

**Indigenous Education Council Retreat  
Delaware Nation  
March 6, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**

Indigenous Education Council Meeting

**Attendance:**

- Art Barron, Director of Student Services
- Tina Jacobs, Indigenous Learning Advisor
- Muriel Sampson, Indigenous Councillor
- Naomi Beauchesne, IEC Youth Rep
- Donna Grayer – IEC Member
- Fawn Lomascolo – IEC Member
- Claire Byrne – IEC Member
- Debbie Dolson – IEC Member
- Jody Noah – IEC Member
- Brian Nairn – Curriculum Coordinator
- Joelle Nagle – Curriculum Coordinator
- Lindi Preudi – Executive Director AEC
- Mark Benoit – Student Academic Studies, Chair

**Regrets:** Marija Byrne, Carrie Ann Peters

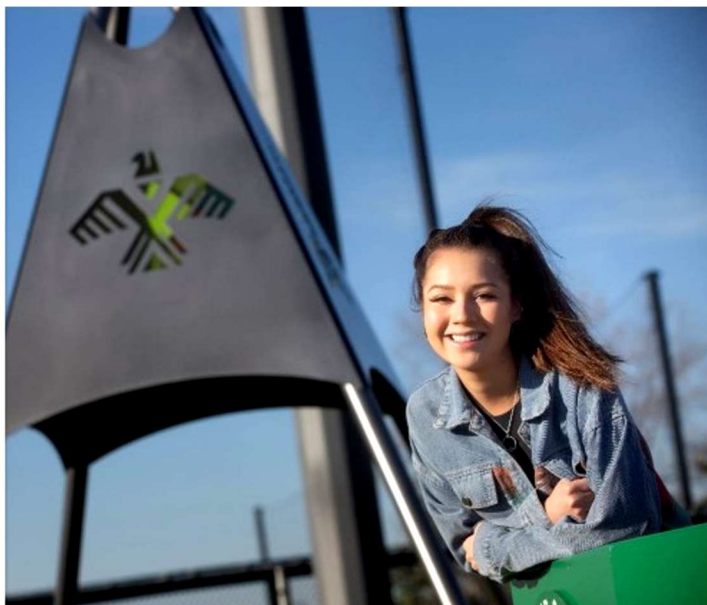
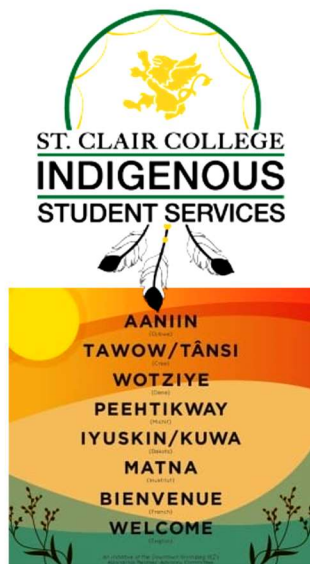
Smudge was offered. Opening from Elder Angela Noah, Delaware Nation, Moraviantown

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

- Art welcomed everyone.
- started with self introductions around the room.

Art gave a brief explanation of the agenda and started a power point presentation on overview of the day.

- Open conversation on Truth and Reconciliation





## Indigenous Education Council (IEC) Retreat Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Approval of Jan 10, 2024 Minutes
- Membership (3 year term to January 2027)
- Moving Education Forward Discussion

### 2.0 Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2024

**Motion #1** – Approval of minutes dated January 10, 2024, motioned by Donna Grayer, seconded by Jody Noah. Accepted.

### 3.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- Sponsorship Issue Investigation – Art briefly explained what is happening with Student Sponsorships in Finance Department at St. Clair College

**Action Item:** Art Barron will follow up and finalize this issue and report back to the IEC.

### 4.0 Membership (3 Year Term to January 2027)

Discussion: Clarification in TOR on “Organization” members, “Community” members definitions, TOR to have changes or revisions, protocol is from 2015, Art in position only 5 years.

Donna - bring more education focused people into the job - more conversation based, less reports. Define community into a more specific meaning. Jody - Delaware Nation will be posting new education position - this person may be part of IEC.

- Reach out to Walpole Island education separately.

