



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROGRAMMING

Between:

Colville Confederated Tribes Business Council

And

Selkirk College

Selkirk College understands the importance of building a long term relationship with the indigenous people of the southern interior of British Columbia, and Selkirk College and the Colville Confederated Tribes Business Council (CBC) have the following understanding:

1. That the Education and Employment Committee or its designate (Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Society Facilitator) is the appropriate channel for communications with Selkirk College on any of Selkirk College's proposals, programs and curricula designed specifically to teach history, culture, language, philosophy and knowledge of the Colville Confederated Tribes.
2. That such programs and curricula be developed in the spirit of collaboration and through consultation, with CBC approval between Selkirk College and CBC representatives, and followed by normal Selkirk College approval process. Consultation will be undertaken through and guided by the attached statement of commitments.
3. That Selkirk College will develop and deliver programming based on principles described in Appendix 1.
4. That any changes to this MOU must first be discussed and agreed to by both parties and that this agreement will be reviewed at least every five years to ensure it continues to meet the needs of both parties.

Dated this: 17th day of MARCH, 2015


Colville Business Council
Chair

Colville Business Council
Executive Director


Selkirk College
Board of Governors


Selkirk College
President/CEO

Appendix 1: Selkirk College commitments to working with Indigenous learners and communities through the following principals:

Selkirk College respectfully acknowledges:

- Our gratitude to the indigenous peoples within whose traditional territory the college operates;
- The importance of post secondary education and training for indigenous peoples, their families, and communities and the need for improved levels of participation and success for indigenous learners in post-secondary education and training in British Columbia and beyond;
- Our wish to foster a long term, respectful relationship which recognizes the history, culture, values, traditions, education and learning needs of all indigenous peoples;
- The unique history and cultures of the indigenous peoples of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions must be respected, honoured, and celebrated;
- The autonomy of indigenous peoples to exercise their respective title, rights, and jurisdictions, and to independently represent their interests and aspirations;
- That indigenous peoples have a history of respecting and recognizing each others' interests, as well as working in partnership and cooperation, as neighbours and relations, in support of each others' interests and aspirations;
- The independence of the respective post secondary educational institutions, traditional knowledge, programs and curricula of Indigenous; and
- That improved, formal dialogue and partnerships are fundamental to:
 - Defining the needs of indigenous learners;
 - Improving access to and coordination of learning opportunities and services to indigenous learners;
 - Improving quality of learning experiences and services; and
 - Addressing the gaps in capacity to deliver those learning experiences and services.

Selkirk College thus commits to working collectively, and in the spirit of respect, trust, and mutual benefit, to increase engagement with, access to, and participation of indigenous learners of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions in post –secondary education through:

- Meaningful consultation and collaboration with indigenous learners and communities in developing programs and services with a view to improving access and success,
- Improved response to and inclusion of indigenous ways of knowing, and the interests and needs of indigenous learners and their communities in the development and delivery of programs and services,
- Commitment to develop a process for defining the parameters for use of traditional and cultural knowledge when same is included in Selkirk College activities,

- Collaboration on joint funding and project proposals that may enhance program and service delivery and the,
- Commitment to develop a process to evaluate the effectiveness of this document and to act upon recommendations put forward by that evaluation.