

LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES of 2025-04-10

Lambton College Boardroom & Virtual

PRESENT

Dave Machacek, Senior Vice President, Academic & Student Success, Lambton College
Jane Manning, Director, Indigenous Education, Lambton College
Kurtis Gray, Associate VP, Student Success, Lambton College
Jarvis Nahdee, Lambton College Board of Governors and Community Member
Ian Duckworth, Post Secondary Counsellor, Southern First Nations Secretariat
Laura Spero, Post Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Designate)
Andrea Auger, Indigenous Professor, Lambton College
Summer Catt, Indigenous Student Navigator, Lambton College
Erica Peters, Post Secondary Counsellor, Walpole Island Post Secondary
Alicia Round, Co-President, Indigenous Student Council, Lambton College
Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Jeffery Blackbird, Support Worker/Life Coach, Walpole Island Employment & Training
Holly Altman, Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Student Centre, Lambton College

ONLINE

Phyllis George, Chair, General Manager, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation

REGRETS

Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Ky Nahmabin, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Lambton College

COPIES TO

Janelle Nahmabin, Chief, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Leela Thomas, Chief, Walpole Island First Nation
Kimberly Bressette, Chief, Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
Todd Cornelius, Chief, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Justin Logan, Chief, Delaware Nation
Joe Miskokomon, Chief, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Roger Thomas, Chief, Munsee-Delaware First Nation
Nikki Van Oirschot, Chief, Caldwell First Nation
Rob Kardas, President, Lambton College

Phyllis opened the meeting at 10:08 am.

1. Welcome & Minute of Silence (Phyllis/all)

Phyllis welcomed everyone to the meeting followed by one minute of silence.

NOTE: Debbie Dolson joined the meeting at 10:10 am.

2. Land Acknowledgment (Dave)

Dave Machacek provided the land acknowledgement with personal reflection.

3. Introductions (all)

Introductions were made around the table. Erica Peters is the new Post Secondary Counsellor for Walpole Island Post Secondary. Alicia Round is co-President of the Indigenous Student Council and will give the update to Item #12. Laura Spero is designate for Vicki Ware, Aamjiwnaang Education.

4. Approval of Agenda (all)

Move Item #11 and Item #12 after Item #9 as a couple of members will have to leave before the end of the meeting. Change presenter of Item #12 – Indigenous Student Council Update to Alicia.

MOTION: To accept the Agenda of April 10, 2025, with noted changes.

Moved by: I. Duckworth

Seconded by: J. Nahdee

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2024 (all)

- Updates on action items were provided.
- Regarding OPSEU support staff bargaining agreement and Indigenous commitment and the requested recommendations by IEC, the recommendations were emailed to members for review in January.
- Hard copies of recommendations were provided at the meeting

MOTION: To accept the recommendations to the Support Staff OPSEU Collective Agreement & Indigenous Commitment section.

Moved by: I. Duckworth

Seconded by: J. Nahdee

CARRIED

MOTION: To accept the Minutes of December 10, 2024.

Moved by: I. Duckworth

Seconded by: D. Dolson

CARRIED

NOTE: Jeffery Blackbird joined the meeting at 10:24 am.

6. Lambton College Updates (Dave/Kurtis)

- Academic Awards ceremony had 640 students receive awards.
- Spring Open House had 600 attendees with about 100 applicants
- Employment Services moved from the county to Sarnia; able to work more closely with students
- Athletics Banquet honored 180 varsity athletes
- Program Advisory Committee (PAC) appreciation event
- 30th Anniversary Pow Wow
- Lambton College will see a decrease of 51% of International students this fall
- 18 programs have been suspended – mostly graduate programs or hospitality geared to the International audience
- Do not see impact to Indigenous students as the core programs will continue
- Overall, the financial impact will affect the college, considering consolidating programs, introducing flagship programs
- Bridging the nursing program; Lambton now has a full BSCN program
- Have had interest in partnering with universities.

ACTION ITEM: Provide presentation on overview of Lambton's pathway programs for future agenda, June or Fall.

7. Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan 2025-2027 (Kurtis/Jane)

- Kurtis thanked the Adhoc group for work on updating the plan.
- the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan was sent out in advance of the meeting for review.
- the Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce at Lambton has been meeting regularly.
- a 4th pillar has been added to the plan – “Reconciliation: Advance Truth & Reconciliation with the mobilization of the Calls to Action”

NOTE: That this is a living document.

MOTION: To approve the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan 2025-2027 as presented.

