

NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY

Board of Governors

MINUTES

Meeting #2026/01 – February 3, 2026 4:05 PM

Zoom Meeting

DATE: _____

BOARD MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

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VICE CHAIR:

Denise Williams

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Verna Billy-Minnabarriet

Sharon Bond

Shane Coutlee

Carla George

Darwin Hanna

Crystal Henderson

Elaine Herbert

Melissa Moses

Melanie Nelson

Jonathon Nolie

EX-OFFICIO:

John Chenoweth, President & CEO

Tom Willms, Education Council Chair [zoom]

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Aruna Gore, VP

Paul Grewal, CFO

Brandon Williams, Dean of Trades

ELDERS COUNCIL:

Lorna Shuter

Lou Paul

REGRETS:

Lennard Joe

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

Opening Prayer by Elder Lou Paul at 4:05pm.

1. Adoption of Agenda

B26/01 It was moved and seconded that

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

2. Board Information

B26/02 Announcements.

Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Shane Coutlee, Darwin Hanna, Lennard Joe, and Denise Williams were reappointed for 2-year terms up to December 2027.

Elder Amelia Washington was reappointed for a third term as the Elder rep for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs [UBCIC].

B26/03 Chiefs Breakfast Meeting ~ Chair Lennard Joe is arranging this meeting. When the date is determined, Board members and Elders will be invited to attend.

B26/04 2026 Graduation Dates [Vancouver, Friday June 5th & Merritt, Friday June 12th]. All Board members are invited to attend NVIT grads, including community grads. Those dates and locations will be shared with the Board as they become available.

3. Consent Agenda

B26/05 It was moved and seconded that

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

B26/06 Board minutes of November 25, 2025.

B26/07 Executive Report.

B26/08 2026/27 Board Meeting Dates.

B26/09 NVIT Quick Facts.

B26/10 Correspondence.

- a) Letter of Appreciation re: NVIT Institutional Accountability Plan & Report [Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills, PSFS].
- b) NVIT Elder Lorna Shuter at Monash University in Australia.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. President's Report

B26/11 President's Report.

John provided a report on the Stuwix Naturalization Project. 14 acres of land at the confluence of the Coldwater & Nicola Rivers, damaged during the 2021 flood, is undergoing restoration. A committee for this project includes reps from the City of Merritt, 6 local bands & Tom Willms. The city has proposed that NVIT be the steward of this land & use it for a place of cultural learning. John is seeking legal advice & will keep the Board informed.

B26/12 Policy Review.

John reviewed the Executive Limitations policy that was updated with the Elders Protocols using AI. Concerns were expressed with protecting the Indigenous language when using AI in policy development. A policy committee will be established to review and update Board policies integrating the Elders Protocols. Committee members include Denise, Elaine, Darwin & Sharon.

5. Elders Council Report

B26/13 Lorna reported that highlights of the Elders provide preserved fruit, clothing & food banks, and frozen salmon for the students. In addition to offering smudging and prayers, the Elders raise money for student bursaries, attend field trips, and attend classes upon request. Lorna recently spent a day at Monash University in Australia. She was invited to witness 12 Indigenous students graduating and she toured their Indigenous gardens. She was presented with a possum pelt and engraved glass platter. The design on the platter signifies "Gathering" for the NVIT & MU relationship building. MU students are visiting Canada in June 2027 and NVIT is on their itinerary.

6. Education Council Report

B26/14 Tom reviewed highlights of the December 17th Education Council minutes.

7. Audit & Risk Management Committee

B26/15 Paul reviewed the Audit & Risk Management minutes of December 8, 2025 & January 22, 2026.

B26/16 The 2025/26 KPMG Audit Plan was reviewed.

The annual audit plan is similar to the previous year and there were no significant risks identified.

B26/17 It was moved and seconded that

the financial statements & FTE report (MD&A) be approved as recommended by the ARM committee. **Motion Carried.**

FTE is 0.9% higher than the previous year and NVIT has achieved 95% of the PSFS FTE target. Revenue and expenses are on par with the previous year.

B26/18 It was moved and seconded that

the Annual Investment Report be approved as recommended by the ARM committee. **Motion Carried.**

The investment summary shows \$8.5 million in ministry investments and \$2.2 million in restricted funds. The board discussed potentially moving \$8 million to a higher-yielding account and Paul will explore options.

B26/19 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 and no responses were received.

B26/20 2026/27 Budget update.

NVIT is aiming to have a balanced budget regardless of year-end funding. As much funding as possible will be deferred to ensure a balanced budget next year. There is a contingency budget to offset new programs, positions, etc.

8. Evaluation Process for New President & CEO

B26/21 The President's evaluation is due in October. John will work with the Board Executive Committee to prepare an evaluation process to present at the April Board meeting.

9. April 2026 Board Retreat Agenda

B26/22 The decision is that the President's office will coordinate the event and include the Senior Management Team and the Elders.

10. Adjournment

B26/23 Regular meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Board Meeting ~ Thursday April 9th, 2026, 4:00pm, Zoom

Board Retreat ~ To Be Determined

Please submit expense claims and meeting dates attended to Pat.