

ONECA Members Meeting June 29, 2021

The focus of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to network, share updates and issues. Twenty (20) members signed in for this meeting.

Topics	Responses
Updates from ONECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universities Affairs website has posted student requirements for the fall semester for some universities. Keep checking for updates. Ontario colleges are still monitoring local public health guidelines and provincial guidelines but should be posting information in the coming weeks. - Encourage all students to get their COVID vaccines at least 14 days prior to the start of the fall semester or prior to moving in to campus residence. This is mandatory at some universities. - Check post-secondary institutions regularly for COVID updates. - Some institutions are seeking information about the First Nations Post-Secondary Engagement Process. - The Professional Development series will take a break for the summer but will continue in the fall. If you have suggestions for speakers, please advise.
What are the policies regarding the disposal of outdated files?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an issue when your systems are getting full. - Digitize. - A variety of storage systems are currently in use. - Indigenous Affairs recommends keeping all files.
Is the ONECA Directory up to date?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ONECA up-dates the directory annually. - Not all contacts can be reached to confirm contact information.
General Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colleges still making program changes. Georgian College pushed back the start date for the Electrical Techniques program for women to January. The Ojibway language will run again. - One First Nation is experiencing a funding shortfall and now has a wait list. A new secondary school counsellor was hired. Current enrolment is 129 full time, 15 part-time and for summer programming, 18 full time and 21 part time. - One First Nations has a wait list for funding. Sometimes First Nations are able to support students wait listed. Datavan is now up and running. Students and staff will be able to upload and access files. The organization has completed a post-secondary review and is now developing an action plan with student involvement. Sent 350 wellness boxes to students and have been hosting workshops over the past 8 weeks. We partner with St. Clair College for the Electrical Techniques program for women. We have a PSE Collaborative with area colleges and universities which includes a student focus group. - We recently sent out smudge boxes; we've been sending out wellness boxes throughout the year and will continue. Attendance is up this year. Some part-time students will take Ojibway language at

	<p>Wisconsin University. The Honouring Our Students event will occur July 17; students will receive celebration boxes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chiefs of Ontario has information about the FN PS review. - Seeking Indigenous instructors in Thunder Bay and recruiting students for Police Foundations, Early Childhood Education and online programming - Some Laurentian students had to transfer to other universities. More students applied this year and now there is a wait list. I really appreciate the ONECA professional development and networking sessions; they are excellent and helpful. We still have funding for laptops and technology for new students. Chi miigwetch! - Graduation will be virtual this year. 300 applicants this year which is up from 274 last year; 39 graduates confirmed; down from last year. - 130 students for fall winter semester and 8 others needing to get their document in. - Renovated student centres at St. Clair College and installing Indigenous sculptures; hoping for in-person delivery in the fall; running two Indigenous women's programs: pre-health and electrical techniques - The Future Further website is now changing over to Ontario Indigenous Student Resources, check it out in September. Virtual events will be coming on University Fairs. - Loyalist College is planning on face-to-face delivery in the fall but are ready with four different delivery models as needed. Student residences will be fully functioning; we encourage vaccines. Expect a blended delivery model for orientation. - APSIP will have virtual tours in the fall with specific presentations for targeted audiences. - High numbers of students for spring and summer programming. Students know they have to pay the \$250 deposit. Graduating 20 post-secondary and 12 secondary students on July 29th. Provided laptops for students. Hosting an orientation session with APSIP August 19th.
<p>Generic Emails from institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several members stated that students receiving generic emails from institutions are stressful for everyone (i.e., invoice wasn't paid so cannot attend). This is a problem for all sponsored students. - ONECA will reach out to the Ministry on this issue. - It was suggested that counsellors should copy students on correspondence to institutions so that students don't get caught blindsided when mass emails are sent out. - Another suggested copying the President of the institution in correspondence as necessary. - One student was emailed on a Sunday evening and told not to show up for placement on the Monday morning. The institution hadn't even invoiced the First Nation yet.
<p>ONECA Fall Conference and other news</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ONECA is planning a fall conference in Sault Ste. Marie on November 1,2,3 at the Water Tower Inn. ONECA is seeking new ideas for workshops.

- There have been no fees for the current NCTP students due to COVID. Another co-hort will start in the fall. ONECA is pleased to have developed counselling videos to enhance program delivery.
- ONECA now has 16 student advisors that have signed on to help with the cannabis project. The project will produce a video on recreational use of cannabis.
- Phoebe designed orange t-shirts for ONECA which have been mailed out to all members. Enjoy!