

**Indigenous Education Council  
School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)**

**Terms of  
Reference**

Approved: August 9, 2024

**Mandate:**

The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) is a community member-based organization representing the interests of Indigenous persons and students in School District No. 91.

**Members' Guiding Principles:**

**IEC believes:**

- in holistic development of learners in which all learners reach full potential,
- the best interests of our students will only be served if we (parents, communities, and School District No. 91) work together to that end,
- education needs to strengthen students and be reflective of who the child is and where and what type of home environment the child comes from and have an awareness of the child's family context,
- learners must be provided the opportunities to achieve their full potential,
- education initiatives should be community-based, community-driven and focused on student achievement,
- prejudice and racism have no place within the education system, and all reported instances must be dealt with seriously, promptly, and monitored over time.
- honesty, openness, and respect should be fostered,
- accountability and responsible use of Indigenous targeted dollars is necessary
- promotion of culturally appropriate policies and practices.

**Goals:**

IEC will work to:

- Advocate for quality and equity of education programs and opportunities.
- Promote First Nations (First Peoples) culture and language.
- Promote student achievement, academic success and 21<sup>st</sup> Century competencies.
- Promote initiatives that enhance Indigenous understanding and awareness.
- Promote integration of Indigenous content into existing and new curriculum.
- Advise on school district policy in relation to Indigenous Education.
- Ensure effective use of district and school level funds for the benefit of Indigenous learners.
- Develop short and long-range plans based on Indigenous community input.

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## Membership:

- Voting Members:
  - Local First Nations, meaning a first nation in whose territory the board operates, are invited to designate two persons as voting members of the IEC.
  - A non-local First Nation, if they have students who are boarded in SD 91 and attending SD 91 schools, are invited to designate one person as a voting member of the IEC.
  - One urban representative from the West End of School District No.91 (Nechako Lakes)
  - One urban representative from the East End of School District No.91 (Nechako Lakes)
  - Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the composition of the IEC ensures that a majority of voting member are representing local first nations.
- Non-voting members:
  - The following SD 91 representatives will attend IEC meetings, but will not be voting members:
    - Two Trustees of School District No.91 (Nechako Lakes), preferably one trustee from each end of the district)
    - The Superintendent
    - The Indigenous Education District Lead
    - One visiting PVP member will be invited to each meeting
  - Additional community organizations:
    - The following organizations will be invited to designate one person as a non-voting member of the IEC:
      - Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
      - Carrier Sekani Family Services
      - Nezul Be Huyuneh
  - When a meeting is hosted in a First Nations community, the hosting community is permitted to invite one Elder representative and one youth representative to attend the meeting as non-voting members.
- IEC Community representatives cannot be employees of School District No.91, unless grandfathered in. If employed and grandfathered into IEC, they will sit out on agenda items that create a direct conflict of interest.
- In each school year, at the beginning of August, the IEC member nations will notify the School District of the names of their representatives, and the IEC will send out invitations to partner organizations and urban representatives to participate on the IEC.

## Meeting procedures:

- All decisions will be by vote.
- Meetings will be conducted in an orderly and timely manner.
- The Director of Instruction and/or District Principal of Indigenous

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Education will:

- Call for agenda items prior to meeting dates.
- Prepare the agenda.
- Record, prepare and distribute all meeting minutes including all additional attachments.

All votes are official when there is a quorum of six (6) or more members. The quorum number is based on total council membership indicated by on-file letters from each organization. In the event the quorum is not met, any items that need to be voted on will be sent out to all members of IEC and an email vote will take place. This vote will be affirmed at the following meeting.

Members of the general public are welcome to attend meetings but will not have voting privileges.

When a meeting is held virtually and recorded, the recording will be made available for voting IEC members to view until the next meeting is held.

The meeting chair will be from the hosting community and will have an equal vote as all other IEC members.

One (1) IEC member will act as Chair of the IEC at provincial meetings for the term of one (1) school year. A proxy will be determined if that member cannot attend. If there are multiple nominees per position it will be decided via silent vote by the IEC.

Terms of reference will be reviewed at the first meeting of the school year