



Indigenous Education Council

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Centre for Learning and Learning (CTL 1232), 10:00 AM

Attendees: Jaimie Kechego (Co-Chair), Sara Williams, Michelle Nahdee, Ola Adeboboye, Jennifer Soutter, Erika Kustra, Alisha Jacobs, Russell Nahdee, Eric Hill, Esentsei Staats-Pangowish, Julie Sando (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Melissa Phillips (Co-Chair), Ashley Glassburn, Sandra Muse Isaacs, Elayne Isaacs, Bev Jacobs, Clint Jacobs, Atlas Waite, Giselle Aiabens, Trish Sokoloski, Marcie Demmans, Victoria Hecnar

Absent: Shetina Jones

1. Welcome Smudge and Brief Check In:

Co-Chair Jaimie Kechego opened the meeting at 10:10 am

2. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda and draft meeting notes were circulated in advance.

Motion: A motion was made to accept the agenda with no changes.

Moved by: Eric Hill
Seconded by: Sara Williams
Carried.

3. Approval of the April 24, 2025, Meeting Notes:

Motion: A motion was made to accept the meeting notes with no changes.

Moved by: Eric Hill
Seconded by: Sara Williams
Carried.

4. Indigenous Caucus update:

Jaimie Kechego briefly summarized the events of the 2-day retreat in August. There are sample size jackets and hoodies in Turtle Island for those who wish to have one. A meeting with Kystal Bigsky will take place soon to continue work on an IEC logo. The logo will be emblazoned on the jackets.

Orange Shirt Day 2025 was held on and off campus. The event was emotionally moving. The planning committee did a great job. The Sisters of Spirit Vigil also went well.

There is an ongoing conversation about reaching out the faculties to hear what they are doing to address the TRC Calls to Action.

Fall Convocation had two sessions on one day. There has been a change in which office organizes the convocation event. The new Events area may not prioritize or cut back on the Indigenous elements at convocation.

5. New Business:

5.a) Special Meeting held August 13, 2025 Kinship and Relations Policy:

A special meeting was held on August 13. The group discussed adopting a similar policy to the one in use at Western University. Clarification is needed about the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO). There are further questions / concerns regarding the confidentiality of record keeping at the University. Elayne Isaacs has asked for a few folks to join an Ad Hoc Committee to continue the conversations. Eric Hill, Michelle Nahdee and Sara Williams will join Elayne and Clint in this Ad Hoc group.

5.b) Membership Updates and e) Nominations / Elections:

Several updates for the 2025-26 Membership were announced. Sara Williams will step down from the Space Sub Committee. Kat Pasquach is no longer employed at the University of Windsor. One of the two open staff positions in Turtle Island has been posted. There are internal and external candidates who have applied. There will be Indigenous representation on the hiring committees.

A call for anyone interested to stand as external Co-Chair for 2025-26 year was given at the April 24th gathering. As discussed at that time, a call for internal Co-Chair will be done in May of 2026 for the 2026-27 year.

A call was made to accept any new nominations from the floor. No nominations came forward ahead of the meeting or from the floor. A motion was made to re-elect the current external Co-Chair Mellisa Phillips as community Co-Chair.

Motion: A motion was made to confirm Mellisa Phillips as Community Co-Chair for 2025-26.

Moved by: Eric Hill
Seconded by: Michelle Nahdee
Carried.

5.c) Retreat Update:

A two-day retreat was held in August. Day one was held on a 15-acre parcel of land owned by a Faculty of Nursing professor. On this day, those in attendance built a sweat lodge and participated in a ceremony lead by knowledge keeper Stacey Nahdee. On day two, a group met in the Leddy Library to discuss the Kinship Policy, the Indigenous Aspire Plan and the new Terms of Reference. Separate follow up special meetings will be held to finalize those documents.

5.d) Turtle Island House on Sunset Update:

6. Reports:

6.a) Subcommittee Reports:

- Human Resources Subcommittee: Ola Adeboboye provided an update about hiring for positions in Turtle Island earlier in the meeting under 5b).
- Student Experience Subcommittee: The committee has not met. No report.
- Space Subcommittee: Elayne Isaacs has provided an update to say that talks about the house on Sunset renovation project are on pause.

6.b) I.E.C. Executive Committee Report:

The I.E.C. Executive Committee met to plan the meeting dates for the 2025-26 year and to prepare the agenda for today's gathering.

6.c) Turtle Island Report:

Ola Adeboboye provided an update on behalf of Victoria Hecnar. The name of the Turtle Island Indigenous Student Success Centre has been changed in all places and new signage is on order. The Turtle Open House event was a success. We have two student staff members joining the team later this month. Several students attended a special section of the JumpStart program that was held in Turtle Island.

6.d) Senior Advisor to the President on Indigenous Relations and Outreach Report: - no report

6.e) Indigenous Enrollment Advisor Report: - no report

6.f) Learning Specialist in the Field of Indigenization Report: Jaimie Kechego is working with Alison Skeen on course outlines.

6.g) Senate Report: - Jaimie Kechego is ready to represent the I.E.C. and to communicate its mandate and purpose to the senators.

6.f) Student Senate Caucus Report: - no report

7. Adjournment of the Council Meeting:

There was a motion to adjourn at 11:35 am

Moved by: Sara Williams
Seconded by: Michelle Nahdee
Carried.

Next Gatherings:

November 4, Special Meeting for Terms of Reference on Teams – 9 am
November 7, 2025 - 10 am – 12 pm
February 5, 2026 - 10 am – 12 pm
April 2, 2026 - 10 am – 12 pm
May 12, 2026 - 10 am – 12 pm
Sharing Circle – June TBA