overview, which included the following:

- An overview of the Intern Program. An overview of the Computers for Schools Program. Through these two programs UCN has been able to distribute 100 laptops to students in communities. Through the Centre Coordinators UCN is able to recycle old equipment and get this out of community as well.
- Issues of connectivity in communities, including old equipment, students unable to hear the instructor or vice versa. Five Star Link Satellites have been ordered so far and are dedicated to the centres – this will help with connectivity. Smart Classrooms have been ordered to help overcome issues caused by the old projector units. Centre Coordinators have been involved with the testing and set up. Working toward a rotation to replace the computer labs in communities as well. And working on being able to provide more face-to-face instruction in community.
- Working on a pilot program to help get technology certification for all Centre Coordinators so that when a computer goes down, they can fix the issues.
- Pre-language credits will be starting in September. The department is looking for community Elders, Council of Elders members, to get into the classroom as well, to help learn through conversation.
- An Internal Transfer Agreement has been put in place, which will allow students to take smaller courses, stack them together, and have them count for half of the eight credits for the mature student diploma.
- The department is working with Workforce Development on the Driver's Education Program.

- Working to provide some entry points that are free for students. Courses that encourage people to come in, brush up on skills, and prepare for entry into a program.
- There are all kinds of barriers and challenges, but the department is working to alleviate these as best as they can.
- Currently there are five Centre Coordinators, for nine sites, and in one location the instructor is currently covering these duties. The department welcomes the Elders' guidance and assistance in the recruitment strategy.

### 3.0 Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Elder Mabel Bignell at 10:56 a.m.

### 4.0 Adoption of Agenda

It was duly moved and seconded by J. Donovan / M. Jonasson  
**THAT** the agenda for March 20, 2024, be adopted as presented.

**This Motion was put to a vote and CARRIED**

COE-03/20/24-4.0  
 Adoption of Agenda

### 5.0 Acceptance of Minutes

#### 5.1 November 29, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

It was duly moved and seconded by J. Donovan / M. Jonasson  
**THAT** the COE accept the Minutes of November 29, 2023, as presented.

**This Motion was put to a vote and CARRIED**

COE-03/20/24-5.1  
 November 29, 2023  
 Meeting Minutes

### 6.0 Committee Business

#### 6.1 Committee of the Whole – In-Camera

6.1.1 Nil

#### 6.2 President's Update

A verbal report was received for information.

- UCN Celebrated 25 Years of Nursing Partnership at both The Pas and Thompson Campuses.
- UCN is hosting an Annual Northern Manitoba Arts Conference in The Pas. Next year this Conference will be held in Thompson. The program is included in the meeting package.
- Annual Industry Engagement Night will be held in both The Pas and Thompson in April.
- UCN was selected (one of seven) to receive a grant from the Rideau Hall Foundation as part of an Indigenous Teacher Education Initiative.
- The Minister of Advanced Education was in The Pas for four days. She attended part of the Nursing Celebration, attended a Memorial for a UCN Student, attended the ECE Grand Opening, and traveled to Flin Flon to tour the new DPN facility as well as the Mine Academy.
- Provided an update regarding Collective Bargaining.
- Shared the News Release that UCN named Top 25 Places to Work in Manitoba.
- Provided an update on the Class 5 partnership.

##### 6.2.1 President's Letter

Discussion ensued regarding the concerns of the Council of Elders.

Blessing of the food was provided at 12:34 pm, and the meeting continued.

**6.3 Letter of Invite - 19th Annual Aboriginal Education Research Forum**

The Council reviewed the request, and it was agreed that Elders Martha Jonasson and Martha Spence will participate in the conference. T. Pidskalny will advise the conference organizers.

Elders Mabel Bignell and Tommy Weenusk may attend the conference and will advise as soon as possible.

**6.4 COE Meeting Schedule 2024-2027, Draft**

The Elders reviewed the schedule and asked that it be tabled until the next meeting.

**6.5 Council of Elders Meetings**

As discussed in Item 6.4.

**6.6 Elders Interests and Teachings**

Tabled.

**6.7 David Lathlin Award**

Tabled.

**6.8 Kenanow Booklet for Teachers**

Tabled.

**7.0**

**COE Activity Reports**

**7.1 M. Jonasson – Governing Council**

Governing Council met on January 25/24. The next meeting is on March 21//24.

**7.2 T. Weenusk – Learning Council**

Verbal report received.

Learning Council met on February 20/24. The next meeting is on April 23/24.

**7.3 M. Bignell – LC Academic Planning Committee**

Verbal report received.

**7.4 M. Bignell – LC Curriculum & Standards Committee**

Verbal report received.

**7.5 S. Neff – LC Appeals Committee**

Verbal report received.

**7.6 J. Donovan – LC Awards Committee**


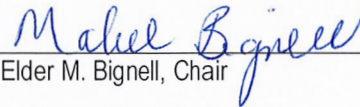
Verbal report received.

**7.7 J. Donovan – LC Library Committee**

Verbal report received.

- 7.8 **Vacancy – LC Research, Education & Learning Committee**  
No report.
- 8.0 **Self-Monitoring**
- 8.1 **2023/2024 Attendance**  
Received for information.
- 8.2 **COE Record of Motions 2023-2024**  
Received for information.
- 9.0 **Roundtable**  
Received for information.
  - Continuing to recruit from communities. They must be highly respected in their community, they are going to be honest, and dedicated to education.
  - Tributes to the late Elder Jimmy Hunter-Spence were provided.
  - Elder Tommy Weenusk expressed thanks to the UCN Management Team for a milestone year and all of the positive work that has been done.
  - Concern was expressed with needing time for in-camera conversations before items with sensitivity are brought forward to the agenda. This will ensure all Elders are involved and have the relevant information related to agenda items.
  - G. Guiboche provided a report on Kenanow B.Ed which included:
    - o the five core funded spots are filled with Sandy Bay, Chemawawin, Sapatoyak, Pinamoontang, and Tataskwayak;
    - o have our two on campus programs;
    - o BA B.Ed Cohorts, four of which have started and one will be starting in Bunibonnibee, York Factory, Mathias Colomb, Pequis, and God’s River.
    - o In talks with the Center for Aboriginal Human Resource Development in Winnipeg.
    - o Frontier is on hold right now.
- 10.0 **Adjournment/Closing Prayer**  
Closing Prayer was offered by Elder M. Jonasson .  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m. by Elder J. Donovan.  
Next meeting: April 23, 2024.

COE-03/20/24-10.0  
Adjournment/Closing  
Prayer

 T. Pidskalny, Tri-Council Executive Officer	 Elder M. Bignell, Chair
May 22, 2024	May 22, 2024
Dated	Dated