**Action Item:** Review of Terms of Reference (TOR) for next IEC Meeting

- **Chair**

**Motion #2** - Jody Noah has agreed to be the IEC Co-Chair for the next term (3 years), motioned by Donna Grayer, seconded by Debbie Dolson. Accepted.

- **Organization Members**

**Motion #3** – The following organization members; Darlene Marshall (Caldwell FN), Debbie Dolson (Chippewa of the Thames FN), Laura Spero (Aamjiwnaang FN), will continue for the next term (3 years), with more members to be added at future meetings, motioned by Donna Grayer, seconded by Mark Benoit. Accepted.

- **Community Members**

Donna Grayer (Metis), Claire Bryne (Timiskaming FN), Carrie Ann Peters (Caldwell FN), Marija Bryne (Timiskaming FN)

## 5.0 Moving Indigenous Education Forward Exercise – Guiding Questions Regarding our Path in the Decolonization, Indigenization and Reconciliation Process:

### Guiding Questions:

#### Regarding our path in the Decolonization, Indigenization and Reconciliation process:

- What is St. Clair College doing well?
- What can we do better?
- Where do we go from here?



### Discussion:

- 250 FNMI students at SCC, this year we saw a slight decrease, highest number is approx. 320.
- All recommendations talked about after lunch have been added to the bolded questions list.
- Over the last 10 years, how many indigenous students have graduated, and from what programs?
- This would be helpful to be to push more indigenous help in those programs, and to offer those jobs to the indigenous alumni.

### **Group – Donna, Muriel, Naomi, Fawn, Mark (flipchart)**

#### What Is St. Clair College Doing Well?

- IEC
- Open to conversations
- Dual Credits
- More Indigenous Presence (Murals) on campus
- Expanding outreach through PACC
- Including Indigenous history and barriers in class

#### What Can We Do Better?

- More visual front presence
- Hiring Indigenous Staff (Faculty etc.)
- Expand on Indigenous positions
- Indigenous outdoor education space – Land Based Learning
- Indigenizing curriculum starting with partnerships
- Develop Indigenous Programs
- Partner with AEI for Indigenous program (Native Community Worker)
- Lacrosse
- Prioritizing Indigenous Acceptance
- Taking Programs to the Nation

- Great attention to Indigenous Student voices and leadership opportunities
- Indigenous Student Council to report to IEC
- Field Trips
- Indigenous Rep on Board of Governors

### **Moving Forward**

- Highlighting and celebrating Indigenous Staff
- Indigenous Tours
- More opportunity for connection between Indigenous students
- Sharing true history from Indigenous viewpoint – Indigenous Research
- Sharing Progress
- Annual budget allocation for decolonization, indigenization, and reconciliation
- Future meeting – review of TOR
- Voice of Nations

### **Group – Clair, Joelle, Lindi, Tina (flip chart)**

#### What Is St. Clair College Doing Well?

- Indigenous Student Staff Supports at Main and Chatham Campus
- Indigenous Student Spaces that is visible, sense of community
- Offering the Blanket Exercise for Education
- Faculty and Staff requesting Blanket exercise are open to Indigenous Education
- IEC
- Library Services at Main Campus has great resources and visibly displayed
- R & R plans an Indigenous component to the day for faculty

#### What Can We Do Better?

- Strength and link the relationships between Indigenous communities and the College
- Curriculum support from the Indigenous communities, recognizing our limitations
- Knowledge sharing, incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing)
- Greater student support for College access (navigating the college)
- More Indigenous artwork, language through campuses
- More Indigenous staff to rotate between campuses to reach all indigenous students
- Budget for engaging - indigenous trips, events, workshops etc. yearly for students, IEC and staff
- More room in Main Campus

#### Moving Forward

- Start building Community relationships – visiting communities, introduction of staff to community
- Having dedicated spaces for Indigenous learning – medicine garden
- More monitors at the beginning of new years – peer support for students to help in getting comfortable the first couple of weeks of college
- Commitment #1: “Commit to making Indigenous education a priority”
- Indigenizing the college campus – visual markers (art, language, etc.)
- Indigenous Faculty
- Faculty Workshops, Speakers for Indigenous Educations

