

NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY

Board of Governors

MINUTES

Meeting #2025/04 – June 10, 2025

Zoom Meeting

DATE: _____

BOARD MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

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CHAIR:

Lennard Joe [zoom]

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Verna Billy-Minnabarriet [zoom]

Shane Coutlee [zoom]

Carla George [zoom]

Darwin Hanna [zoom]

Elaine Herbert [zoom]

Harvey McLeod [zoom]

Melissa Moses

Melanie Nelson [zoom]

Jonathon Nolie [zoom]

Denise Williams [zoom]

EX-OFFICIO:

John Chenoweth, President & CEO

Tom Willms, Education Council Chair [zoom]

SENIOR MANAGERS:

Aruna Gore, AVP, Academic

Paul Grewal, CFO [zoom]

James Beck, AVP, Students [zoom]

Ashley Nickel, Director, HR

Chloe Price, Associate Dean

Ivy McRae, Dean, Academics

Chelsea Vaughan, Director, CE

Brandon Williams, Dean, Trades

ELDERS COUNCIL:

Mary Angus

Mary Charters

REGRETS:

Sharon Bond

Dale Calder

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

Opening Prayer by Elder Mary Charters.

1. Adoption of Agenda

B25/50 It moved was and seconded that

the regular meeting agenda be adopted with the following additions. **Motion Carried.**

The 2025 Mandate Letter was added as #12a) B25/65a).

The First Nations Leadership Orientation Program was added as #7 B25/59a.

The Transformative Pathways Education Certificate Program was added as #7 B25/59b.

2. Board Information

B25/51 Announcements:

- a) The Ken Tourand Student Governance Awards are awarded annually to the student Board representatives. John presented Melissa Moses & Jonathon Nolie with their awards.
- b) This was Melissa & Jonathon's last regular meeting. John presented them with certificates & letters of appreciation and on behalf of the Board expressed gratitude for their participation.

3. Consent Agenda

B25/52 It was moved and seconded that

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

B25/53 Board minutes of April 10th & May 12th, 2025.

B25/54 Final FTE Report.

B25/55 Colleague ERP Steering Committee Terms of Reference.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. Presentation on 2 Stories, 1 Path

B25/56 Presentation on 2 Stories, 1 Path *Chloe Price* [Associate Dean]; *Ivy McRae* [Dean of Academics].

5. President's Report

B25/57 Highlights of John's report to the Board included that NVIT Elders are now going to community grads, 5 NVIT staff members are participating in the Doctorate program starting in July, UBC BeD begins runs Sept to May 2026 as a pilot, NVIT will support Elders to go to the BC Elders conference in August, and Lower Nicola Band Elder James Shuter will facilitate the late Jimmy Toodlican's Coyote Transformer story at the August staff welcome back.

6. Elders Council Report

B25/58 Elders Council Report.

Elder Mary Charters reported that she accompanied John & Chelsea Vaughan on a 3-day trip to attend community grads in Nautley and Hazelton.

Elder Mary Angus reported that she has met with a lot of students and encouraged them to keep going. She is working with a faculty member on curriculum development on teaching from the land and looking at laws. Mary is looking forward to grad.

7. Education Council Report

B25/59 Tom Willms provided an update on the Education Council.

B25/59a) It was moved and seconded that

the First Nations Leadership Orientation Program be approved in principle. **Motion Carried.**

B25/59b) It was moved and seconded that

the Transformative Pathways Education Certificate Program be approved in principle. **Motion Carried.**

The above programs were approved by Education Council on June 4, 2025. The program guides were not received prior to this meeting & the Board had no opportunity to review them. These programs are anticipated to be offered prior to the October Board meeting therefore they were approved in principle. A formal presentation will be done at the October Board meeting.

The meeting broke for dinner at 6:31pm & resumed at 6:40pm.

Elder Mary Charters left the meeting at this point.

8. Audit & Risk Management Committee

B25/60 Paul Grewal reviewed the Audit & Risk Management minutes of May 12, 2025.

B25/61 It was moved and seconded that

the Board approve the 2024/25 Appointee Remuneration Committee [ARC] Board Remuneration. **Motion Carried.**

The draft ARC report was presented to the Board on May 12th for review and will now be submitted to the Ministry.

9. Executive Compensation Disclosure Amendment

B25/62 It was moved and seconded that

the amended Executive Compensation Disclosure be approved. **Motion Carried.**

The amendment included retro acting pay for the President that was not included in the original disclosure. Also added, as per PSEC's request, was the employment history of John Chenoweth, Aruna Gore and James Beck.

10. NVIT Five-Year Capital Plan

B24/63 It was moved and seconded that

the Five-Year Capital Plan be approved. **Motion Carried.**

Paul reviewed the Five-Year Capital Plan that the Ministry requires annually. The plan consists of proposed future projects and those currently in progress. The top priority projects included the Health Sciences Trades Extension building, a sports field, vehicle replacement and laptop refresh.

7pm Melissa Moses excused herself from the meeting.

11. Notice of Proposed Board Bylaw Amendment

B24/64 It was moved and seconded that

that the Notice of Proposed Amendment for Board Bylaw 1.3 – Code of Conduct and Ethical Conduct be received. **Motion Carried.**

Board bylaw #1.2 D states that Board members are required to sign an Oath of Office at their first meeting. The oath includes the sentence “I have read and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and Ethical Conduct bylaw of the Institute”. Board bylaw B.9 (iv) states that “to demonstrate determination and commitment, each Board member should annually review and declare compliance with the organization's code of conduct and ethics.” The Board was asked to consider whether signing the oath of office will suffice or if signing the Code of Conduct annually is required. John will discuss this further with the Board Executive in September.

12. Information Technology Report

B24/65 Paul reviewed the highlights of the Information Technology Report.

12a. 2025 Mandate Letter

B24/65a) It was moved and seconded that

the Board receive and sign, under duress, the 2025 Mandate Letter per the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and furthermore, the NVIT Board of Governors requests a meeting with the Minister to discuss their concerns with the letter. **Motion Carried.**

Board members indicated that the letter is offensive, insulting and disrespectful to “expect NVIT to comply with DRIPA and work in partnership with First Nations right-holders” when NVIT has been doing this since it’s inception.

13. Adjournment

B25/66 It was moved and seconded that

the regular meeting be adjourned at 7:44pm. ***Motion Carried.***

Following adjournment of the meeting Chelsea Vaughan, Ivy McRae, Aruna Gore and Brandon Williams left the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Board Meeting ~ Tuesday October 7th, 2025, 5:00pm, Vancouver

Please submit expense claims and meeting dates attended to Pat.