

## Indigenous Advisory Circle

### Terms of Reference

#### INTENTIONS

The education system through residential schools was a key tool that oppressed Indigenous children and undermined the foundation of First Nation families in the Yukon, while also the public school system and curriculum shaped the prejudicial attitudes of Canadians towards Indigenous Peoples. Members of the Indigenous Advisory Circle (hereafter “IAC”), a standing committee of the Board of Governors, support the transformation of Yukon University through its commitments to advance the re-imagining of education to support the reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Guided by our Indigenous lived experiences, which often includes the collective memory of the lived experiences of our ancestors, we are committed to the transformation of governing practices that respects Indigenous voices and practices and upholds good relationships.

Members of the IAC strive to uphold the principles of accountability and work to have strong relationships with the land, environment, wildlife, families, Clans, communities, and our Nations. While also upholding our responsibilities to the University, there may be times when these responsibilities and relationships may not be in alignment or in conflict. As members of the IAC, we are committed to carry out our responsibilities in a manner that does not prejudice our relationships with Yukon First Nations and our communities or our obligations to the University. We will bring forward our perspectives, experience and voices to do our best to reconcile these interests while carrying out our responsibilities through the IAC.

Yukon University is committed to reconciliation through re-education. The IAC will hold and support the University to be accountable to the ethics of good relations with Indigenous Peoples and help resolve potential conflicts that may arise within and external to the University, where appropriate.

## 1. PURPOSE

The IAC is a standing committee of the Yukon University Board of Governors (hereafter “University” and “Board”, respectively) established to help the Board to ensure that the University meets its commitment to Indigenization and Reconciliation.

As the Yukon University Act (hereafter “Act”) states, the University must:

1. Honour and support
  - reconciliation with Yukon First Nations
  - the jurisdiction of Yukon First Nations under final agreements and self-government agreements
  - the implementation of those agreements by building capacity through education and research for and with Yukon First Nations. (Act, s. 2(d)); and
2. Include, respect and honour Yukon First Nations’ knowledge, worldviews, cultural and traditional practices and educational priorities in the university’s educational programming, training, research, services, governance, administration, policies and facilities (Act, s. 2(e)).

## 2. GOALS OF THE IAC

- to bring the experiences, expertise, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples to the University through its work with University administration.
- to oversee Indigenization efforts and initiatives at the University to ensure that progress is being made and recommend any necessary direction of resources.
- in accordance with Board direction, to foster and nurture good relations between Yukon University and Yukon First Nations communities, governments, and leaders.

It will focus on Four Areas (Figure 1):

1. Develop and implement special initiatives of interest to the Board, as related to the University’s commitments to advance Indigenization and Reconciliation.
2. On behalf of the Board, advance and oversee the Reconciliation Framework and related Action Plan(s) and reports on indigenous initiatives to ensure that YukonU is meeting its commitments within the Framework



Figure 1: IAC Areas of Focus

3. Provide insight and perspective on current and emerging local and global indigenous issues, particularly those emerging across universities.
4. In a manner consistent with the Board's jurisdiction, promote and support indigenous programs, projects, and research at YukonU.

### **3. PRINCIPLES FOR ETHICAL SPACE**

As IAC members:

- We are here to prioritize Indigenous Peoples' voices, values and interests to achieve reconciliation through re-education.
- We are here to listen and learn and provide our perspectives while sharing our knowledge and experiences to advance the cultural awareness and appreciation of Indigenous Peoples values and contributions within the walls of the University.
- We are here to respect and uphold the cultural diversity within the University while preserving Yukon First Nation cultural relations and practices.

### **4. AUTHORITY**

The IAC is a dreaming, visioning, and advisory body of the Board. It shall provide input, ideas, and recommendations to the Board within its mandate and as delegated by the Board.

### **5. MEMBERSHIP**

The voting members of the IAC shall consist of all Indigenous Board members. The Board Chair, Chancellor and President & Vice Chancellor, if non-Indigenous, are *ex officio* members of the IAC and may participate in meetings but shall be non-voting.

#### IAC Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the IAC are selected from amongst its voting members, who are the First Nation members of the Board, and appointed by the Chair of the Board of Governors.

An IAC Chair is responsible for the conduct of committee meetings, including developing agendas, reviewing minutes, providing regular report to the Board and oversight of action items.

An IAC Vice-Chair assumes the responsibilities of the IAC Chair when needed and may also be assigned additional tasks at the discretion of the IAC Chair.

There is no limit to the number of terms the Chairs and Vice-Chairs can serve as long as they are members of the IAC.

## **6. RESOURCES**

The Associate Vice-President Reconciliation and the University Secretary and General Counsel shall be the primary resources to the IAC and are permitted to attend any IAC proceeding unless in they are in conflict or excluded through an *in-camera* motion. The Chair of the IAC may, at their discretion, invite guests to attend as resources on specific matters before the IAC. The President or Associate Vice-President Reconciliation may identify other University employees to serve as resources on specific matters, with the consent of the Chair of the IAC.