

**National Association of Indigenous Institutes of Higher Learning
Executive Board Meeting – January 31, 2003
INAC, Hull, QB**

Board Members Present:

Murray Maracle, Director, First Nations Technical Institute, ON
Brian Madarash, Interim President, Native Education Centre, BC
Doreen Beauchamp, Director, Yellowquill College, MB
Marie Smallface-Marule, President, Red Crow Community College, AB

Regrets:

Barb Morin, Director, George Manual Institute, BC
Arrol Crier, President, Maskwacis Cultural College, AB
Eleanor Bernard, Executive Director, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, NS
Amelia Clark, President, Old Sun Community College, AB

A meeting was held between members of the NAIHIL executive committee and the new INAC Associate Deputy Minister of Socio-Economic Policy & Programs, Joan Atkinson and Brenda Beauchamp of INAC. The meeting was held on Friday, January 31 at the ADM's office at 10 Wellington Street in Hull.

The ADM had requested a meeting with NAIHIL since she is new to INAC and has only been in the position for a couple of months. She replaces Chantal Bernier that used to work with the NAIHIL Board.

The meeting focused on providing background information on NAIHIL to Ms. Atkinson as well as informing her of future plans the board intends to work on. concerns were also expressed with respect to the reviews currently taking place, inaccurate data being used in the reviews and the methods of data collection, the need for capital funding for our First Nation institutes, and so on. Ms. Atkinson was informed that when collecting data it should begin at the community level.

Ms. Atkinson feels that education, generally, is a priority for First Nations and is the foundation for First Nations to move ahead. She felt that education needs to take a holistic view which begins at early childhood and continues through to adult education.

In her new position, Ms. Atkinson indicated she is still in the learning process and is working hard to get the authority issues resolved. She is not sure why it takes so long for funding to flow but will look into further. (This comment was made in response to Murray's concern that funding for the board does not flow until later in year making it difficult to use up before the current fiscal year is over.)

Ms. Atkinson went on to say that she is interested in learning more about the partnerships that NAIHL institutes have with the provinces and other organizations. She has committed to attending the March 21 summit and looks forward to working with NAIHL.

Ms. Atkinson also agreed that meeting with the NAIHL Chairman on a regular basis would be productive in terms of communication and networking.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Doreen Beauchamp, Secretary.