

# LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ON LANGUAGES

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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### AUTHORITY

On February 28, 2022 the COO Leadership Council, as recommended by the First Nations Education Coordination Unit, mandated the establishment of the Leadership Committee on Languages (LCOL - herein referred to as the Committee) via the following motion:

*As authorized by Appendix B, (2) of the Chiefs of Ontario Charter, the Leadership Council resolves to approve the Terms of Reference for the COO Leadership Committee on Languages.*

### ACCOUNTABILITY

The Committee reports to the Chiefs-in-Assembly via the Leadership Council and the First Nations Education Coordination Unit (FNECU).

### MANDATE

The Leadership Committee on Languages (LCOL) was established to guide the activities that support First Nation languages in Ontario. The LCOL will support the gathering of input through research & engagement to strengthen First Nation languages in Ontario. The LCOL will provide input and guidance to all relevant COO Committees and advisory groups regarding language initiatives in Ontario.

### ROLE

The Committee will provide recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly via the Leadership Council and the First Nations Education Coordination Unit (FNECU) based on the results of research and engagement.

The Committee will support and collaborate with First Nations on the implementation of the federal *Indigenous Languages Act*.

The Committee will generate ideas for resources, supports, policy and/or legislative change at local, provincial, federal and international levels.

## DUTIES

1. Advocate for the promotion, revitalization, maintenance and protection of First Nation languages with both the provincial and federal governments.
2. Develop and maintain strong connections with the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages, the AFN Technical Committee on Languages and all relevant COO committees and advisory groups to ensure input from First Nations in Ontario is duly considered towards any strategies, policies, Memorandums to Cabinet, Treasury Board submissions, legislation and associated regulations.
3. Ensure all activities related to the revitalization and protection of First Nation languages adhere to OCAP® principles.
4. Facilitate communication and information sharing among First Nations.
5. Report on Committee activities to the Chiefs-in-Assembly via the Leadership Council and the FNECU at every opportunity.
6. Provide support and advice to all relevant COO committees and advisory groups as requested/required. Advice from the Committee will be confirmed via consensus.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall be made up of the following members:

- COO Languages Portfolio Holder (Chair)
- One Elder from each of the PTOs/IFN/Six Nations, Akwesasne, Muskegowuk Council (8)
- One languages representative from each of the PTOs/IFN/Six Nations Akwesasne, Muskegowuk Council (8)
- Fluent speakers (where available) from each of the First Nation language groups and dialects

### Notes:

- The Committee will establish working groups and/or task teams as required to undertake work on specific areas of focus;
- COO Education Staff will support the Committee with various administrative support, including but not limited to, planning and facilitating meetings, coordination of calls and disbursement of honorariums.

## MEETINGS AND TIMELINE

Meetings will be chaired by the COO Languages Portfolio Holder.

Meetings will take place monthly or as required.

Meetings may take place in person, virtually or via teleconference.

Agenda items for Committee meetings will be solicited from all members and the COO Director of Education prior to meetings.

Progress reports and briefing notes will be distributed to Committee members, FNECU, and the Leadership Council and the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Travel costs for all Committee members will be covered by COO as per COO travel policy directives.

These Terms of Reference can be revised as agreed upon by the members of the LCOL.