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CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

CTCLL - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Mission and Vision Statements of the Chiefs of Ontario set the overarching framework for the Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language & Learning.

COO Mission Statement

The Chiefs of Ontario will support all First Nations in Ontario as they assert their sovereignty, jurisdiction, and their chosen expression of nationhood.

COO Vision Statement

First Nations in Ontario are united towards self-sufficiency and vibrancy while never forgetting who we are; this unity is facilitated through the Chiefs in Ontario. We envision a future where our inherent laws, lands and traditions are recognized and respected by governments, industry and the general public.

Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language & Learning

Terms of Reference

Authority, Accountability & Mandate

The Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language & Learning (CTCLL) is authorized by the following resolutions:

Leadership Council

MOTION #2022-07-19.5 CHIEFS & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON LANGUAGES AND LEARNING

As authorized by Appendix B, (2) of the Chiefs of Ontario Charter, the Leadership Council approves the Terms of Reference for the Chiefs & Technical Committee on Languages and Learning mandating the CTCLL to support First Nations and regional organizations through consensus building to address and advance First Nation jurisdiction over languages and learning systems and environments.

Moved by: Grand Chief Reg Niganobe, Anishinabek Nation

Seconded by: Grand Chief Joel Abram, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Abstentions – none

Carried

Chiefs-in-Assembly - TBD

These resolutions mandate the CTCLL to support First Nations and regional organizations through consensus-building to address and advance First Nation jurisdiction over our languages and learning systems and environments. The CTCLL is also mandated to provide technical and political advice, recommendations and strategies to the Ontario Regional Chief, the COO Leadership Council and the Chiefs-in-Assembly on all matters related to First Nations languages and learning.

The CTCLL is accountable to the Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs-in-Assembly. The CTCLL will provide draft reports to the Co-Chairs for presentation to the Leadership Council and Chiefs-in-Assembly. Both the Co-Chairs and the Director of Language and Learning of the Chiefs of Ontario, are responsible for providing regular briefings to Leadership Council regarding the CTCLL's work.

Scope & Objectives

The CTCLL will utilize consensus-building strategies with First Nation communities and/or through their designated representative organizations to determine language and learning priorities and develop strategies, positions and solutions to address needs. Consensus-building tools will include analysis, engagement, partnerships and other means to bring communities together for the purposes of addressing the language and learning needs of First Nation individuals, families and communities in Ontario.

The overarching goal of the CTCLL is to advocate for First Nations control over First Nations languages and learning as determined by First Nations. The CTCLL will aim to empower and support First Nations as they build capacity in these areas by providing political support, technical expertise, research, and strategies.

Notably, the activities of the CTCLL incorporate the full scope of lifelong learning, which is a holistic concept that respects education and learning equally for the full life journey of individuals. The concept embraces education and learning rooted in our language and culture that provides opportunities and supports based on individual need for development, learning and success.

The objectives of the CTCLL are as follows:

- i. Build consensus among the First Nations in Ontario and make recommendations to First Nation Leadership on emerging legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines that affect First Nations rights, self-determination, and jurisdiction;
- ii. To support First Nations, regional organizations and designated linguistic and learning entities in accessing the necessary funding to build capacity to establish run, maintain and continually improve language and learning programs, services, and systems;
- iii. Present and make recommendations to First Nation Leadership about emerging issues on languages and learning, the development of strategies or position

- papers, resource requirements of the CTCLL, and the progress of the CTCLL on resolutions related to languages and learning;
- iv. To communicate language and learning related research, findings, and analysis to all First Nations in Ontario in a timely fashion;
 - v. To engage in and analyze the actions of the Assembly of First Nations and on-going language and learning developments initiated by provincial and federal governments to ensure they are consistent with and further the priorities of First Nations in Ontario;
 - vi. To support language and learning programs, policies, strategies, and services led by First Nations and regional organizations by:
 - a. Consolidating and disseminating information,
 - b. Fostering regional discussion and identifying common interests,
 - c. Providing space for inter-regional discussions,
 - d. Providing coordination and advocacy support as requested; and
 - vii. To work towards the ultimate goal of First Nations governance and jurisdiction over their own education systems.

The Language and Learning Sector of Chiefs of Ontario and the CTCLL will respect the autonomy of First Nations and regions to assert their own direction at their own discretion.

