

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

Wednesday, May 22, 2024  
9:00 am - 4:00 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. Head-Steppan - Flin Flon M. Jonasson - Wabowden P. Marsden - Governing Council T. Mendel - Swan River T. Weenusk - Oxford House	M. Spence - Split Lake	S. Neff - Grand Rapids	T. Pidskalny - Tri-Council Exec. Officer D. Lauvstad - President & Vice-Chancellor D. Smith - VP Strategic Growth R. Neckoway - VP Indigenous Initiatives & Reconciliation K. Hyde - Professor, Faculty of Arts, Business & Science

## 1.0 Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was offered by Elder Margaret Head-Steppan.

## 2.0 Presentation

### 2.1 International Education Pilot

Dr. Dan Smith provided an overview of the briefing note that was included in the meeting package:

- UCN is considering a pilot cohort of international education students in the Diploma Practical Nursing (DPN) program offered in Flin Flon and Swan River.
- The pilot program would see up to 20 students admitted three times per year for a total of 60 additional students in a given year.
- UCN is engaged in the growth effort to fill key labour force gaps in the north, including health care, education, and industrial/mining-related trades.

### 2.2 UCN Indigenous Initiatives & Reconciliation Department Updates

Dr. Ramona Neckoway provided an update and overview, which included the following:

- Events and Activities, including:
  - Manitoba Indigenous Education Blueprint Committee (MIEBC): Integrating IK in curriculum; Linkages.
  - Manitoba Aboriginal Languages Strategy (MALS): Speak Indigenous.  
**Action:** What is the view of the COE regarding hosting a MALS Symposium in May 2025?
  - OK Gathering: Calls to Action Initiative.
  - ASSW (Edinburgh): Decolonizing Education, UArctic Networking, Exploration: New Indigenous Thematic Network.
  - Lighting the Fire: Speak Indigenous.
  - Shawane Dagošiwīn.
- New Funding and Opportunities
  - Received \$2 million, RHF Funding to support Indigenous Teacher Training. Includes Indigenous Teacher Training, project coordinator, support curriculum development, grow certificate teaching program, summer leadership institute (training), summer bush school (course based).
- Changes in IIR

**2.3 Summary on Upcoming Paper for the Arctic Congress**

Dr. Hyde advised that he has spent the last seven years transcribing some journals written by the Reverend Henry Budd, Sr., who is one of the first Indigenous men to be fully ordained in the Anglican Church, in all North America. Dr. Hyde provided an overview of the presentation that he will be presenting to the Arctic Congress in Norway.

Oral History Project Regarding the Foundations and Development of UCN

UCN has asked Dr. Hyde and two other historians to look at, and document, oral history regarding the origins of UCN, its founding, and the early years. Several people will be interviewed including students from that time frame, government, local community members, administration, faculty, staff, and Elders.

Dr. Hyde asked if the Council of Elders from the founding and early years be interested in participating in oral interviews and the Elders in attendance agreed to be interviewed.

**3.0 Call to Order**

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Elder Mabel Bignell at 9:46 a.m.

**4.0 Adoption of Agenda**

It was duly moved and seconded by J. Donovan / T. Mendel

**THAT** the agenda for May 22, 2024, be adopted with additions:

- Item 6.8 June Council of Elders Meeting
- Item 7.9 T. Mendel - FABS Meeting

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

COE-05/22/24-4.0  
Adoption of Agenda

**5.0 Acceptance of Minutes****5.1 March 20, 2024 - Meeting Minutes**

It was duly moved and seconded by T. Mendel / M. Head-Steppan

**THAT** the COE accept the Minutes of March 20, 2024, as presented.

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

COE-05/22/24-5.1  
March 20, 2024 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 and included the following:

- Upcoming celebrations included DPN Pinning Ceremonies in Flin Flon and Swan River, Churchill HCA Graduation, The Pas Convocation and Thompson Convocation.
- Held a meet and greet in Thompson with students. Some students from the Office Assistant Program gave a presentation. Three of these students were doing their work experience at UCN and have since been hired by and working at UCN.
- UCN is being encouraged by the Government of Manitoba, and others, to follow up on the Linkages Conference held in Thompson by bringing representatives from First Nations in the Yukon, BC, Alberta to share their experience with Manitoba First Nations

regarding resource and economic development. A big component will be the involvement of the Council of Elders and Elders from other jurisdictions. This is at least a year out in the planning.

- Have been asked by Paskwayak Business Development Corporation to participate in workshops/meetings looking at potential business development opportunities in The Pas and Opaskwayak.
- UCN was approached by Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) to request use of UCN residence space for fire evacuees from Cranberry Portage. At the peak, UCN had 21 evacuees staying on site.
- UCN has received verbal approval to proceed with the Primary Care Paramedic program in The Pas for September 2024. UCN has not yet received approval for Thompson.
- UCN has received approval to run the Heavy Duty Mechanic in Thompson to start September 2024.
- UCN has hired a new Registrar, who will start on June 3/24.
- Keewatinoook Okimakanak Board of Education (serving six first nations in northern Ontario) have requested that UCN deliver, remotely, the Education Assistant Program and a prep for this program.

### 6.3 COE Meeting Schedule 2024-2027, Draft

It was duly moved and seconded by T. Mendel / M. Head-Steppan

**THAT** the COE approve the 2024-2027 COE Elders Meeting Schedule, as presented.

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

COE-05/22/24-6.3  
COE Meeting  
Schedule 2024-2027,  
Draft

### 6.4 Learning Council Standing Committee Memberships

**Action:** The memberships will be reviewed at the June 2024 meeting. T. Pidskalny will forward a listing to the Elders, of vacancies and a blurb about each committee.

