

LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES of 2026-03-24

Lambton College – Boardroom (C1-211)

PRESENT

Phyllis George, Chair, General Manager, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation
Laura Spero, Vice-Chair, Post Secondary Counsellor, Southern First Nations Secretariat
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
Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Andrea Auger, Indigenous Studies Professor, Lambton College
Ky Nahmabin, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Lambton College
Sierra Cottrelle, President, Indigenous Student Council, Lambton College
Holly Altman, Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Student Centre, Lambton College

ONLINE

Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

REGRETS

Jeffery Blackbird, Support Worker/Life Coach, Walpole Island Employment & Training

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 10:05 am.

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

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

2. Land Acknowledgment (Dave)

Dave Mahachek provided the land acknowledgement but asked for a moment of gratitude first to acknowledge the great work that the IEC does considering what is happening with post-secondary, globally and locally.

3. Approval of Agenda (all)

Item #12 – Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) to be tabled to the next meeting.

Note that the Indigenous Student Centre Update and the Indigenous Student Council Update has been moved closer to the beginning of the meeting as Items #4 and #5 to accommodate the Indigenous Student Success Coordinator and the Indigenous Student Council President having to leave the meeting early.

MOTION: To accept the Agenda of December 2, 2025, with updates.

Moved by: J. Nahdee
Seconded by: V. Ware

CARRIED

4. Indigenous Student Centre Update (Ky)

- Hosted OCAS application support sessions at: Walpole Island Education Hub Dec 11 and Jan 14; WDSS Jan 14; Delaware First Nation Jan 30
- Participated in Lambton College Application Night and Mature Student Application Night
- Hosted Career Conversation Series with invited organizations for employment opportunities
- Study Break Tours: Bkejwanong Elementary School (Gr.7 & 8) & Strathroy High School (Gr. 12)
- Bursary & Scholarship Support Sessions - Indspire, Nova Chemicals, Origin Materials, Indigenous Student Bursary, First Nation Resource Development Scholarship
- Monthly drop-ins for Courseload Management & Academic Advising
- Bundle Making Workshop and Teachings
- Visiting Elder drop-ins; Monthly student lunch; Math Tutor and English Tutor
- Anishinaabemowin-Teg Language Conference – Student Trip

5. Indigenous Student Council Update (Sierra, President)

- Hosted 10th Annual Round Dance with 35 singers
- Offered remarks at annual Lambton College Tree Lighting
- Participated in Puck Drop Ceremony at the 4th Annual Lions Night @ Sarnia Sting Hockey Game
- Held a Valentine's Day Bake Sale Fundraiser
- Participated in Celebrity Bowl-a-Thon creating bowls on the potters' wheel with the help of Lambton ceramics students and faculty; bowls will be raffled off at the Empty Bowls dinner on April 9, 2026
- Hosted Indigenous student socials: Game Night & Movie night
- Updated our Indigenous Student Council Presentation for future presentations & speaking engagements
- Presented at two campus tours; Walpole Island Elementary and Strathroy High School
- Preparing for the Pow Wow on April 2, 2026

6. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2025 (all)

Laura had offered to send Student Assistance Policy to Holly to share with other members. A hard copy is available today. Jane provided a briefing note on the previous IEC Regional Retreat.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes of December 2, 2025, as presented.

Moved by: L. Spero
Seconded by: D. Dolson

CARRIED

Ky and Sierra left the meeting at 10:27 am.

7. Lambton College Update (Dave/Kurtis)

- College applications are up by 17% with Lambton College being first choice, which is up by 8%
- The Ministry has come through with funding; the college will assess.
- Will still carry a budget deficit for the next two years.
- Many International programs have been suspended; impact on domestic students with program suspensions (Culinary, Pharmacy, Sports Administration and all Office Administration)
- There has been restructuring; Dave is now responsible for Research.
- Industrial Fire Training is now on pause until more sustainable solutions.

