



Yinka Dene Council (YDC) Terms of Reference

A. Introduction and Background

The College of New Caledonia has committed through its bylaws, policies, long-term strategic plan goals and guiding principles that meeting the adult and post-secondary educational needs of Aboriginal¹ learners and communities is fundamental to its mission, values and vision.

The College's regional Aboriginal Education Steering/Advisory Committees and the college-wide Yinka Dene Council (YDC) are essential structures through which the College authentically strives to make operational its beliefs and intentions in regard to Aboriginal education and Indigenization. These terms of reference describe the college-wide mandate and functioning of the YDC.

The over-arching purpose of the YDC is:

to assist the College President and Board of Governors in addressing college-wide priorities regarding Aboriginal education, services and policy. The YDC will provide insight, guidance and direction from a community based understanding of cultural, social and economic concerns and perspectives. Access, success, completion and transition of Aboriginal learners will be of primary concern.

The college's regional Aboriginal Education Steering/Advisory Committees have primary responsibility to provide direction and support for each region's programming and services.

B. Operations

1. The YDC will be comprised of up to three (3) representatives from each of the College's five Regional Aboriginal Education Steering/Advisory Committees. Each of the regional committees will determine their representatives to the YDC. It is expected that representatives at YDC meetings will be individuals who are, or have a recent history of, being actively engaged in working with the College.
2. The YDC membership will be reflective of the First Nations communities in the college region.
3. Regional committee membership may include representatives from each First Nation within the college region; Native Friendship Centres; regional members of the Metis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC); Carrier Sekani Tribal Council; other affiliated Aboriginal institutions; and, individuals within the college region.
4. Aboriginal students and elders are welcome and shall also be encouraged to participate in YDC meetings.

¹ The Constitution recognizes Aboriginal people as First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

5. College employees in addition to the President (e.g. College administrators, community liaison/advisor staff) may attend YDC meetings as observers and resource persons.
6. Persons or groups wishing to gain YDC input on various issues should put their requests in writing to the College President and/or Co-Chair of the YDC. This will ensure that the item is placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting. This allows for timely discussion and full participation of all members of the YDC.
7. Clerical support for the YDC will be provided through the office of the Senior Policy Advisor Aboriginal Education. Meeting notes will be typed and distributed within 30 days after each meeting. Meeting agendas and information packages will distributed one week in advance of the meetings.

C. Council Co-Chair/Board Delegate

1. The position of Council Co-chair/Board Delegate will be a two-year term and will be selected by the members of the YDC. The responsibilities of the Council Co-Chair/Board Delegate will include:
 - i. Set meeting agendas in collaboration with the CNC President.
 - ii. Co-chair meetings of the Council with the CNC President.
 - iii. Attend meetings of the CNC Board of Governors as a representative of YDC.

D. Meetings

1. YDC meetings will normally be held three times per year (in October, January and May).
2. The YDC will hold its meetings in various communities within the college region.
3. The YDC meetings will include opportunities for community dialogue and ongoing needs assessment.
4. The Council will have a Strategic Action Plan that is part of the College's planning processes. This document will be reviewed at every meeting and changes made as deemed necessary by the members of the YDC.
5. The YDC will honour and follow protocol, traditions and practices of the First Nations territory on which it is meeting.
6. Decision-making will occur primarily through use of the Aboriginal consensus model. Where consensus cannot be achieved, a simple majority vote will decide.
7. The YDC will provide an annual report and recommendations to the CNC Board of Governors.

E. Other

1. These Terms of Reference are subject to annual review.
2. All Council participants and College resource persons should conduct themselves in such a manner that they will not enter into a Conflict of Interest.
3. The YDC Travel Policy is attached.