### 6.5 Elders Interests and Teachings

Chair, Elder Mabel Bignell requested that T. Pidskalny keep an up-to-date list for the Chair, regarding the interests and teachings of each of the Elders.

**Action:** T. Pidskalny will reach out to each Elder individually.

### 6.6 David Lathlin Award

**Action:** G. Guiboche will follow up with the Convocation Committee to ensure that recognition of this award is included in the Convocation Booklet.

### 6.7 Kenanow Booklet for Teachers

**Action:** G. Guiboche will follow up with Elder Stella Neff and provide an update at the June 2024 Council of Elders meeting.

### 6.8 June Council of Elders Meeting

A review of the June Council of Elders Meeting and Governing Council meeting was discussed. The Governing Council meeting had to be rescheduled to June 20/24.

The Council of Elders agreed that they will meet in Thompson on June 12/24.

- 7.0 COE Activity Reports**
- 7.1 M. Jonasson – Governing Council**  
Governing Council met on March 21/24. The next meeting is on May 23/24.
- 7.2 T. Weenusk – Learning Council**  
Learning Council met on April 23/24. The next meeting is on June 11/24.
- 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**  
No report.
- 7.6 J. Donovan – LC Awards Committee**  
No report.
- 7.7 J. Donovan – LC Library Committee**  
No report.
- 7.8 Vacancy – LC Research, Education & Learning Committee**  
No report.
- 7.9 T. Mendel – FABS Meeting**  
Verbal report received.
- 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.
- Discussion regarding The Pas Campus Elder. It is important that this position is filled as soon as possible. A new posting has been issued.  
**Action:** T. Pidskalny will distribute the posting to the Council of Elders.
  - Discussion regarding Council of Elder membership.
  - Request that M. Jonasson and B. Firman are invited to Faculty Orientation in August to provide an overview of the history of UCN.  
**Action:** T. Pidskalny will forward the request to Harvey Briggs.
  - M. Bignell requested the COE receive a report on the Kenanow Program (what is happening in the program, what are the changes, where is the booklet, what programs, where being taught, how many students are in the program, how many

- graduates, who leads the program(s), how many instructors, how many Indigenous Instructors, is the program solid/stable). The Elders would like to see an audit, perhaps an external audit/review of this program.
- The Elders would like a list of programs that are offered to our students at UCN, on campus and in community, and enrolments.
  - M. Head-Steppan advised that she will be attending the Flin Flon DPN Pinning Ceremony to provide the opening prayer and remarks and will be attending Convocation in The Pas.
  - T. Mendel advised that he will be attending the DPN Pinning Ceremony in Swan River and will be providing the opening prayer. He will also attend The Pas Convocation.
  - M. Jonasson advised that she and M. Spence attended the Aboriginal Education Research Forum in Winnipeg.
  - G. Guiboche advised that going forward she will provide a written report for each meeting.
  - G. Guiboche advised of the following updates in her area:
    - All five spots of the core funded have been filled (Sandy Bay, Chemawawin, Sapatoyak, Pinamoontang, and Tataskwayak)
    - There are five after-degree programs in the works, BA B.Ed (Bunibonnibee, York Factory, Pukatawagan, Pequis, and God's River)
    - Currently working on an Unsuitability Policy for students in the B.Ed Program.
    - Attended a meeting in Winnipeg for the Indigenous Language and Indigenous Teacher and Retention Meeting hosted by Manitoba Education
    - Met with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center to close her relationship with them, as her former position as Dean for the EA.
    - Into the Wild will run again this year, which is a six week program, and is mostly land based.
    - Attended the ECE Opening Ceremony where she was honoured as the previous Dean for the program.
    - Will be attending the Canadian Society for the Study of Education in Montreal in June. Will be presenting with Elder Stella Neff and Helen Robinson-Settee.
    - Meet once a year with the Western Association of Deans of Education. We are working on an Indigenous Accord.
    - There is a program review in progress for Kenanow.
    - Will follow up on the David Lathlin Award.
    - Indigenous employees in Kenanow: in The Pas three of five; in Thompson zero of three (hoping with a successful interview it will be one of three); in Community Based two of four; all Stipends, except for one, are Indigenous.
    - Changes in Kenanow include, in December, the ECE, the EA and the INCS Programs were removed from her department and moved to Mihcet Meskanawah; an Associate Dean position that was earmarked for Kenanow was given to Mihcet Meskanawah to supervise these programs.
  - L. Plett advised that David Williamson was appointed for a term in the role of Associate Dean, however, that position has been advertised. The ECE expansion is significant, and the position will be for a two-year term, and will be responsible for the duration of the expansion.
  - P. Marsden advised that she attended the Canadian University Boards Association

Conference in early May, the Governing Council Governance Committee has been busy reviewing policies.

- The Sweat Lodge in The Pas requires safety improvements, but the intention is to have it available once the improvements have been made.

10.0

**Adjournment/Closing Prayer**

Closing Prayer was offered by Elder Mabel Bignell.  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m. by Elder T. Mendel.  
Next meeting: June 12, 2024.

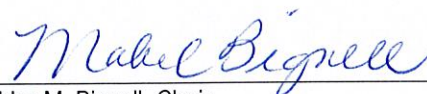
COE-05/22/24-10.0  
Adjournment/Closing  
Prayer



T. Pidskalny, Tri-Council Executive Officer

August 20, 2024

Dated



Elder M. Bignell, Chair

August 20, 2024

Dated