Moved by: I. Duckworth

Seconded by: D. Dolson

CARRIED

8. Indigenous Outdoor Space (Kurtis & Jane)

- Purposeful and thoughtful project
- there has been delays due to being highly customized
- Grand Opening moved to September 2025
- IOS committee meeting planned to discuss opening, communications, site visit, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Holly to set a date for the IEC to meet for a tour of the Indigenous Outdoor Space

9. Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce (Kurtis & Jane)

- Jane and Kurtis are the chairs
- Andrea did a thorough job with the research and transcripts
- Transcript analysis complete and a high-level snapshot of findings capturing voices of 18 participants
- Participants were happy to participate in the confidential research and felt the work was important
- Close to having the taskforce report completed

11. Indigenous Professor Update (Andrea)

- Both courses, Global Citizenship FNMI Perspectives and First Nations Languages-Resilience & Reclamation were full, with 25 students enrolled in each course.
- 2-3 Indigenous students will be graduating from the LIBI program this spring
- Coordinator duties: Program Advisory Committee appreciation, supporting adjunct faculty teaching the other course, recruitment events.
- Indigenous nursing course development, to be taught September 2025
- PD sessions coming up: NOVA sessions (blanket exercise and Four Seasons), Lambton College sessions-Blanket Exercise and Allyship PD with Summer
- Coordinated volunteers for the 30th Anniversary Pow Wow
- Helped with the Legacy of Hope exhibit
- On the Mental Health Advisory Committee

NOTE: Phyllis acknowledged the good job being done by all employees.

12. Indigenous Student Council Update (Alicia, Co-President)

- Ryan Hurd, Co-President participated in the puck drop ceremony at Sting Game on January 11.
- hosted a Bowling Night social with 14 students participating
- Had a Valentine's Day Basket raffle and sold roses as fundraisers
- Currently having an Easter Basket raffle
- Assisted with Pow Wow preparations and volunteering

- 30th Anniversary Pow Wow was a huge success – April 3, 2025
- At least four of the current Student Council members will be graduating

10. Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) Update (Jane)

- IPEC meeting in February 11 & 12, 2025
- Humber creating portal where IPEC can post/share documents
- Identity framework/policy discussion; led by Sheridan
- A former, long-standing IPEC chair was engaged regarding a position paper for IPEC; she shared the importance of history inclusion and how not to repeat same issues and discussed the importance of relationships with the ministry and college groups such as CCVPA/S (Coordinating Committee of Vice-Presidents Academic/Students)
- The political landscape in Canada & States was mentioned as well as college deficits and potential impacts as well as the ISSF multi-year plan will be end in 2027.
- The IPEC executive has had changes to the team

13. Indigenous Student Centre Update (Summer/Holly)

- Provided application support at education hubs in Kettle & Stony Point and Walpole Island in January
- Scheduled to do another visit to both Hubs in April
- Held four Bursary Drop-In Sessions through January and February to help students apply to Indspire and the Lambton College Indigenous Bursary
- Held a Course Management Workshop to help students prioritize their assignments and tests throughout semester
- Indigenous Student Success Celebration scheduled for May 23; all are invited.
- Updating the summer recruitment schedule; this includes community pow wows.

ACTION ITEM: Holly to provide IEC with email invitation to Indigenous Student Success Celebration.

14. IEC Regional Retreat (Jane)

- In partnership with St. Clair College and Fanshawe College
- Email requesting input on topics for the retreat was sent out
- Suggested topics by one of the partnering IECs were - IEC structures, Terms of Reference, vision for Indigenous education moving forward.

15. Community Needs Discussion/Roundtable (all)

- Discussion from last meeting about mental health and safety issues
- Talked about challenges with addiction issues, difficulty in reaching out and stigma
- Discussed possible supports such as health living sessions, additional counsellors, trauma support, front end intake, early engagement

ACTION ITEM: Summer will create a list of Counsellors available in Sarnia and surrounding area, and a resource on how to access free counselling through NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits)

16. Other Business (all)

- Ian Duckworth was nominated for Vice-Chair, and he accepted.

MOTION: To accept Ian Duckworth as the new Vice-Chair of the Lambton College Council on Indigenous Education.

Moved by: P. George
Seconded by: D. Dolson

CARRIED

17. Next Meeting (all)

- In June, hosted in one of the communities

ACTION ITEM: Holly to send out options for next meeting date.

18. Adjournment (all)

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Moved by: I. Duckworth
Seconded by: L. Spero

CARRIED