

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

Wednesday, November 29, 2023  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Pas Boardroom 132  
Zoom: 699.627.8649



| PRESENT  | REGRETS   | ABSENT | Guests/Resources   |
|--|---|--------|--|
| M. Bignell - Opaskwayak<br>J. Donovan - Thompson<br>M. Head-Steppan - Flin Flon<br>M. Jonasson - Wabowden<br>T. Mendel - Swan River<br>S. Neff - Grand Rapids<br>T. Weenusk - Oxford House | G. Guiboche - Learning Council<br>J. Hunter-Spence - Nelson House<br>P. Marsden - Governing Council<br>M. Spence - Split Lake |        | T. Pidskalny - Tri-Council Exec. Officer<br>J. Mayer - Administrative Assistant<br>D. Lauvstad - President & Vice-Chancellor<br>B. Cianflone - Governing Council Chair<br>M. Koshel - Director of Marketing, Communications & Recruitment<br>R. Neckoway - AVP Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation |

## 1.0 Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was offered by Elder Margaret Head-Steppan.

## 2.0 Presentation

### 2.1 UCN Sculpture Names

The Elders reviewed the sculpture name submissions and provided feedback regarding the spelling and meaning of the Cree names submitted.

### 2.2 Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation Department, Update

Dr. R. Neckoway provided an overview of the department including updates on initiatives.

## 3.0 Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Elder Mabel Bignell at 10:58 a.m.

## 4.0 Adoption of Agenda

It was duly moved and seconded by J. Donovan / M. Head-Steppan  
**THAT** the agenda for November 29, 2023, be adopted as presented.

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

COE-11/29/23-4.0  
Adoption of Agenda

## 5.0 Acceptance of Minutes

### 5.1 September 27, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

It was duly moved and seconded by J. Donovan / S. Neff  
**THAT** the COE accept the Minutes of September 27, 2023, as presented.

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

COE-11/29/23-5.1  
September 27, 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 hosted Red River Polytech Executives at The Pas Campus. Discussion included barriers to success (for students). Ramona Neckoway and Jamie Wilson will continue discussions and ways the institutions can work together.

- Six students from UCN received awards from The Business Council of Manitoba. Through an application and selection process they assist students of Aboriginal ancestry with tuition, books, and supplies.
- Nominations for the Lorimer Award are being accepted. This award is in recognition of outstanding service to education in Northern Manitoba. Council of Elders are encouraged to nominate someone they feel meets the criteria and is deserving of this award. **Action:** T. Pidskalny will distribute more information.
- UCN is engaging with other institutions and agencies to support, develop, and promote northern Indigenous artists.
- UCN will be introducing a heavy equipment operation program, heavy duty mechanic program, among others, to support the growth of these opportunities in the north.
- UCN will be offering a Pre-Law Program in September.
- Working on a community engagement strategy around the mining and trades training projects UCN has.
- Linkages The Pas was well received and a lot of excitement around Linkages Thompson in February 2024.
- **Action:** The mandate letter from the Government will be distributed to the Council of Elders.
- The Conference Board of Canada Centre for the North will be hosting a workshop at UCN The Pas. The topic is Sustainable Development for the North.

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:00 pm.

Meeting called to order at 1:09 pm.

### 6.3 COE New Member Process, Draft

The Council of Elders reviewed the draft document and provided the following feedback:

- Add wording re: Elders from communities with UCN Regional Centres.
- The COE will reach out to communities and provided recommendations to COE
- Replace “Application” with “Appointment”
- Paperwork should be received within six months of being welcomed to the COE. An extension can be given for extenuating circumstances.

It was duly moved and seconded by J. Donovan / M. Head-Steppan

**THAT** the COE approve the COE New Process document as presented and with the recommended revisions.

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

COE-11/29/23-6.3

COE New Member

Process, Draft

### 6.4 Elders Protocol Pamphlet, Draft

The Council of Elders reviewed the draft and provided the following feedback:

- Add a line regarding Elders are ambassadors in their community and for UCN.
- Add a line regarding if there is a local Elder attending, they should be asked to provide the prayer vs an Elder from another community.

It was duly moved and seconded by M. Jonasson / T. Mendel

**THAT** the COE approve the Elders Protocol Pamphlet as presented and with the recommended revisions.

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

COE-11/29/23-6.4

Elders Protocol

Pamphlet, Draft

**6.5 David Lathlin Award**

The David Lathlin Award wasn't mentioned for the Kenanow Bachelor of Education Program in the Convocation Booklet. There was no mention of him and the Elders would like to see this included in the next Convocation booklet for Kenanow.

**Action:** Elder Stella Neff will follow up with G. Guiboche on Monday, December 4/23.

**6.6 Kenanow Booklet for Teachers**

**Action:** Elder Stella Neff will follow up with G. Guiboche on Monday, December 4/23.

**6.7 Seven Sacred Teachings, December 2011**

A copy of the Seven Sacred Teachings approved by the Council of Elders in 2011 was provided for reference.

**6.8 UCN Honorariums**

Questions on remuneration were reviewed.

**6.9 Future Presentations**

The Council was advised that Ann Barbour-Stevenson and David Williamson will attend a future meeting to seek input from the COE regarding a course that is under creation: "Understanding Our Historical Roots in the North".

**6.10 UCN Organizational Chart**

Received for information, as per request of the Council of Elders.

**6.11 February 2024 COE Meeting**

The Council discussed the possibility of changing the COE meeting date to March to coincide with the Governing Council meeting. Winter travel was raised as a concern.

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

**THAT** the COE cancel the February 2024 meeting and reschedule to March 20, 2024.

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

COE-11/29/23-6.11  
February 2024 COE  
Meeting

**7.0****COE Activity Reports****7.1 M. Jonasson – Governing Council**

Verbal report received.

Governing Council met on September 28/23. The next meeting is on November 30/23.

**7.2 T. Weenusk – Learning Council**

Verbal report received.



Learning Council met on October 24/23. The next meeting is on December 5/23.

**7.3 M. Bignell – National Gathering of Elders**

Verbal report received.

- 7.4 **M. Spence – CCMEC Convention**  
No 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.
  - John Donovan provided an overview of his attendance at the Tenure & Promotion Committee Meeting and the Learning Council Awards Committee.
  - Tim Mendel attended a Faculty of Arts, Business, and Science meeting and provided an overview of the meeting.
  - The Council would like to have pictures of the Council of Elders displayed at The Pas Campus as well as the Thompson Campus.
  
- 10.0 **Adjournment/Closing Prayer**  
Closing Prayer was offered by Elder M. Head-Steppan.  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m. by Elder M. Jonasson.  
Next meeting: March 20, 2024.

COE-11/29/23-10.0  
Adjournment/Closing  
Prayer

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|--|---|
| <br>T. Pidskalny, Tri-Council Executive Officer<br>_____<br>March 20, 2024<br>Dated | <br>Elder M. Bignell, Chair<br>_____<br>March 20, 2024<br>Dated |
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