- OCAS Indigenous applicants in 2015 totaled 220; this year there is 555 applicants.
- 120 new international students starting in January; 300 in total which is down from 1800
- New residence expected completion is fall 2027; When it is completed, the old residence will be taken down; programs currently housed in the residence building will be moved to the main building. This will mean a better student experience.
- Convocation is June 9, 2026, with a morning and afternoon session
- Indigenous Student Success Celebration is May 28, 2026

Discussion happened on the importance of the residence to attract Indigenous youth.

ACTION: Holly to send out information for Convocation & Student Success Celebration event dates to IEC members.

ACTION: Dave to share a list of suspended programs and send to members.

8. Board of Governors Representative

- Jarvis' term ends on August 31, 2026; Thanked Jarvis for all his work on the Board and as the Chair.
- Lambton College is looking for a recommendation for a new Indigenous representative
- Based on terms of reference, Indigenous representatives have been on a rotating basis between the local First Nations; It is Kettle & Stony Point's turn to appoint a nominee
- No current member of the IEC would like to volunteer and there was no suggestion for a nominee
- The new Board of Governors (BOG) representative is also a member of the IEC

ACTION: Holly to send letter to Kettle & Stony Point Chief & Council

9. IEC Terms of Reference

- Thanked the Terms of Reference Sub-Committee, Phyllis, Laura and Debbie, and their thorough review of the Terms of Reference policy and the recommendations over three, two-hour meetings.
- Handouts provided: a) Existing policy b) Policy with recommended changes
- Recommendations outside of the Terms of Reference were noted: a) Add 'Conflict of Interest' to the IEC agenda; b) Add Indigenous Education Council to the Lambton College organizational chart.

MOTION: To approve the recommendations for the IEC Terms of Reference changes, effective immediately.

Moved by: V. Ware

Seconded by: D. Dolson

CARRIED

ACTION: Holly to send the approved Terms of Reference to members and to add conflict of interest to the IEC Agenda moving forward.

10. Indigenous Outdoor Space

- Indigenous Outdoor Space Steering Committee meeting scheduled for April 9
- Will confirm a soft launch & formal grand opening for June
- Will send IEC grand opening date as soon as possible

11. Truth & Reconciliation Task Force

- The report has gone to Marketing for formatting and design.
- First Nation artist elements and included pictures from orange shirt day with students and community.
- When complete, the report will go to IEC, BOG and college community

- The next step will be meeting with Task Force members in May to work on the working groups

12. IPEC

Tabled to the next meeting.

13. Indigenous Studies Professor Update (Andrea A.)

- Impacts of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission; 19 students; Lila Bruyere as an invited speaker
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit Perspectives; 19 students; 9 are Indigenous Studies (LIBI) students
- Recruitment for LIBI: Application Night, Mature Student Night, Indigenous student tours, Open House
- Updated LIBI program map - required to add program hours; one of the new components will be a service-learning course which adds experiential learning to the program.
- Attending the Anishinaabemowin conference
- Co-facilitating NOVA Chemicals - 4 Seasons of Reconciliation (May) and Blanket Exercise (June)
- Offer support for all events in the May/June period.

14. IEC Regional Retreat (Jane)

- Briefing notes were provided from the last retreat.
- Discussed participating in another IEC retreat at Walpole Island with a pontoon boat ride.

Action Item: Holly to send out dates for June (3, 5, 8, 15, 16).

15. Community Needs Discussion

- Request for advance notice sent to IEC members of college events such as Open Houses, applications nights, CICE information days.
- An invitation to come to Aamjiwnaang's newly expanded Adult Learning space; host next IEC meeting

Action Item: Holly to send out college events to IEC members with advanced notice.

16. Other Business (all)

None

17. Next Meeting (all)

Vicki volunteered to host the next meeting at the Aamjiwnaang Adult Learning Centre and offered a tour; possible dates May 20, 25, 26

Action Item: Holly to connect with the Chair and send out possible meeting dates to the IEC.

18. Adjournment (all)

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Moved by: V. Ware

Seconded by: L. Spero

CARRIED