

**National Association of Indigenous Institutes of Higher Learning
Annual General Meeting
November 2 – 3, 2006**

MINUTES

Jon Spotted Eagle opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Welcome Remarks

Jon Spotted Eagle, Executive Member, NAIHL welcomed participants to beautiful British Columbia. Trevor Lewis, Chair, NAIHL welcomed participants.

Introductions

Christine Migwans, Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute, Ontario
Linda I. Staats, Six Nations Polytechnic, Ontario
David Harper, University College of the Fraser Valley, British Columbia
Joann Green, Heiltsuk College, British Columbia
Laverne Arcand, Yellowhead Tribal College, Alberta
Seaneen O'Rourke, Yellowhead Tribal College, Alberta
Jennifer Fletcher, Anishinabek Educational Institute, Ontario
Peggy Wassegijig, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education & Training Institute, Ontario
Karihwakeron Tim Thompson, First Nations Technical Institute, Ontario
Delbert Horton, Seven Generations Education Institute, Ontario
Larry Gauthier, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatchewan
Jon Spotted Eagle, E'nowkin Centre, British Columbia
Amelia Clark, Old Sun Community College, Alberta
Genevieve A. Fox, First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium, Alberta
Marie Smallface Marule, Red Crow Community College, Alberta
Brian Madarash, British Columbia
Lu Ann Hill, Aboriginal Institutes' Consortium, Ontario
Trevor Lewis, First Nations Technical Institute, Ontario
Sara Cardinal, Canadian Association of Native Development Officers
Shelley Morin, Canadian Association of Native Development Officers
Zig Misiak, Goodminds.com, Ontario
Verna Minnabarriet, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, British Columbia
Dolly Kershaw, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, British Columbia
Doreen Beauchamp, Yellowquill College, Manitoba
David Griffin, Wilp Wilxo'oshwhi Nisga'a, British Columbia
Charlene Jo

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The suggestion was made to have the audit dealt with immediately after the Treasurer's Report. It was then moved by Jon Spotted Eagle and seconded by Delbert Horton to approve the agenda as amended. Carried.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes of August 2005

Following a brief review of the minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting, a motion was moved by Marie Smallface Marule and seconded by Amelia Clark. Carried.

4. Chair's Report

Trevor Lewis, Chair, delivered a power point presentation that provided an overview of the mission, mandate and vision of the organization. He provided a brief overview of the number of institutes nationally and noted the regions that are united by regional consortia. Trevor Lewis introduced the Executive Members of NAIHL as follows:

Marie Smallface Marule, Vice-Chair (Alberta)
Brian Madarash, Treasurer (British Columbia)
Doreen Beauchamp, Secretary (Manitoba)
Amelia Clark, member at large (Alberta)
Jon Spotted Eagle, member at large (British Columbia)
Verna Minnabarriet, member at large (British Columbia)
Delbert Horton, member at larger (Ontario)

Activities of the past year included:

- Participation on the INAC/AFN post-secondary education working group, which resulted in the ISSP Review Report authored by Katenies-Chignecto
- Correspondence to a number of federal officials and departments
- Participation in the consultation process for the creation of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre, Canadian Council on Learning
- Participation in the Premier's Summit on post-secondary education and training
- Involvement in the national planning session of the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada for the establishment of the National Trades Leadership Committee and secured a seat for a representative from Indigenous institutions
- Participation (two representatives) on the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium; offered to host the annual conference in 2009; tabled recommendations which included support for the ISSP review report and the United Nations declaration
- Developed a draft strategic plan
- Submitted a written presentation and delivered an oral presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Commons
- Provided a brief that was made available to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs as part of their study on post-secondary education
- With respect to funding, NAIHL is supported by INAC funding which is largely used for travel to attend meetings; the annual allocation has been \$100,000; funding has not yet been received for this fiscal
- The secretariat was moved to Ontario

Following the Chair's report, the need for regular communication with the members was raised i.e. minutes of the Executive meetings, group email. The Chair acknowledged the issue and noted it is a resource issue and agreed communication needs to be addressed. A NAIHL group email will be established as a communication mechanism to the members.

