



OGIMAAWIN-ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL (O-AGC)

The Ogimaawin- Aboriginal Governance Council met on September 2, 2014 for a special meeting and again on September 22, 2014 for its regular meeting.

September 2, 2014

Dr. B. Stevenson provided the Council with an update on several projects:

Kendaasiwin Centre

- The project is pending the election in spring; the Kendaasiwin Centre did not appear in budget.
- As promised the project is shovel ready and in order to proceed funding is required.
- A major lobbying campaign is required. O-AGC members were asked to obtain letters of support for the Kendaasiwin Centre. The Centre has to be seen as a priority by all northwestern Ontario aboriginal leaders.

Nanabijou Day Care

- The official opening of the new Nanabijou day care site will take place in October.

Telepresence

- On September 22nd there will be a tour of the ATAC Telepresence room.

Dr. Anne Godlewska, Professor, Queen's University and Principal Investigator for the Assessing and Addressing Awareness of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples Research Project spoke to the O-AGC about the proposed research project to be conducted throughout universities in Ontario.

- Project being done to analyze Canadian's education and awareness of First Nations.
- Worked with many institutions to form and rework the survey, including Lakehead.
- Next step is to gain the support at each of the 10 universities involved.
- In January 2018 the same cohort will be surveyed again to see what the value added is from university education.
- Summary of each section of the survey was provided.

The Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance passed a motion to support this project in principle.

September 22, 2014

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux noted that a Targeted Initiatives Fund (TIF) Project Proposal application was submitted to MTCU and approved. Lakehead received the full amount of the request (\$300,000). The funds will be distributed over 2 years and will be used towards the Northwest Coordinated Learning Access Network, the Aboriginal Mentorship Programs and the On Course Workshop One initiatives.

- Northwest Coordinated Learning Access Network - This initiative is designed to bring all of the local educational facilities together to provide information and opportunities to aboriginal students. The goal is to stop saying “you don’t qualify” and start saying, “we will put you in touch with an educational facility that will meet your needs.” Currently an invitation is being prepared for a session with various educational facilities regarding this project. A coordinator will be hired to coordinate this initiative.
- Aboriginal Mentorship Programs - This Program will start with Science and ease into Engineering and then into Business.

Aboriginal Transitions Literature Review - Dr. C. Wesley Esquimaux noted that a Transitions Advisor was hired last year to connect with students and provide resources to them. It was noted that the Aboriginal Transitions Literature Review shows areas where students are having success and areas where more research is required. This literature review is available for viewing on the O-AGC website at:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/286/22Sept14/LitReviewAug16FINAL.pdf>

Mr. Paul Capon was elected as the Chair of the Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council for the term commencing September 22, 2014 through September 30, 2015 and among his other tasks, he will be serving on the Board of Governors for another year. Ms. Nancy Bouchard was elected as the Vice-Chair of the O-AGC.

Ms. Elizabeth Michano, Pic River First Nation, Economic and Community Development Director, has been appointed as the member at large, a voting member on the O-AGC for a 2-year term.

Submitted by- Dr. Michelle-Marie Spadoni, Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council