

NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY

Board of Governors

MINUTES

Meeting #2025/01– February 4, 2025 4:02 PM

Zoom Meeting

DATE: _____

BOARD MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

BOARD MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

CHAIR:

Lennard Joe

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Verna Billy-Minnabarriet

Sharon Bond

Dale Calder

Shane Coutlee

Darwin Hanna

Elaine Herbert

Melissa Moses

Melanie Nelson

Jonathon Nolie

Denise Williams

EX-OFFICIO:

Tom Willms, Education Council Chair

John Chenoweth, President & CEO

SENIOR MANAGERS:

Aruna Gore, AVP, Academic

Paul Grewal, CFO

ELDERS COUNCIL:

Casey Holmes

Amelia Washington

REGRETS:

Carla George

Harvey McLeod

RECORDER: Pat Brown, Executive Assistant, President & Board and Elders Coordinator

Opening Prayer by Elder Amelia Washington.

John introduced Chrissy Thomas, a student in Elaine Herbert's Social Work class. Chrissy was invited to observe the meeting today.

1. Adoption of Agenda

B25/01 It was moved and seconded that

the regular meeting agenda be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried.**

2. Board Information

B25/02 Announcements - Congratulations were extended to Sharon Bond on her reappointment to the Board up to December 2026.

B25/03 Chiefs Breakfast Meeting.

The Chiefs annual breakfast meeting is typically held in February. John will work with the Board Chair to arrange this meeting.

B25/04 2025 Graduation Dates [Vancouver, Friday June 6th & Merritt, Friday June 13th].

All Board members are welcome to attend one or both of the graduation ceremonies.

3. Consent Agenda

B25/05 It was moved and seconded that

the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. ***Motion Carried.***

B25/06 Board minutes of November 26, 2024.

B25/07 Executive Report.

B25/08 2025/26 Board Meeting Dates.

B25/09 NVIT Quick Facts.

B25/10 Correspondence.

- a) Quality Assurance Process Audit Report (Degree Quality Assessment Board, DQAB).
- b) Introduction Letter to Board Chair & President from new Minister Anne Kang [Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills, PSFS]
- c) 2023/24 Institutional Accountability Plan & Report Letter of Appreciation [PSFS]

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. President's Report

B25/10 President's Report Concept.

PSFS Minister Anne Kang is visiting NVIT Merritt campus on Feb 28th to announce the new capital projects. All board members are welcome to attend.

Westjet has donated one voucher for 2 people to go anywhere Westjet flies. This voucher was donated to the Elders Council as a Goody Day fundraiser. A lottery license and additional prizes are being secured.

Airini, a policy expert, will work on NVIT's policies until June. In lieu of payment, Airini wants a traditional exchange or offering.

It was suggested that the Indigenous language be imbedded throughout NVIT including the Board agendas, i.e. numbers.

John introduced the Senior Management Team members present. The SMT are invited to join the Board for their Board Planning session in the spring.

B25/11 2025 President's Goals.

John's goal is to establish a foundation for the next 20 to 30 years.

B25/12 Key Performance Indicators Report.

John is working with the Manager of Institutional Research on a different format for the KPIs.

5. Elders Council Report

B25/13 Elders Council Report.

Elder Casey Holmes would like to be more engaged throughout the school. He enjoys listening to staff and students and hearing their stories. Language is very important, and he would like to see more Indigenous signs throughout the campus.

Elder Amelia Washington is happy to return to campus & visit classrooms. She anticipates doing feather case workshops for staff and students in Feb or March.

There was discussion on providing free weekly lunches to students. Other concerns included Elders not feeling welcome in some classes and the availability of Elders parking spaces.

5:13pm The Board meeting broke for dinner and resumed at 5:31pm.

6. Education Council Report

B25/14 A report on the Education Council.

B25/15 It was moved and seconded that

the Indigenous Business Program be approved. ***Motion Carried.***

Associate Dean Chloe Price developed this program in consultation with Elder Casey Holmes. The program is designed on the Syilx four food Chiefs story.

B25/16 It was moved and seconded that

the Open Certificate Program be approved. ***Motion Carried.***

The open certificate program was created to allow communities to choose any 10 courses they want for a program, and they can name it.

7. Audit & Risk Management Committee

B25/17 Paul reviewed the Audit & Risk Management minutes of December 9, 2024 & January 23, 2025.

B25/18 Paul reviewed the 2024/25 KPMG Audit Plan.

B25/19 It was moved and seconded that

the financial statements & FTE report (MD&A) be approved. ***Motion Carried.***

NVIT has achieved 94.4% of the PSFS FTE target which is 8% higher than the previous year.

B25/20 It was moved and seconded that

the Annual Investment Report be approved. ***Motion Carried.***

B25/21 It was moved and seconded that

the revised tuition rates be approved as presented. ***Motion Carried.***

In January memos were sent to the student Board reps and the Student Society seeking feedback on the proposed 2% tuition increase. The Student Society President agreed with the increase and no other responses were received.

B25/22 It was moved and seconded that

the updated Per Diem rates be approved as amended.

Friendly amendment: To add \$2.00 per meal with the maximum daily rate of \$68.00. The mover agreed to the friendly amendment. ***Motion Carried.***

It was suggested that a strategy be developed to increase revenue in the cafeteria.

8. <i>2025/26 Operating Budget</i>
--

B25/23 2025/26 Operating Budget update.

Paul reported that no new funding or cut in funding is expected but that won't be confirmed until March 31st. Two budgets have been prepared, one includes the \$500k year-end funding amount received last year and the other is without the funding.

9. <i>Evaluation Process for New President & CEO</i>
--

B25/24 Evaluation Process for New President & CEO.

John was seeking advice from the Board on when they want to do his evaluation. It was the decision of the Board to do the evaluation now and all further discussions will be in-camera.

10. <i>April 2025 Board Retreat Agenda</i>

B25/25 April 2025 Board Retreat Agenda.

The April 10th & 11th suggested dates for the Board meeting & planning day do not work for all. Alternative dates will be sent to the Board for consideration.

11. <i>Adjournment</i>

B25/26 It was moved and seconded that

the regular meeting be adjourned at 7:14pm. ***Motion Carried.***

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Board Meeting & Board Planning Day ~ To Be Determined, Merritt Campus

Please submit expense claims and meeting dates attended to Pat.