It was moved by Doreen Beauchamp and seconded by Jon Spotted Eagle that the Chair's Report be adopted as presented. Carried.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) Trevor Lewis presented the Treasurer's Report as Brian Madarash has retired from the Native Education Centre and was not able to complete the term of Treasurer. Trevor reported the expenditures of last year totalled \$91,788 and noted that the 10% hold back of \$10,000 will be reduced to account for the under spending. He further explained that the contribution agreement with INAC for this fiscal year will require a 20% holdback.

It was then moved by Marie Smallface Marule and seconded by Larry Gautier that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

Brian Madarash was presented with a gift in acknowledgment of his contribution to the organization.

- b) Appointment of Auditors

A motion was made by Marie Smallface Marule and seconded by Jon Spotted Eagle to enlist the services of Millard, Rouse and Rosebrugh to conduct the audit of the NAIHL accounts for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

6. Presentation by Dr. Graham Smith, Re-Imaging Aboriginal Education

7. Presentation by Seaneen O'Rourke, First Nations Accreditation Board

8. Election of Officers

Trevor Lewis announced that at this time the members are required to elect a total of eight members, which comprises the Executive. The Executive members are responsible for conducting the business of the organization between annual general meetings. Those positions include a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and four members at large. Trevor urged members to keep in mind that regional representation on the Executive is the goal and desire of the organization.

Brian Madarash agreed to act in the capacity of the electoral officer. It was moved by LuAnn Hill and seconded by Marie Smallface Marule to accept Brian Madarash as the electoral officer. Carried.

Nominations for Chair were declared open.

It was then moved by Verna Minnabarriet and seconded by Marie Smallface Marule that Trevor Lewis be nominated for the position of Chair. Carried [Trevor accepted the nomination]

It was moved by Christine Migwans and seconded by Peggy Wassegijig that Linda Staats be nominated for Chair. Carried. [Linda accepted the nomination]

Marie Smallface Marule moved that nominations for Chair be closed. The motion was seconded by Jon Spotted Eagle and carried.

The candidates made short presentations to the members. Votes were made by secret ballot and the ballots totalled. Trevor Lewis was declared Chair for a second term of office.

Nominations for Vice-Chair were declared open.

Moved by Jon Spotted Eagle and seconded by Doreen Beauchamp that Marie Smallface Marule be nominated for Vice-Chair. Carried.

Moved by Verna Minnabarriet, seconded by Trevor Lewis that Larry Gautier be nominated as Vice-Chair. Carried.

Moved by Christine, seconded by Peggy Wassegijig that Linda Staats be nominated as Vice-Chair. Carried.

Moved by Joann Green, seconded by Lu Ann Hill that Verna Minnabarriet be nominated as Vice-Chair. Carried.

It was then moved by Amelia Clark and seconded by Jon Spotted Eagle that nominations for Vice-Chair be closed. Carried.

Marie, Larry and Linda accepted the nominations. Verna declined. Following short presentation by the candidates, votes were tallied and a tie was declared between Marie and Larry. A second vote was conducted and the votes tallied. Marie Smallface Marule was declared Vice-Chair for another term.

Nominations were opened for the position of Treasurer.

Marie Smallface Marule made a motion to nominate Lu Ann Hill as Treasurer. The motion was seconded Larry Gautier and carried.

Trevor Lewis made a motion to nominate Larry Gautier as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Lu Ann Hill and carried.

Amelia Clark nominated Jon Spotted Eagle as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Genevieve Fox and carried.

Then a motion was made by Marie Smallface Marule and seconded by Trevor Lewis that nominations be closed. Carried.

A point of clarification was raised with regard to the nomination of Lu Ann Hill. The concern was perceived conflict as Lu Ann currently manages the finances for the organization. To avoid the confusion, Lu Ann withdrew from the nominations. All other candidates accepted the nominations and a vote was conducted. Larry Gautier was declared the Treasurer.

