

First Nation Lifelong Learning Table

Terms of Reference

Confidential Draft for Discussion and Comment

Context for Action:

The new relationship calls for First Nations in Ontario and the Province to work together to identify and address common priorities and issues as expressed in the Political Accord and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The new relationship establishes a basis to build upon, link to and coordinate previous, existing and future lifelong learning initiatives of both the province and First Nations in Ontario.

Purpose:

The purpose of the First Nations Lifelong Learning Table (“FNLL Table”) is to provide a forum for Ontario’s First Nation leadership and the Ontario government and its ministry leaders to identify, prioritize, discuss and work to address issues and opportunities related to First Nations Lifelong Learning in the provincial education and training sector.

The FNLL Table aims to enable First Nations and the government of Ontario to build a stronger, collaborative working relationship based on inclusion and mutual respect for each party’s concerns and interests. It also aims to improve the mechanisms of communication while increasing understanding creating new opportunities for government and First Nations to work together to support student success and well-being for First Nation learners.

The FNLL Table is consistent with the Political Accord between First Nations and the province and is a means to implement the agreed upon priorities.

Components of the FNLL Table:

The FNLL Table will consist of:

1. Steering Committee
2. Central Policy and Planning Circle
3. Task Teams

Steering Committee:

The role of the Steering Committee is to provide overall advice and direction on the implementation of the strategic plan and make decisions at key points as required.

The Steering Committee will be responsible for approval of the Terms of Reference, joint strategic plan and associated budgets.

The Steering Committee will be comprised of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education, the Ontario Regional Chief, the COO Chiefs Committee on Lifelong

Learning, the Education Portfolio, and the Social Services Portfolio. In addition, other representatives from the aforementioned organizations will join the Steering Committee as needed.

The Steering Committee will meet once a year, or as required. All meeting expenses and travel cost for Steering Committee members, technical support and invited guests will be covered by the Indigenous Education Office (IEO).

The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by the EDU Minister and the Ontario Regional Chief. The chairs may assign designates if they are unable to attend meetings.

Meeting minutes will be jointly prepared by the parties and distributed within two weeks after the meeting.

Central Policy and Planning Circle:

The Central Policy and Planning Circle (CPPC) is a forum for ongoing and consistent engagement among the technical representatives of the First Nations Education Coordination Unit, the Chiefs of Ontario Education Unit, and the Ministry of Education. The CPPC will be supported by the guidance of an Elder or Indigenous Knowledge Keeper.

Other representatives will be invited to provide input as requested based on agenda items for CPPC meetings.

Roles and Responsibilities CPPC:

The CPPC will:

- Draft and implement the strategic plan
- Coordinate and identify participants for the joint task teams
- Identify activities to be undertaken by joint task teams; and
- Consolidate and share information

The CPPC is not a decision making forum. Each party will be responsible for undertaking their own due diligence and leading their internal approval processes.

The CPPC will establish joint task teams that are representative and reflective of the diversity of the First Nations in Ontario as required and approve associated work plans to ensure alignment with the approved strategic plan.

The CPPC will maintain a connection to new and existing Ministry advisory councils or tables, and associated working groups through regular updates at the monthly meetings. The CPPC will provide input as appropriate.

The CPPC Meeting Process:

The CPPC will meet monthly.

All meeting expenses and travel cost for members and invited guests will be covered by the IEO.

Agendas will be co-developed at the end of each meeting and confirmed two weeks prior to the next meeting. In order to account for emerging priorities, the COO Education Unit, and IEO will allow for amendments to an agenda as necessary.

Where emerging priorities must be dealt with in a timely manner, the COO Education Unit and IEO have the authority to request additional meeting dates for the CPPC and or the SC, to address any emerging priorities.

The COO Education Unit and IEO will be responsible for reaching out internally to identify items to bring forward by any community, organization, division, branch, or partnering ministry.

Joint Task Teams:

Joint task team membership will include technical advisors appointed by members of the CPPC based on subject matter expertise.

Each task team will be responsible for completing deliverables as identified in the joint strategic plan and reporting back to the CPPC and Steering Committee members as directed.

All meeting expenses and travel cost for joint task team members will be covered by the IEO.

Amendments:

The parties may amend this Terms of Reference by mutual consent at any time. There will be an annual review of the Terms of Reference.

Non-Derogation:

Nothing in the Terms of Reference will be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of First Nation communities in Ontario, which are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, or so as to abrogate or derogate from any rights of Ontario.

Without Prejudice:

The FNLL Table and its activities are without prejudice to existing and future initiatives between First Nations and Ontario or its agencies, or any other third party interest.

Confidentiality:

The FNLL Table acknowledges that in discussions, participants may come into possession of confidential information, and the participants may discuss mutually confidential material. FNLL Table participants agree that they will only use such confidential information for the purposes of furthering discussions at the Table.

In the event that a member receives a request or order to disclose any confidential information shared in the discussion process, that member will commit to notify the Table on a timely basis.

Dispute Resolution:

The FNLL Table will use best efforts to prevent or minimize disputes at the FNLL Table. Where best efforts to prevent a dispute are not successful, the parties to the dispute agree to:

1. Identify and resolve the dispute as quickly and as cost-effectively as practicable; and,
2. Participate in good faith in the dispute resolution process set out below:
 - a. Initial written notice of the matter in dispute;
 - b. Collaborative discussions;
 - c. Mediation; and,
 - d. Arbitration.
3. Where a dispute is resolved the resolution will be delivered to all parties of the dispute in writing.