



Committee Membership for 2021-2022
Chair – Elizabeth Gouthro, CASS Consultant

CASS Representatives:

David Keohane – Executive Director
Claudine Cortes – Executive Assistant

Treaty Representatives:

Brian Wildcat – Superintendent, Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (Treaty 6)
Valerie McDougall – Superintendent, Tsuut'ina Nation Department of Education (Treaty 7)
Genevieve Fox – Director of Education, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council (Treaty 7)
Chester Auger – Director of Education, Bigstone Cree Nation Education (Treaty 8)

Métis Representatives:

Dorothy Anderson – Secretary, Alberta Métis Settlements General Council
Lisa Cruickshank – Director, Métis Education and Lifelong Learning, Rupertsland Institute

Zone Representatives:

Laura Poloz – Superintendent, High Prairie School Division (Zone 1)
George McGuigan – Superintendent, Fort McMurray Catholic School System, (Zone 2/3)
Selena Frizzley – Coordinator of Indigenous Education Services, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, (Zone 4)
Lori Pritchard – Education Director, Calgary Board of Education (Zone 5)
Robbie Charlebois – Associate Superintendent of Human Services, Horizon School Division (Zone 6)

Francophone:

Brigitte Kropieinicki – Directrice Générale/Superintendent of Schools, Conseil scolaire du Nord-ouest

AISCA:

John Jagersma – Executive Director

Alberta Education Representatives:

Nicole Callihoo – Assistant Deputy Minister, First Nations Métis and Inuit Directorate
Lori Bell – Executive Director, First Nations Métis Inuit Directorate
Ronald Taylor – Director, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Services Branch

CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee

Meeting Highlights

December 16, 2021

The mandate of the CASS First Nations Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee is to collaboratively identify effective education practices for school authorities through engaging with representatives of First Nations, Métis, Public, Separate, Francophone, Charter, Independent authorities, and associations.

Guide to Relationships and Learning with the Indigenous Peoples of Alberta

The committee reviewed and revised the draft survey. This [survey](#) was developed to ensure that the Guide continues to meet the needs of members. Therefore, CASS is inviting members to complete a short survey that will inform potential changes. CASS has received funding from Alberta Education to undertake this review. The review will focus on the pluses and minuses of the Guide, how and when you are currently using the Guide, its design, recommendations, etc.

As part of the survey, CASS also invites members from provincial and First Nations School Authorities to share their story of developing partnership(s) Education Service Agreements, ESAs at the operational and system leadership/governance level. This collection of stories of practice will be developed as a learning guide and webinar to share with all members.

First Nations Métis and Inuit Indigenous Student Success Toolkit

Lori Bell, executive director of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Directorate, updated the committee on the feedback that the Directorate had received on the development of the toolkit at the CASS Fall conference and the October committee meeting. The high level overview identified what was missing, which are:

- how to strengthen relationships with Indigenous students, their families and communities and First Nations School Authorities;
- how to learn local protocols and connecting with Elders;
- more on foundational knowledge;
- hiring and retention of Indigenous staff; and
- how to prepare new Canadians to learn about Indigenous peoples.

The top priorities listed in the data was the need for strong Indigenous representation in the content and design, flexible and adaptable to meet local needs, the importance of continuing

to develop it over time, addressing systemic racism and discrimination, and that it be useful, appropriate and digital for ease of access. The committee also expressed their concern of the word toolkit and suggested other words such as Guide etc. as being more appropriate. Next steps for the Directorate were to research how do we measure success and a literature review to investigate this topic. The Directorate will continue to update the committee, as appropriate.

Indigenous Talking Circles

The committee discussed CASS establishing Indigenous Talking Circles. The impetus for the talking circles came from the Indigenous Teachers and School and System Leaders focus group held last February. Participants in the focus group suggested the value of coming together to share their experience in the provincial education system, to connect with other Indigenous educators and to offer mentorship and support to each other and to support CASS members to learn more about working alongside Indigenous educators in meaningful ways. The committee supported the concept and recommended further investigation of similar models in Alberta and to report back to the committee.

Updates

The Indigenous Teacher and School and System Leaders Survey Report is currently at document production and is expected to be shared with the CASS Board in early 2022. The [CASS First Nations Métis and Inuit Education Gathering](#) registration opened in December and already has close to 100 registrations. This is an excellent opportunity to deepen your learning about how to build relationships with Indigenous peoples, strengthen your understanding of foundational knowledge, participate in cultural ceremony, listen to Elders and Knowledge keepers, prior to the start of the CASS annual learning conference.

For more information, please contact: Your representative and/or Elizabeth Gouthro 1-587-226-8256 elizabeth.gouthro@cass.ab.ca