### **Group – Jody, Art, Debbie, Brian (flipchart)**

#### What Is St. Clair College Doing Well?

- Well
- Save space at each campus – mural/hubs in Walpole & Kettle Point

- AEI – partnership
- Blanket Exercise – program – students eg. Police Foundations
- Pow Wow – student and community engagement.
- Webinars
- IEC – local and provincial
- Sports – upgrade
- PSE – Collaborative
- Indigenous Ed. Protocol

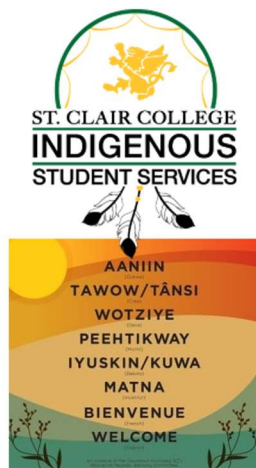
#### What Can We Do Better?

- Communication – services/program to key staff
- Curriculum – Indigenous specialist, CAE – AEI Collaborate, First Nation Studies – Language, Gen. Ed. – all program, Indigenous Instructors
- Recruitment – Indigenous Staff, Orientation/Open House, Downtown presence
- Ministry grants – Indigenous program – elective 1 year +
- Indigenization Committee
- Board of Governor’s – Indigenous Seat
- Academic Success tracking – mid-term – Day 10
- Residence Scholarship
- Tuition – wavier – scholarship
- IEC Action Plan – Monitor – Staff – Relationship Building

#### Moving Forward

- Add Indigenous Ed. Developer
- Add Curriculum
- First Nations Studies Certificate
- Audit Indigenous Ed. Protocol
- Board of Governor’s seat – IEC Member or Recruit.
- IEC Workplan

12:00 Noon - LUNCH BREAK (*Corn Soup, Sandwiches*)



## 6.0 Community Lunch and Round Table Discussion

- Opening Welcome by Chief Logan
- Lunch provided – Elder Angela Noah provided a prayer.
- Roundtable discussion

### Attendance Added:

- Laura Spero, Aamjiwnaang Post-Secondary Counsellor
- Jarvis Nahdee, Walpole Island FN DLL
- Kyla Stonefish, Delaware Nation Councillor
- Brenda Antone, Sr. Admin Assistant, Oneida Education
- Kimberly Snake, Governance Caldwell FN
- Lacey Jackson, SFNS Post-Secondary Manager
- Justin Logan, Chief, Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit- Delaware Nation

**Regrets:** Chief Cornelius,



### Indigenous Education Roundtable Discussion

- Welcome Address: Chief Cornelius
- Lunch Provided
- Remarks by Chief Logan
- Goal of the Roundtable Discussion: Art Barron
- Open Discussion

- Art – Welcomed Everyone, gave an overview of meeting in the am and our goal for afternoon.
- Everyone introduced themselves to the group.
- Handed out copies of “Moving Indigenous Education Forward, A Path towards Reconciliation”, St. Clair College, Muriel Sampson, Indigenous Services, November 2022

**Our goal is to listen to the needs of the Indigenous Nations to help us along the path of the Decolonization, Indigenization and Reconciliation process.**

- What is St. Clair College doing well?
- What can we do better?
- Where do we go from here?



### **Group Discussion Points:**

IEC Groups Presented their group work from the morning meeting to the group.

- Kimberly – Nations Flags of Surrounding Communities displayed – Question for each Nation – London District Chiefs – Flags of Southwestern Ontario – Fanshawe did this – Students coming from home to school for 1<sup>st</sup> time – Pow Wow – recognition of each flag at Pow Wow
- Laura – Funding for more staff – is there potential to hire more staff.
- Art – St. Clair College runs on “lean” staff
- Laura – TRC Education higher – need more.
- Justin – Was there consultation with the students on this?
- Naomi – Can take it to the students for the next meeting.
- Jarvis – Entry assessment survey for students, exit survey for leaving – What will they do next.
- Tina – “Student Pamphlet” to make it easier for students to navigate their first time at College.
- Program Advisory Committee (PAC) – understanding.
- Jarvis – are their statistics for the past 5, 10 years – how many graduated or in what course – need a database to offer these.
- Data of numbers is submitted to the Ministry.
- Secretariat does this (not to Walpole) Walpole isn’t part of London Districts Chiefs
- St. Clair overall statistics reported to First Nations?
- Indigenous LINKEDIN?
- Jarvis - Lunch & Learn with Students
- Jody – Indigenous Grad Ceremonies
- Kyla – Certificate offered in First Nations Positions – Director of Operations, Band Manager, Finance, etc. – Mentor Staff – Is St. Clair open to this?
- Monitors – 1<sup>st</sup> step in Peer Support/Mentorship
- Transitions Program – Life Skills to succeed in College - Need a Life Skills Program - Specific program to incorporate.

