



St. Lawrence
College

**ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)
TERMS OF REFERENCE**
[Revised February 2022.v2]

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Lawrence College is situated on the traditional lands of the **Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples**. May we always be grateful to live and learn on these lands.

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES:

- **Vision:** “Rooted in our communities, we will be a globally recognized college delivering innovative learning opportunities and preparing career-ready graduates to be leaders in their fields.”
- **Mission:** “We are dedicated to student success, academic excellence, and leadership in our communities.”
- **Values:**
 1. We put our **students first**. “Our staff is committed to providing our students with the programs, services, and personal support to ensure their success.”
 2. Through **teamwork** we work to “deliver excellence in all that we do – for our students, our colleagues, and our communities.”
 3. “We believe building upon our achievements and focusing on **innovation** will advance the College and allow us to meet the evolving needs of our students now and in the future.”
 4. “We exemplify **integrity**; it governs our actions and decision-making processes.
 5. “We believe honesty, inclusivity and accountability are the pathways to success. As our communities evolve, we look to create a sense of **Belonging** for our students, team, and partners. We celebrate diversity, respect our differences, value contributions, and foster an environment where everyone feels they can participate without discrimination in our College community.”

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Indigenous mandate with the Ministry, St. Lawrence College established an Indigenous Education Council in 1993. The IEC supports and enhances the implementation of the goals set out by the College in its Indigenous Student Success Fund for Colleges and Universities program and the meeting of the objectives of the Multi-Year Accountability Agreement. Members of the IEC have the responsibility of advocating for the needs and interests of Indigenous students.

INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING AND BEING

SLC commits to honouring the history and contributing to a positive future for Indigenous learners and communities. Indigenous learners and communities include First Nations (status and non-status), Metis, and Inuit.

To do so, we will:

1. Incorporate Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being throughout our college community.
2. Advance the process of reconciliation and support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
3. Respect the principles of the Indigenous Education Protocol.

MANDATE AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) is committed to increasing Indigenous peoples' access to and success in postsecondary education and training, and to closing the participation and achievement gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the area of postsecondary education and training.

The following seven operating principles of the IEC align with these commitments.

Reciprocity

Organize the IEC agenda, meetings and relationships in ways that build and grow reciprocity among the College, the IEC members and the Indigenous communities that the College serves.

Inclusivity

Ensure that the Council's focus and work considers the perspective and needs of all Indigenous peoples including members of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

Access

Ensure appropriate supports to maximize access for Indigenous students for in-person and virtual learning.

Participation

Increase the number of Indigenous learners accessing and participating in postsecondary education and training.

Land-based Learning

Maximize opportunities for land-based learning on our campuses and in other settings wherever feasible.

Completion

Increase Indigenous learners' completion of postsecondary education and training programs resulting in degrees, diplomas, and certificates, and/or apprenticeship registration and certification.

Transition

Support/enhance/improve Indigenous learners' transitions from secondary to postsecondary education, workforce to post-secondary education, undergraduate to graduate or professional studies, and postsecondary education and training to the workforce.

Spaces

Promote the development and use of spaces at the college that reflect its commitment to Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being and support the principles of reciprocity, inclusivity and access.

Partnerships

Strengthen partnerships and collaboration in promoting Indigenous learners' access to and success in postsecondary education and training.

IEC COMMITMENT

The St. Lawrence College Indigenous Education Council (IEC):

1. fully supports the vision, mission, and values of the College;
2. provides advice on how SLC can meet the unique needs of Indigenous students and their communities;
3. provides advice on how SLC can deepen its commitment to and practice of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being among its staff and in its institutional culture;
4. identifies opportunities for partnerships with relevant Indigenous communities and organizations.

SPECIFICALLY, THE IEC WILL

- constantly and consistently endeavour to facilitate success for our Indigenous learners in their post-secondary journey, knowing that the journey itself is as important as the end result;
- strive to increase the sensitivity and awareness of the College to Indigenous culture and issues;
- recommend strategies and approaches to create a welcoming, safe, and comfortable environment for Indigenous students where they can thrive and flourish as individuals and as members of our community;
- provide advice to the President and CEO and College Executive Team (CET) on strategies and actions to advance SLC's commitment to embedding Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being into all dimensions of its work and its culture.

MEMBERSHIP:

The IEC will be made up external Indigenous members from community organizations with whom the College partners in the area of education, as well as Indigenous students and/or graduate students. The membership of the IEC will reflect the diversity of the communities in which our campuses and partners are located. These members will constitute the majority of Council members. The Council will also include College staff members who have an interest in Indigenous education and who will provide support to the Council as required.

Chosen representatives, including the chairperson, will remain in their seats on the IEC for a two-year term which may be renewable. As seats become vacant, new members will be recruited based on interest. IEC membership will be confirmed on an annual basis by November 1 of each calendar year.

The IEC will elect two Co-Chairs from its membership: one from the community and one from the college team. They will share the leadership

role equally and will ensure that meetings are conducted in a manner consistent with these terms of reference. They will make a particular effort to ensure that the agenda for meetings and the discussions at meetings have a strong focus on the community perspective on the issues at hand.

IEC MEMBERS 2021-2022

Community Members

Amanda Tarbell	Iohahi:io Akwasasne Education & Training Institute
Elaine Jeffery	Metis Nation of Ontario
Heather Green	Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
Kayleigh Jordan-MacGregor	The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund
Kelly Maracle	Katarokwi Learning Centre
Shiela Lafrance	Iohahi:io Akwasasne Education & Training Institute

St. Lawrence College Support Team Members

Helena Neveu	Knowledge Keeper in Residence
Glenn Vollebregt	President and CEO
Holly Brant	Indigenous Counsellor
Jessie Pengelly	Indigenous Student Advisor
Katie Lamarche	Indigenous Student Recruiter
Laura Beaudry	Executive Assistant, Vice-President, Student Affairs
Michael Cooke	Vice-President, Student Affairs
Ross McMillan	Director, Student Services, Engagement and Libraries
Shirley Chaisson	Indigenous Student Advisor
Shannon Hall	Indigenous Educational Developer and Curriculum Consultant

DECISION MAKING:

IEC will use consensus-building to make its decisions and recommendations. Consensus is a traditional Indigenous way of reaching a decision; consensus means that everyone present agrees with a decision or can accept the decision. The IEC will take the time to hear from all parties involved; everyone has a voice. If consensus cannot be achieved after a reasonable amount of time and discussion, the issue will be resolved by a vote called at the discretion of the chairperson of the IEC. In the event of such a vote, quorum shall be 50% of the membership plus one.

MEETINGS:

Meetings of the IEC will be held a minimum of three times per year: once in the fall, the winter, and the spring. These meeting times will be planned in advance. Additional meetings may be called as necessary. Written notice of meetings and an agenda shall be sent out by the recording secretary on behalf of the Chair at least ten days prior to the meeting. In-person meetings will rotate across SLC's three campuses.

AGENDA AND MINUTES:

The College will provide a recording secretary who will send agendas and notices and record minutes, which will be distributed in a timely fashion to all other members. The IEC minutes will be posted on the St. Lawrence College website.