



ONTARIO NATIVE EDUCATION COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION

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MEMO

TO: Participants of the Post Secondary Gathering
FROM: Roger Chum, President
DATE: November 25, 2019

Thank you for attending the post secondary gathering last week in Sault Ste. Marie. This was ONECA'S first attempt at coordinating a post secondary gathering. It was a huge success attracting 85 First Nation counsellors, directors of education and institution representatives from across the province.

Our goal was to create a forum where those who work in the field of First Nation Post-Secondary could come together to discuss issues that were important to them and to share best practices. ONECA received very positive feedback and it was clear from the responses and recommendations that there is a strong desire from communities and institutions to continue to collaborate and work collectively to build tangible resources and supports that are accessible to all First Nations. The group put together an extensive list of ideas on areas that need to be addressed and resources that could be created to support communities and students who are delivering and accessing post secondary funding.

It is evident from the feedback and conversations that participants have confidence in ONECA and a willingness to work with us to continue this work. As an association we are committed to providing as much support and to follow-up on as many of the asks as possible, however we face our own challenge and that is that we do not have the required funding or capacity to meet all of the demand and needs that came from the session. We want to be transparent and honest so that everyone knows what can be expected as follow-up in the weeks to come and the future therefore I am going to provide an outline of what you can expect to see now and hopefully in the future:

Immediate Goals for PSE- Gathering

Goal	Outcome	Timeframe
Report	Prepare and distribute the report from the gathering	Mid - December
Presentations	Upload the presentations from the session onto the ONECA website.	November 2019
Post Secondary Space on Website	As an interim measure ONECA will create a icon on our website to house the materials from the post secondary gathering	November 2019
Create an email list of participants	ONECA will create a list of participants with email addresses that will be distributed to participants so they can continue to network	November, 2019
Prepare a list of Post Secondary Contacts at Institutions	ONECA will create a data base of registrar offices, contact people	January 2020

	with phone numbers for post secondary institutions. These are the people that First Nations would send their sponsorship letters to.	
Letters of Support	ONECA will follow-up with participants to get letters of support to attach to proposals when seeking funding to continue the work	December 2019

Medium- Goals PSE

Goal	Outcome	Timeframe
Communication	Explore opportunities of how we can continue to communicate via, our site, ie possibly a chat room dedicated to post secondary. Look at how or if we can upload living documents that group can share and work on	February 2020
Secure funding	Secure funding to continue this work and to hire a dedicated person to work with communities and follow-up on the wish list.	April 2020
Outreach to communities	Continue the conversation and work with communities to establish and set priorities for moving forward.	Fall 2020

Long Range-PSE

Goal	Outcome	Timeframe
Future Developments	ONECA will reach out to First Nation communities and work with them to develop a long-range work plan for PSE and they will set the agenda for further development	Once funding is secured and a position is staffed to carry out the duties

ONECA is a logical choice to move this project forward because of our linkages to communities, institutions and because of our solid reputation of working with First Nations. In order to proceed with the medium and long- range goals we will need the support of communities, so please send your letters of support so we can make this happen for all communities. You were provided with a template in your packages to assist you with preparing your support letters but if you have any questions or need clarification please feel free to contact the ONECA office at the address above.

In closing I would also encourage you to share any materials or resources that can be publicly shared with others working in the field such as templates, student handbooks, policies etc. ONECA will upload them to our website and make them accessible to others under the Post Secondary section that is being created.

Respectfully,



Roger Chum, President