Composition

The CTCLL will be composed of regional representatives as follows:

- i. Two (2) Co-Chairs, Leadership Council Language and Learning Portfolio Holders;
- ii. The Ontario Regional Chief shall be an ex-officio member of the CTCLL;
- iii. One political representative and from each of the following¹:
 1. Association of Iroquois & Allied Indian
 2. Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
 3. Anishinabek Nation
 4. Grand Council Treaty #3
 5. Mushkegowuk Council
 6. Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
 7. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
 8. Independent First Nations
 9. Other unaffiliated First Nations (if interested or requested)
- iv. One technician-level representative from each of the following:
 1. Association of Iroquois & Allied Indian
 2. Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
 3. Anishinabek Nation
 4. Grand Council Treaty #3
 5. Mushkegowuk Tribal Council
 6. Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

¹ Mirrors the membership of the COO Leadership Council as outlined in the COO Charter

7. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
8. Independent First Nations
9. Other unaffiliated First Nations (if interested or requested)

In the event of an empty Co-Chair seat as Language and Learning Portfolio Holder, the replacement will be selected as per the Leadership Council process for identifying Portfolio Holders.

Political and technical representatives to the CTCLL will be determined according to the respective process of each PTO, Independent First Nations or First Nation, based on how they nominate representatives. In circumstances where there is no available process, members will be determined by issuing a call for interest and selecting individuals with interest and/or previous experience.

In the event that neither Chairpersons can attend a CTCLL meeting, they may designate one of the other political representatives to Chair the meeting.

COO Advisory Councils

The CTCLL may from time to time or permanently seek the guidance of one or more of the COO Advisory Councils (Elders, Women, and Youth) to help guide the work being undertaken by the CTCLL. The COO Advisory Councils can be called upon to guide the collective decision-making processes of the Ontario First Nations leadership on priority issues, providing advice based on their experience, accumulated knowledge and wisdom, as the keepers of First Nations customs, traditions and way of life.

CTCLL Meetings

There is no quorum for any single meeting of the Committee, however it is understood that consensus-building must take place in order for recommendations to be made to First Nation Leadership (Chiefs-in-Assembly or Leadership Council). The Secretariat may have discussions with Committee members between and over the course of several meetings to build the consensus required for recommendations and decisions. If consensus is not achieved the various views will be clearly articulated in recommendations and decisions and the Secretariat will advocate for all views.

Every reasonable effort should be made by the CTCLL to reach consensus on substantive issues. Depending on the circumstances, such reasonable efforts may include deferral of an issue, commissioning an expert report, and/or traditional mediation with the assistance of the Elders Council. When consensus cannot be achieved in a reasonable time, the CTCLL shall table the topic for further discussion and deliberation by a sub-committee created for such a purpose. The Co-Chairs may also choose to defer to the Chiefs-in-Assembly to build consensus.

CTCLL meetings will take place on a monthly basis, following a recurring timeslot every month, as determined by the collective group. Timing for meetings will enable adequate

time to bring recommendations forward and report to the Leadership Council. All agenda items and preparatory materials shall be submitted at least five (5) business days in advance of CTCLL meetings. Meeting minutes will be distributed within one week after the meeting.

CTCLL members will play an active role in bringing forward and discussing issues, stating concerns relative to their communities and regions, and giving direction on formulating CTCLL decisions and recommendations.

CTCLL meetings are open for anyone to participate in discussions and consensus building.

Advisory Committees and Sub-Committees

The CTCLL will establish Advisory Committees that may include sub-committees (working groups, task teams, etc.) as required to carry out activities to implement and fulfil mandates as provided by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and the Leadership Council. These sub-committees will provide ample opportunity for First Nation individuals and specialized groups to provide input into building consensus on the wide variety of initiatives within the Language and Learning Sector and the COO Secretariat as a whole.

A more specific Terms of Reference and mandate under the overarching Terms of Reference of the CTCLL will guide the Advisory Committees. Even more explicit Operational Terms will guide the work of the sub-committees under the Terms of Reference of the associated Advisory Committee.

Review of the Terms of Reference

The CTCLL will review these and all associated Terms of Reference on an annual basis and work with the Leadership Council to update according to evolving landscapes within the Chiefs of Ontario and within the First Nation communities in Ontario.

Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat

The CTCLL recognizes that language and learning mandates and associated activities are often interlinked and interconnected with the mandates and activities related to the other sectors in the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat. The CTCLL will therefore maintain a strong link with the work of the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat through the Director of Language and Learning and endeavor to align activities in the spirit of co-creation, co-development and collaboration to strengthen linkages, capitalize on synergies and build consensus with the other sectors.

Resources

COO will actively seek funding sources to support the work of the CTCLL. When

funding is available, COO will support the expenses of the CTCLL to attend the meetings. COO will also provide technical support for arranging and planning meetings.