Nominations were opened for the position of Secretary.

Moved by Verna Minnabarriet and seconded by Marie Smallface Marule that Doreen Beauchamp be nominated for Secretary. Carried.

It was the moved by Delbert Horton and seconded by Larry Gautier that nominations for secretary be closed. Carried.

Doreen Beauchamp was acclaimed the secretary of NAIHHL.

Nominations were opened for four members at large.

Moved by Larry Gautier and seconded by Marie Smallface Marule to nominate Verna Minnabarriet. Carried.

Moved by Amelia Clark, seconded by Jon Spotted Eagle to nominate Delbert Horton. Carried.

Moved by Delbert Horton, seconded by Verna Minnabarriet to nominate Amelia Clark. Carried.

Moved by Verna Minnabarriet, seconded by Lu Ann Hill to nominate David Griffin. Carried.

Moved by Christine, seconded by Larry Gautier to nominate Linda Staats. Carried.

Moved by Marie Smallface Marule, seconded by Jon Spotted Eagle to nominate Amelia. Carried.

All candidates accepted the nominations and voters were reminded the goal is to have regional representation. After voting, it was announced that Verna Minnabarriet, Amelia Clark and Linda Staats were declared members at large. There was a tie vote for David Griffin and Delbert Horton. Voters cast ballots for the two candidates and David Griffin was determined the fourth member at large.

A look at the election results determined representation on the NAIHHL as:
2 representatives from Ontario;
2 from Alberta;
1 from Saskatchewan;
1 from Manitoba; and,
2 from British Columbia.

The group acknowledged the assistance of Brian Madarash as elections officer and acknowledged his contributions as the past Treasurer.

The meeting broke for the evening and reconvened November 3, 2006.

Trevor Lewis, Chair opened the day with announcements and extended his appreciation and thanks to those Executive members that assisted NAIHL over the past year. He also extended thanks to staff from Nicola Valley Institute for their assistance in organizing the meeting. Special thanks Annie Proznick and Dolly Kershaw.

9. Strategic Plan

Trevor Lewis presented a draft strategic plan that was developed by the Executive Committee for discussion. The plan outlines three goals and a number of objectives that were developed as steps in working toward the goals. The priorities are:

1. Establish a national accreditation board.
2. Recognition of the institutes.
3. Funding.

Trevor led the group through the plan providing clarification, seeking comments, suggestions and affirmation for the stated goals and objectives.

Comments and discussion:

The comment was made that the objectives should be more specific and measurable. It was also noted, that the goals and objectives need to be attainable given the current capacity of the organization. Specific suggestions were made for goal 1, objective 2 regarding articulation agreements i.e. set a target; recognition of courses and programs, institute to institute; and develop a transfer guide to include articulation agreement information.

Communication to the membership was raised and acknowledged as an issue that needs to be addressed and added to the strategic plan. This issue has been identified before. The real question is who can do it? Resourcing in terms of funding and human resources was identified as a key determinant in accomplishing and completing tasks. A group email will be established to share information and dialogue with the members between annual general meetings. It was also pointed out that NAIHL has not received operating funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for the current fiscal year. The suggestion was made to seek a multi-year funding agreement with INAC.

The status of the INAC/Assembly of First Nations joint work to develop an education policy framework and management framework was raised. This work is required for INAC to renew education authorities by 2008. The fact is that the joint work is not progressing. INAC is currently working on the development of an education policy framework and management policy framework in isolation of and without consulting First Nations. In addition, the draft policy framework is ambiguous with respect to post-secondary education. INAC expects this work to be complete by June 2007.

