

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL
School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Initial Approval – May 2, 2007

Revised – May 11, 2020

Revised- November 22, 2024

Revised- January 21, 2025

COUNCIL PURPOSE

The purpose of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) is to support, enhance, and increase school success for Indigenous learners in School District No. 53. The Council will represent Indigenous interests in the design, implementation, and assessment of programs and services that will improve the school experience and academic achievement of Indigenous students. In addition the IEC will:

- evaluate performance data and Indigenous programs;
- ensure that social, emotional, and academic needs are considered;
- share information about programs;
- recommend and facilitate the implementation of new programs to provide better service to Indigenous students; and
- provide strong communication and connection with Band Councils and other Indigenous groups served by the District.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

- To work in partnership with School District No. 53 to determine programming and funding initiatives related to the Ministry of Education's Indigenous Targeted Funding Policy.
- To develop and review District policies related to Indigenous learners and to recommend appropriate changes.
- To support research about Indigenous education issues.
- To ensure curricular inclusion of the history, culture, and language of the Indigenous people within whose traditional territories School District No. 53 lies.
- To ensure current topics are presented in the curriculum from an Indigenous perspective.
- To support and promote in-service training about local Indigenous culture within all staff groups in the district.
- To support the development of programs and materials that teachers may readily use in the classroom to focus on Indigenous culture.

- To ensure that the interests of **all** Indigenous students in the District are met.
- To encourage the hiring of Indigenous people within District programs and services.
- To ensure the provision of activities designed to promote pride and self-worth of all Indigenous learners.
- To develop a communication plan that addresses two-way communication (IEC to community and community to IEC).

IEC Members

- a) The IEC includes 7 voting members:
 - 2 representatives from the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB)
 - 2 representatives from the Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB)
 - 2 representatives from the Upper Similkameen Indian Band (USIB)
 - 1 representative from the South Okanagan Similkameen Metis Association (SOSMA)
- b) Each IEC member may designate one alternate to attend an IEC meeting and participate on behalf of the member.
 - The process to choose an alternate will be left with each First Nations and the Metis member
 - Once selected, the name(s) of the alternate(s) will be sent to the chair who will inform the group prior to the meeting
- c) No SD 53 employee or trustee of the Board can be a voting member of the IEC.

IEC Chair and Vice-Chair

- a) The IEC has decided that Brad Burns (SD53 Vice-principal of Indigenous education will remain as chair, and Helen Gallagher (District Indigenous Education Teacher) will be vice-chair
- b) The IEC can amend this at any time

Quorum

A quorum for decisions will consist of one representative from each of the following:

- Osoyoos Indian Band
- Lower Similkameen Indian Band
- Upper Similkameen Indian Band
- Southern Okanagan Similkameen Metis Association

Decision Making Process

- a. In most cases, when making a decision, we will strive to reach a high consensus of the whole group, but if necessary, decisions may be made by a simple majority (50% + 1).

IEC Meetings

- a. Meetings will occur four times during the school year. Special meetings may be called if necessary.
- b. Dates for the meetings will be sent out at the start of the year to hold in calendars.

Amendments

- a. Amendments to the terms of reference can be proposed by a voting member at any time.