

# Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

**Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

## Attendance: via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:**

Present: Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire, Elder Pauline Shirt, Elder Dr. Duke Redbird, Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, TDSB), Ryan Neepin (Teacher, TDSB), Mary Doucette (Administrative Liaison, TDSB), Marilyn Hew (TYRMC), Tracy Mackenzie (Community Liaison, TDSB), Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Robert Durocher (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, TDSB), Selina Young (City of Toronto), Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB), Bonnie Johnston (Social Worker, TDSB), Dr. Susan Dion (York University)

**TDSB Trustees:**

Present: Trustee Alexander Brown, Trustee Jennifer Story, Trustee Trixie Doyle, Trustee Dan MacLean, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB)

**TDSB Staff:**

Present: Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, Human Rights and Indigenous Education, TDSB), Ixchel Bennett (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, TDSB), Michelle Blackie (Vice Principal, TDSB), Bonita Uzuoro (Student Success Teacher, TDSB), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal, TDSB), Michael Griesz (Principal, TDSB), Michael Sanders (Principal, TDSB), Stephen Hepburn (Vice Principal, TDSB), Danielle Noel (Vice Principal, TDSB), Saby Chandi (Principal, TDSB)

**Guests**: Joe Rock (City of Toronto, Early ON), Kiera Brant-Birioukov (York University)

**Regrets:** Christina Saunders (Principal, TDSB), Dr. Bob Phillips (Community), Natasha Gleeson (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Shannon Judge (Community)

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **MOTION /RECOMMENDATION**  |
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| Call to Order, Traditional Opening, Review of Meeting Etiquette, Code of Conduct | Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire chaired the meeting, conducted a traditional opening with Elder Pauline Shirt. Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire spoke to the code of conduct for UICAC members and guests. Introductions from the membership in attendance.  |  |
| Approval of Agenda | The agenda of November 23rd, 2021 |  |
| Review and Approval of the minutes | The minutes of October 12th, 2021  |  |
| Declaration of conflict of interest, Terms of Reference |  |  |
| UICAC Priorities for 2020-21 Re-visited:* Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.
* Indigenous TDSB Trustee
* Hiring practices, recruitment, retention, and mobility.
 | UICAC Priorities:Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, TDSB)**  * Scaffolding at 16 Phin is being dismantled. Main entrance to the building will be cleared for access shortly.
* Museums are archives are in the process of relocating to a new facility for mid-November.
* We will be keeping and maintaining the Indigenous Artwork as part of museums and archives with the Debwewin art gallery that was named through ceremony by Elder Pauline Shirt and curated by Elder Dr. Duke Redbird.
* Secondary students are now sharing space with Subway Academy on the third floor.
* A meeting will be scheduled with the group and the Ministry of Education to discuss how we move forward with the facility. Date and time to be determined.

Indigenous TDSB Trustee (Vacant Position)**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, TDSB*** In previous meetings we asked members to connect with Dr. Dion if there was interest with being part of the recruitment committee regarding the appointment of an Indigenous Trustee.
* Tanya Senk, Isiah Shafqat and Tracy Mackenzie have volunteered to be part of the committee. There is still room for members to participate.

**Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB)*** Recently joined the Ontario Public School Board Association, Indigenous Trustees Council. We are meeting October 21st. Topics will include project updates and the role of Indigenous Trustee.
* Opening for TDSB Parents and Caregivers as Partners conference on October 16 and 17th.
* Elder Joanne Dallaire has asked that Isaiah be added to the agenda on a regular basis to provide updates.

Hiring practices, recruitment, retention, and mobility is highlighted. **Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education TDSB*** Pardeep Nagra continues to work on his report and will be presenting it to the committee shortly. Date to be determined.
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| Elders Update:Staff Update: | **Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire*** We have come a long way and still have work to do. Improvements are being made and visible. We need to continue supporting each other and our generations to come.

**Elder Pauline Shirt*** Collaboration is very important with all TDSB staff and the UICAC community. Building and maintaining these relationships will only improve the future of our communities.

**Elder Dr. Duke Redbird*** It is encouraging on every level to hear the Reconciliation action plan by Selina Young.
* It is gratifying to see all the hard work that has been done thus far and look forward to seeing further growth for the next generations.

**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education TDSB)*** September was a very heavy month with regards to Truth and Reconciliation.
* October is the opening of ImagineNATIVE. Pauline Shirt is the Elder and the opening is on Tuesday, October 12th, and is the world’s largest Indigenous multimedia film festival. It is an opportunity for all of us to come together to celebrate stories from Indigenous perspective.
* November is Indigenous education month within the TDSB. The staff are working hard to get Aanse up and running with the schools that have the higher population of self-identified students. The UIEC are working with admins and educators within those sites.
* The UIEC met with the administration for First Nations, Inuit and Métis courses that includes NAC 1.0, 2.0 as well as NB3, English, history and arts and continue to expand our partnerships with Ontario of Art College and Design University.

**Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, Human Rights and Indigenous Education, TDSB)*** Healthcare related to Indigenous communities is best led by indigenous health care providers and that connects very closely to the work that our board has taken up in terms of procedure for mandatory employee vaccination.
* TDSB will take up through our processes to honor the beliefs, values and traditions within the Indigenous communities.
* Procedures related to voluntary disclosure of student vaccination status was brought forward on the recommendation of Toronto Public Health, so that we could be more efficient and effective with respect to cohort dismissal or individual student dismissal in the event of an outbreak in a school. Example; If an outbreak were to happen in a school, and a student has been doubled vaccinated and is not showing any symptoms, they may not have to be dismissed from school and continue to attend, whereas a student who doesn’t not been vaccinated, or who has symptoms would have to be dismissed for a period between 10-14 days, its voluntary.
* Many of our students and staff have been waiting patiently for extra curricular activities to resume and that is imminent, especially with respect to athletes. Sports will be resuming shortly, and we are excited to be able to welcome them back and we know our students are as well.
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| New and Other Business | **Selina Young (Director, Indigenous Affairs Office, City of Toronto)*** Presentation of the City of Toronto’s Reconciliation Action Plan; Meaningful action to advance truth, justice, and reconciliation.
* Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) will map and guide the actions that the City of Toronto/Toronto Public Service from 2022-2032 and beyond to advance truth, justice, and reconciliation.

\*Presentation available upon request. Please contact Tracy MacKenzie at tracy.mackenzie2@tdsb.on.ca |  |
| Future Topics: | Indigenous Board Trustee Recruitment Committee (Dr. Susan Dion) |  |
| Traditional Closing: | Elder Pauline Shirt closed the meeting  |  |