

ONECA Post-Secondary Zoom Meeting August 11, 2020

Purpose: This meeting was organized to: provide an update from the ONECA/IPEC partnership, check in members about students' readiness for September post-secondary studies, ask about major challenges and to see if there is a desire for ONECA to host zoom meetings to connect with post-secondary institutions.

Participants: Twenty-five (25) participants registered for the call. Twenty-two (22) participants signed on. The ONECA representatives on the call were Roxane Manitowabi and Gaya'dowęhs Lu Ann Hill-MacDonald.

1. Update on the ONECA/IPEC partnership

The Executive of the Indigenous Peoples Education Circle, Colleges Ontario informed ONECA that college program delivery will be a combination of remote and online delivery for the fall term (September to February). Program delivery will be program specific.

Please check the websites of post-secondary institutions for specific details.

Colleges are preparing for the possibility of remote/online learning for the entire upcoming school year.

2. Students' Readiness for Post-Secondary Studies in September

- Some members expressed concern for elementary and secondary students; some members are in communication with the local school boards regarding protocols for returning students; some parents are opting for home schooling, tutors are needed; social distancing
- Some students did well in the spring/summer semester so should be ready for the fall
- Some students are still registering for the fall term
- Encouraging to hear what students are volunteering for
- Students need to decide if they will relocate to the institution or work from home
- Difficulty getting laptops and getting laptops to students in time for school
- Internet access is an issue for some
- How will institutions manage exams? (major assignment instead?)
- Difference in supports between universities and colleges
- Difficulty registering for core courses; institutions need to add more courses and faculty
- Some communities are providing students with laptops and paying internet costs
- Lots of questions about remote/online program delivery
- First Nations should have received COVID funding from the federal government to support increased student expenses

3. Major Challenges/Concerns

- Not all staff are back at work full-time or are back to work part-time only
- Some students are electing to not attend post-secondary due to the need for online delivery
- Regular communication with students not attending post-secondary is a challenge
- Members still have questions about student's fees (any reductions?); this will be specific for to each institution
- Miscommunication or late communication is a challenge
- Reduced numbers of students in residence and associated costs
- Take note of deadline dates for students to opt out of student ancillary fees
- Online learning is a challenge; supports from institutions varies; anticipating more tutoring; not sure what how students will be supported
- Planning and advising has been challenging; looking at what kinds of supports are going to be needed
- Check institution standards for laptops
- Learning hubs are being created (between First Nation and post-secondary institution) to address the need for laptops and internet access

4. Desire for ONECA to host Zoom Sessions with Post-Secondary Institutions

- There were mixed reactions to this question for different reasons.
- Two suggestions were made: 1) quick notes of any changes would be helpful, 2) seek a presentation from Laurier regarding sponsorship.

5. Information Sharing

- ONECA shared a report called, Still Thriving, Supporting Indigenous Post-Secondary Students During COVID-19, authored by Emma Greefield. Thank you IPEC for sharing this valuable report. It reflects issues already expressed by ONECA members.

6. NEXT ZOOM MEETING – to be determined