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For more information please contact:
Your representative and/or Elizabeth Gouthro
1-587-226-8256
elizabeth.gouthro@cass.ab.ca

The mandate of the CASS First Nations Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee is to collaboratively identify effective education practices for school authorities through engaging with representatives of First Nations, Métis, Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter authorities or associations.

Thank you to members of this committee for agreeing to represent their CASS zone, First Nations Treaty Area, Métis community Organization, Francophone Boards and Alberta Education to collaboratively identify effective educational practices.

CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee
Meeting Highlights
October 24, 2019

Committee Membership for 2019-2020
Chair – Elizabeth Gouthro, CASS Director of Leadership Learning

CASS Representatives:
Barry Litun – CASS Executive Director
Charlene Bearhead – Consultant
Claudine Cortes-CASS Executive Assistant

Treaty Representatives:
Jerry Saddleback – Education Policy Analyst, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations (Treaty 6)
Valerie McDougall – Director, Tsuut’ina Nation Department of Education (Treaty 7)
Genevieve Fox – Director of Education, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council (Treaty 7)
Chester Auger – Director, Bigstone Cree Nation Education (Treaty 8)

Métis Representatives:
Dianne Desjarlais – Director, Alberta Métis Settlements General Council
Lisa Cruickshank – Assistant Director, Rupertsland Institute, Métis Education Council

Zone Representatives:
Laura Poloz – Superintendent, High Prairie School Division (Zone 1)
George McGuigan – Superintendent, Fort McMuray Catholic School System, (Zone 2/3)
Selena Frizzley – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Support Team Coordinator, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, (Zone 4)
Andrea Holowka – Superintendent, Calgary Catholic School District (Zone 5)
Joann Bartley – Director – Holy Spirit Catholic Schools (Zone 6)

Francophone:
Brigette Kropinicki – Directrice Générale/Superintendent of Schools, Conseil scolaire du Nord-ouest

Alberta Education Representatives:
Nicole Callihoo – Assistant Deputy Minister
Ronald Taylor – Acting Director First Nation, Métis and Inuit Services Branch

New Committee Members
The committee was pleased to welcome new members, Selena Frizzley (Zone 4), Jerry Saddleback (Treaty 6) and Laura Poloz (Zone 1).

2019 First Nations Métis and Inuit Education Gathering Highlights

The fifth Gathering is scheduled for April 20-22, 2020 at Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton prior to the start of the CASS Annual Conference April 22-24. Scheduling of the two conferences to occur one after the other allows for the potential for more CASS members to attend with the reduced travel costs. An overview of the planning progress was shared with the committee. Registration will begin late November.

Guide to Relationships and Learning with the Indigenous Peoples of Alberta

The committee reviewed and offered valuable feedback on the draft of the online Guide. Based on the committee’s feedback, additional revisions will be undertaken this month, followed by further consultation and collaboration with the committee.

The Provincial Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Gathering

This inaugural provincial Gathering is a two-day opportunity, November 12-13, 2019, for invited guests from each partner ATA, CASS, AADE, AISCA, ASCA, ARPDC, ASBA, AIDE, Alberta Education, Rupertsland Institution, Treaty organizations), etc. from across the province to action: Education for Reconciliation through learning alongside each other, sharing promising practices in Indigenous education, renewing and affirming partnerships, learning about upcoming Indigenous education initiatives from national partners, and networking to create further opportunities to collaborate and move reconciliation forward. Several members of the committee will be representing CASS. An overview of the conference will be shared in an upcoming weekly update.

Save the date! The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Gathering in 2020 is scheduled on April 20 (evening) - 22, 2020

In closing, thank you to the committee for their ongoing support and guidance in furthering our mandate.

If you have any questions about this document, please contact Elizabeth.gouthro@cass.ab.ca