INAC hasn't released budgets to the AFN for collaborative work this fiscal year. INAC has articulated support for the model that has been developed in British Columbia. INAC funded research and Minister Prentice has already stated support for the findings in research developed by Michael Mendelson. The Mendelson report, *Aboriginal People in Post-Secondary* released in June 2006, shows that support is required in kindergarten to grade 12 to increase the number of applicants to post-secondary. The Mendelson report suggests that First Nations learners graduate from post-secondary at the same rates as other students, however the study was based solely on Statistics Canada data. The study did not examine the work of First Nations controlled institutions, the supports available in mainstream institutes or the reasons why students are successful in post-secondary.

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs conducted a study on Aboriginal post-secondary education. In the INAC presentation to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Prentice made reference to the Mendelson report and the need to focus on kindergarten to grade 12. The Standing Committee is expected to release its report soon.

It's good to work on long-term goals like the Indigenous institutes' accreditation board and securing multi-year funding. NAIHL may want to also provide a formal response to the Mendelson report.

We also need to keep in mind that Heritage Canada has taken back their commitment to provide \$160 million in funding to support Indigenous languages. After the task force released its report, Heritage Canada concluded the plan was not supported by First Nations in Canada. Now, there is only \$5 million available per year or \$218,000 per region for language revitalization and maintenance.

Genevieve Fox indicated that she has a literacy report that supports First Nations languages. She agreed to have it made available and asked for comments from the group.

The Mendelson report is a big barrier for First Nations. We may want to develop a critique of it and send it to INAC, opposition critics and other influential groups i.e. Primate, Catholic Bishops. We'll also need to ask professional education groups for support. Using Statistics Canada data is detrimental and inaccurate. It is not reflective of our communities.

Genevieve Fox made reference to the draft State of Learning report developed by the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre.

NAIHL may want to develop a transfer guide to document each institutes programs and courses of study. We need an inventory of faculty.

We also need to ensure NAIHL participation in the National Indian Education Committee. Doreen Beauchamp and Verna Minnabarriet agreed to speak to the Co-Chairs of the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education regarding this issue.

Mendelson also developed a 7 page paper re: INAC Indian Act K – 12 which can be found on the website of the Caledon Institute. The Mendelson report was commissioned by INAC at the same time INAC was supposed to be working collaboratively with First Nations on the post-secondary review.

British Columbia research in 2005 examined the success of First Nations students in existing institutions. It may be a useful tool as a counter argument. David Harper agreed to provide it.

November 14 – 17, 2006, a United Nations gathering will be held at the Samson Cree Nation in Alberta. If people can attend, it may be to our advantage to use this forum to get our messages out there. Chief Willy Littlechild from Alberta is a representative to the national forum that will occur November 12 – 13, 2006 and also sits at the United Nations.

For regional events, we may need to enlist our representatives from the respective provinces to do that work at the various functions. There is also a Special Chiefs Assembly being held November 14 – 16, 2006 in Ontario.

If people are attending these types of forums and need help, notify the NAIHL Executive. We will want to be consistent in our messaging.

The Executive will ensure the draft Strategic Plan gets revised and send back out to the members for comment. The Executive will complete the timelines. We will need to keep the goals broad and the timeline should be five years. A motion was made by Marie Smallface Marule to accept the draft strategic plan as a working document for refinement and finalized for ratification at the next meeting of the Executive which will take place on February 8 – 9, 2007 and that the draft be emailed to all members for input before that time. The motion was seconded by Amelia Clark and carried by consensus.

Note: the annual work plan should also be emailed to the members.

10. Dates of Next Meetings.

The next Annual General Meeting will be hosted by Ontario and perhaps at Six Nations Polytechnic. Tentative meeting dates were set for September 27 – 28, 2007.

The next NAIHL Executive meeting will occur February 8 – 9, 2007.

11. Open Microphone

Genevieve Fox took the opportunity to mention that she brought information from the Canadian Council on Learning and more specifically on the six animated theme bundles of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre.

She also announced that an Annual Knowledge Exchange Conference is being held in Edmonton on March 7 – 9, 2006.

Jon Spotted Eagle closed the meeting with a prayer.