



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROGRAMMING

Between:

Ktunaxa Nation Council

And

Selkirk College

Selkirk College recognizes and affirms its responsibility and obligation to support indigenous education. The college respects and recognizes that First Nations have their own cultures, languages, histories, and contemporary perspectives. Selkirk College identifies indigenous education as a priority and understands that indigenous education strengthens the college's contribution to improving the lives of learners, families and communities.

The Ktunaxa Nation, comprised of Akisqnuq First Nation, Aqam, Lower Kootenay and Tobacco Plains Bands believe in the value of partnerships and collaboration in achieving our vision.

The Ktunaxa Nation Vision is *"Strong, healthy citizens and communities, speaking our languages and celebrating who we are and our history in our ancestral homelands, working together, managing our lands and resources, within a self-sufficient, self-governing Nation."*

The Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) is accountable to the Chiefs and Council of the Ktunaxa Nation.

Whereas Selkirk College understands the importance of building a long term relationship with the First Nations people of the southern interior, and West Kootenay Region of British Columbia;


Therefore, Selkirk College and the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) have the following understanding:

1. That the Education and Employment Sector is the appropriate channel for communications with Selkirk College on any of Selkirk College's proposals, programs and curricula designed specifically to teach Ktunaxa Nation history, culture, language, philosophy and knowledge.
2. That such programs and curricula be developed through consultation and KNC approval between Selkirk College and KNC representatives, 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 and consistent with the aspirations of the Colleges and Institutes Canada Indigenous Education Protocol (2015).
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.

Dates this 27th day of JUNE, 2016.


Ktunaxa Nation Sector Council Chair
Marty Williams


Selkirk College Board of Governors Chair
Sharel Wallace


Nation Chair, Ktunaxa Nation
Kathryn Teneese


Selkirk College President/CEO
Angus Graeme

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

Selkirk College respectfully and solemnly acknowledges:

- Our gratitude to the Ktunaxa Nation within whose traditional territory the college operates;
- The importance of post secondary education and training for the Ktunaxa Nation, families, and communities and the need for improved levels of participation and success for First Nations 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 First Nations learners;
- The unique history and cultures of the First Nations peoples of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions must be respected, honoured, and celebrated;
- The autonomy of the Ktunaxa Nation to exercise their respective title, rights, and jurisdictions, and to independently represent their interests and aspirations;
- That First Nations 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 the Ktunaxa Nation; and
- That improved, formal dialogue and partnerships are fundamental to:
 - ❖ Defining the needs of Ktunaxa Nation learners;
 - ❖ Improving access to and coordination of learning opportunities and services for Ktunaxa 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 Ktunaxa Nation learners of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions in post –secondary education through:

- ❖ Meaningful consultation and collaboration with First Nations 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 First Nations 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 that knowledge 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.