



**MIINIWEWINAN
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: Thursday, November 27, 2025 – 9:00 am – 12:00pm – Boardroom/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

CO-CHAIR: Heather Harris

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Beardy, Elliott Cromarty, Elder Sheila DeCorte, Trustee Pat Johansen, Elder Gerry Martin, Grant Robbins, Elder Melissa Roberts, Angelina Tassone, Morning Star Tom

ALTERNATES: Dinah Jung, Loretta Sky

RESOURCES: Kali Bernst, Anika Guthrie, Jane Lower, Cedar Meeseetawageesic, Student Representative, Kyra Visitor, Student Representative

GUESTS: Rachel Kakegamic, Romaine Mitchell

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Kathleen Andrews, Trustee, Sheri Boucher, Ellen Chambers (Alternate), Serena Essex, Erin Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee, Anthony Jeethan, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Akansha Kaur, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Dave Paddington, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen (Alternate), Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening	Elder Gerry Martin opened the meeting.	Elder Gerry Martin
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Co-chair Heather Harris acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	Heather Harris
	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Co-chair Heather Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves.	Heather Harris

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda November 27, 2025	Moved by Trustee Pat Johansen and seconded by Elliott Cromarty, that the agenda for the November 27, 2025 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written. Carried	Heather Harris
	3.2 Approval of Minutes October 2, 2025	Moved by Trustee Pat Johansen and seconded by Elliott Cromarty, that the minutes for the June 19, 2025 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written. Carried	Heather Harris
4.	Presentations		
	4.1 Anishinaabemowin Endorsement Circle	Anika Guthrie, Anishinaabemowin introduced Romaine Mitchel who is retired from the Ministry of Education and was instrumental in getting Language Endorsement Circles off the ground. Romaine Mitchel shared a presentation on the history behind Anishinaabemowin Endorsement Circle and the work that is being done to certify Indigenous language teachers. All members' questions were addressed.	Romaine Mitchel Anika Guthrie
	4.2 Indigenous Waterviews Book	Elder Sheila DeCorte shared a presentation highlighting her journey as a water walker for the last 8 years. Elder Sheila distributed copies of the book <i>Indigenous Waterviews</i> which compiles the work of Indigenous writers, artists, and Elders. A book will be given to each of the Lakehead Public Schools' libraries, native language classes, board office, and an electronic version of the book is available through the QR code provided in the book. All members' questions were addressed.	Elder Sheila DeCorte

5.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	Letter to Minister of Education	Co-chair Heather Harris shared the letter that was sent to the Minister of Education on behalf of the committee that addressed the essential role of trustees and particularly Indigenous trustees on Ontario School Boards and the local voice and representation that they offer. All members' questions were addressed.	Heather Harris
6.	New Business		
	6.1 New Staffing Positions	Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program shared new staffing roles that have or will be implemented such as a literacy intervention and engagement teacher for secondary schools, a central Student Support Worker, and a land-based learning lead.	Kali Bernst
	6.2 2024-2025 BAP Summary and 2025-2026 Priorities	Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program shared a summary and highlights of last year's achievements and priorities for the 2025-2026 school year. Co-chair Heather Harris asked the committee to review the chart papers the committee worked on at a previous meeting and to add additional items if needed.	Heather Harris Kali Bernst
	6.3 Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples' Map	Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program shared a presentation on the Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples' Map, highlights and priority areas.	Kali Bernst
7.	Ongoing Business		
	7.1 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	There was no update available at this time.	Eryn Genno
	7.2 Anishinaabemowin Revitalization	Anika Guthrie, Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Coordinator shared an update on the teacher language learning that teachers are participating in.	Anika Guthrie
8.	Information and Inquiries		
9.	Closing	Elder Gerry Martin closed the meeting.	
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, January 15, 2026	
11.	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.	