- Mark - A.C.E Program to get High School – Dual Credit Program allows High School students to be successful.
- Art – SWAC program
- ALC Funding to First Nations
- Barriers and hurdles to getting Grade 12
- Will this be an annual retreat? – or on a more regular basis?
- Art – goal is to have it hosted annually at different First Nations – Caldwell next?

### **What Is SCC Doing Well?**

- More awareness for staff, participation
- Higher indigenous presence
- Land acknowledgement
- Indigenous authors in SCC library
- Building partnerships
- Connection with IPAC
- Powwow

### **What Can We Do Better? + Barriers**

- Cost of living is too high to be going to school, food, rent, tuition, transportation, gas (to go back and forth to see family)
- More representation in the FRONT of the building
- More signage of directions to the indigenous centre
- Expand our land acknowledgement.
- Indigenize curriculum.
- Find indigenous elders to share history.
- Sharing progress
- Field trips- transportation
- Funding for transportation
- Guided hikes at ONC
- Outdoor Education Centre
- More indigenous research
- Flags of each nation at SCC (sense of familiarity)
- More staff that can have more specific roles.
- Indigenous student handbook
- Highlight the SWAC and ace to finish grade 12 and the transition to post-secondary.
- Hire a staff person that is strictly for helping transition.
- Bring the SWAC program on the first nation.

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

- Hiring indigenous staff, admin, faculty
- Tina and Muriel assistants, and an indigenous manager to oversee them and their roles.
- Funding for indigenous students should be a higher priority, instead of international students.
- Higher acceptance rates for indigenous students in post secondary programs
- Why so many international students?
- Indigenous Garden and outdoor education area to learn how to harvest medicine and foods trip to Niagara college.



- Indigenous house at the front of the college in the wooded area
- Indigenous programs focus on Indigenous acceptance
- Bring in lacrosse + lacrosse camp.
- Indigenous yoga
- Taking programs back to the nation (help with cost of living)
- Bigger indigenous student council for more student rep and voice to report to IEC.
- More indigenous language around the building
- Bigger indigenous centre
- Indigenous centre in the downtown campus
- Doing this activity to with the students
- Entrance and exit survey for students with questions.
- Where you from, what do you need, any questions.
- What would you change about the college, what have you done, do you need further assistance?
- Career fair for nations looking for indigenous students.
- Mentorship programs
- Transitional program to post-secondary, culture, language, laundry, finance/budgeting, computers,

#### **Chief of Moraviantown- Justin**

- Missing from the community, food security, childcare to attend post secondary.
- Need easier ways to receive a grading 12 to attend post secondary or make ways so they don't have to postpone postsecondary by getting that grade 12.
- Focus on language and culture withing the post secondary facilities.
- Aging working population- need more indigenous youth going into those programs to fill those position.
- Need more indigenous rep on campus.
- Land based learning, and outdoor classroom
- Need elders to come and share our culture.
- More hand on learning
- Need more funding.
- Need to develop our own post secondary facilities, to develop what WE NEED and teach the way that our students need.

#### **FINAL GROUP NOTES (flip chart):**

- Flags of Local First Nations for Students of those First Nations
- Additional Staff – Indigenous Services
- TRC Calls to Action
- Student Survey/Forum – Entry Assessment (Tool), Exist Assessment
- Student Handbook/Guide
- Report Communities Graduation & Diploma/Certificate Program
- Indigenous Grad Ceremony
- Mentorship Programs – Open
- Post Secondary Career Fair/Forum
- Transitional Program – Access Certificate – Budgets, Living, etc. Identity
- Dual Credit/SWAC – SWAC on First Nations?
- Highlight Success Stories \*\*Tina shared daughters' story in SWAC

- FN – Grade 12 Hurdle
- Next Host – Caldwell First Nation offered.



**7.0 Next meeting on Wednesday, May 29 at 10am – St. Clair College Chatham Campus**

**8.0 2pm Adjournment**