

Laurentian University Native¹ Education Council

Terms of Reference

1. Preamble

The Laurentian University Native Education Council (formerly Laurentian University Native Advisory Council) is an advisory committee to the President of Laurentian University.

The mandate of the LUNEC is to facilitate Native self-determination by providing advice and recommendation on all matters related to Native education at Laurentian University.

The President shall report regularly to the Board of Governors and Senate on advice received from LUNEC and the follow-ups made by the University.

Furthermore, the Board of Governors and the Senate shall each appoint a representative to LUNEC.

LUNEC shall appoint a representative to Senate in accordance to Senate bylaws.

The University respects the responsibilities and priorities of LUNEC and LUNEC respects the policies and procedures of the University.

2. Nishnaabe Code of Conduct

LUNEC honours and abides by the Nishnaabe Code of Conduct and conducts all its business accordingly (Appendix I)

3. Membership:

Seats are designated to allow for Native and institutional representation as follows:

a) Voting

Unless otherwise provided herein one voting representative designated by each of the following organizations:

Robinson Huron Chiefs Council or Union of Ontario Indians
United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin
N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
North Shore Tribal Council
Wikwemikong Board of Education
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Sagamok Anishnawbek
Ontario Native Education Counselling Association
Métis Nation of Ontario

¹ 'Native' is used as an inclusive term to include First Nations, Status & Non-status peoples, Métis and Inuit. LUNEC is cognizant that diversity exists amongst Native peoples as reflected in their respective languages, cultures, traditions, and philosophical beliefs.

Up to two Elders as invited by LUNEC's Native community representatives
Two Representatives from the Indigenous Student Circle
One Representative from the School of Native Human Services Student Council

Quorum shall consist of a majority (50% + 1) of voting representatives from the organizations identified under Membership Category (a) excluding the Elder and student appointments. LUNEC will endeavour to seek members from areas that have connections to Laurentian University (i.e.: Simcoe-Muskoka, K-12 sector, etc.). LUNEC shall have the right to modify the membership from First Nations and Native organizations, as the need arises or in consideration of requests coming from such First Nations and/or organizations without Board of Governors approval.

b) **NON-VOTING**

President, Laurentian University, or designate
Vice-President, Academic and Provost
Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Programs²
Manager Native Student Affairs; and

One representative selected by each of the following:
Department of Native Studies, University of Sudbury
School of Native Human Services
Native faculty teaching in a mainstream program recommended by the President
Senate
Board of Governors (non-member of LUNEC)

The membership will be reviewed on an annual basis at which time all First Nations/organizations and Laurentian University representatives will be contacted in writing as to whether or not there are any changes in their representation. In the event that a voting member is absent from two consecutive meetings the chair will request clarification of the member's intent to remain on LUNEC. In the absence of a response LUNEC reserves the right to remove the voting member from LUNEC.

4. **Selection of Native Community Representatives - Process and Criteria**

The representatives of the designated Native organizations shall be selected by each organization according to the process most appropriate to their organizational structure and operations, giving consideration to such criteria as individual knowledge of and familiarity with post-secondary education. As representatives of the Native organizations, they shall be responsible and accountable to the leadership of their organizations and to the community they represent.

5. **Responsibilities**

LUNEC has a responsibility to represent the needs and interests of the Native community at all times. More specifically, LUNEC is established to:

- a) provide advice on strategic directions related to the advancement of Native Education at Laurentian University;
- b) monitor and evaluate the implementation of advice and recommendations provided;
- c) provide advice on institutional policies and procedures that may affect Native staff, faculty and students;

² It is the responsibility of the Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Programs to keep the Federated Universities and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine informed of LUNEC deliberations.

- d) review and approve submissions from the Laurentian community for funding of any projects where the funder requires review and approval from LUNEC; and
- e) provide advice when consulted on academic programs, courses and services that have a bearing on Native education (ie; Acaplan, Celp etc.) at Laurentian University

Each representative of LUNEC shall be responsible for forwarding information and decisions on LUNEC activities to his/her respective organization or unit.

6. Management of LUNEC Activities:

6.1 LUNEC Meetings

The Chair will be elected from the community representatives identified in Membership Category (a). The LUNEC Chair will be elected at the December quarterly meeting. The chair will assume his/her responsibilities at the March quarterly meeting and will serve a two year term.

The Council shall meet on a quarterly basis, with additional meetings as required. The annual schedule of meetings will be determined every December. Requests for items to be placed on the agenda will be directed to the Chair via the appropriate administrative support to LUNEC. Meeting packages will be distributed one week prior to the meeting.

Decisions will be made by consensus. In the event that a consensus is not met, a decision will be made by a majority vote by those present at the meeting.

6.2 Institutional Responsibilities

The institution shall pay for travel, meal and accommodation expenses according to the established accounting practices of the institution.

Laurentian University will provide appropriate administrative support to LUNEC so that it may carry out its responsibilities as outlined in this document.

Ratified by: LUNEC November 1998

Senate April 1999

Board of Governors February 2000

Revised and Ratified by LUNEC October 15, 2009

Board of Governors December 18, 2009

Revised with minor changes by LUNEC November 28th, 2012

Revised with the deletion of the Membership of Nipissing Band of Ojibways by LUNEC September 5, 2017

**Kina Wii-mno-wiijnakiind-ying
That We May All Work Well Together
Nishnaabe Code of Conduct**

Respect & Dignity

- Let us listen to each person's ideas with respect, and accept with grace any differences of opinion and corrections.
- In expressing our views, let us be mindful that our colleagues too have many demands on their time and so do not keep them unduly.
- In discussing issues and ideas, let us keep our focus on the merits of each perspective, and not make the perceiver the issue.
- When we must seek or provide clarification, let us do so in a way that maintains the person's dignity, and neither raise our voice in anger to, nor show disrespect towards anyone, whatever his or her stance.

Sharing

- Let us all share our time, energy and talents with our leaders and peers to facilitate their and our unit.
- When success proves elusive, let us ask not "who is to blame?" but "how can we help to ensure greater success in the future?"

Honesty & Truth

Abiding by the principle of respect:

- Let us make clear how any proposal we present came about.
- Let us allow all to express their opinions honestly and to vote freely and without prejudice in accordance with their standards and conscience.

Wisdom & Love

- Let us learn the need to balance work and play, and to take the time to nurture our whole being.
- Let us neither confound an idea's popularity with its wisdom, nor construe a difference of opinion as disrespect or enmity.
- In making decisions, let us strive to think clearly and with foresight, and to avoid making promises we cannot keep.
- Let us not mistake the ideal of consensus as a sanction of coercion.
- If we must say "no", let us ensure that it is for the right reasons and when doing so, that we treat the person with dignity.

Humility

- Let us remember that we choose not the gifts we have, but only how we use those given to us by the Creator.
- When called upon to lead, let us be mindful of our humanity while striving to give the best of ourselves to the entity we serve.
- Let us consider with humility suggestions another may give us, and promptly acknowledge any misunderstandings.

Honour & Courage

- Let us deal honourably with all, those who share our ideas, and those who do not have the same history or outlook or gifts.
- Let us deal honourably with all, those who share our ideas, and those who do not have the same history or outlook or gifts.
- Let us have the courage to say "no" when necessary even though it is not what someone wants to hear.
- Let us have the grace to admit when we have erred, to apologize to anyone adversely affected by our mistake, to bear the consequences of our misstep without rancour, and to accept the lessons experience offers.

Only when we work in this way can we say with truth, "job well done"