

Tłchq Community Services Agency Special Board Meeting Minutes January 6, 2022

In Attendance: Alex Nitsiza - Whatì Representative
Rosa Mantla - Behchokò Representative
Mary Adele - Wekweetì Representative
Irene Mantla - Gameti Representative

Executive and Staff: Kevin Armstrong- Chief Executive Officer
Linsey Hope - Director of Education
Sara Nash – Executive Director of Operations & Program Integration

Regrets: Ted Blondin – Chairperson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm. Chairperson Ted Blondin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Opening Prayer

Ted Blondin led the TCSA Board in an opening prayer.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

To perform good governance, TCSA Board meetings begin with a declaration of any real or perceived conflict of interest by board members. Conflict of interest declarations help ensure public confidence in the Board as they make decisions that affect strategic and financial actions of the TCSA. Conflict of interest declarations are recorded in the meeting's minutes.

The respective Northwest Territories Conflict of Interest Act states:

2. (1) *Where a member, either on his or her behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any direct pecuniary interest*
 - a. *in a contact or proposed contract with the municipality or board,*



in a contract or proposed contract that is reasonably likely to be affected by a decision of the council or board, or in a manner in which the council or board is concerned, and is present at a meeting of the council, board, or committee of the council or board at which the contract, proposed contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, the member shall, as soon as practicable after the commencement of the meeting, disclosed his or her interest and the extent and nature of the interest, and

d. *Shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of, or vote on any such question with respect to, the contract, proposed contract, or other matter, or attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question.*

2. (2) *Where the interest of a member has not been disclosed as required by subsection (1) by reason of his or her absence from the meeting referred to in subsection (1) or by reason of the interest having been acquired or having come to his or her knowledge after the meeting, the member shall disclosed his or her interest and otherwise comply with subsection (1) at the first meeting of the council, board or committee that he or she subsequently attends.*

No conflicts of interest were declared relevant to the agenda for this meeting of January 6, 2022.

Approval of Current Agenda

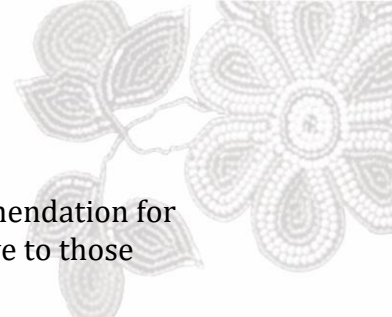
This is a special meeting to review the NWT COVID-19 situation, school closure recommendations for both January 4, 2022 and to move to distance learning till January 21, 2022.

Be it resolved that the Tlicho Community Services Agency Board approves the agenda for January 6, 2022. Moved by: Alex Nitisiza Seconded by: Rosa Mantla. Motion Carried Unanimously.

TCSA School Closure Recommendation

COVID update in Tlicho region provided by Kevin Armstrong. Currently, there are 51 cases in Behchoko, 20 cases in Whati. There is community spread in both communities. Omicron spreads very quickly and once we see a positive, we tend to see additional positives in the household. Recommendation is to not separate households. OCPHO is recommending that schools in communities with community spread move to online learning. Impacted schools are MCS, EMES, and CJBS. Omicron is increasing significantly in Yellowknife and throughout the territory. While there are no cases in Gameti and Wekweeti we are anticipating cases given the speed of transmission.

Sara Nash provided an update- Behchoko is offering offsite testing at Sportsplex. Critical staffing levels are of concern. Health centre receiving increase calls about general COVID information, including after hours on the emergency line. Reminder that unvaccinated residents must isolate outside small communities upon return from travel. Vaccinated residents are required to test on day 1 and 8 before travelling to small communities.



OCPHO has recommended that Whati and Behchoko should close, no recommendation for Gameti and Wekweeti. However, we can assume sooner than later it will move to those communities. Board will need to decide how to proceed.

Board members expressed concern that parents should make the decision for themselves, students are having a very hard time with online learning, they are missing their education. Ted identified it is very challenging to do at home learning, very hard on family relationships. Irene identified safety as highest priority, stating the community recommends that schools should be closed and move to online.

Alex request to discuss different options for learning, would like to see us trying other options to optimize learning for our students

Recommendation from Kevin - word the motion to allow the board to close/open based on recommendations from principal and Chief.

ACTION - BN to board members about what we have tried and what is working in other areas

Be it resolved that the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency Board approves closing Tlı̨chǫ schools under recommendation from OCPHO for January 4-7, 2022; and

Be it resolved that the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency Board approves a move to distance learning for all Tlı̨chǫ schools from January 10th to 21st, 2022 (inclusive) under recommendation from OCPHO. Gameti and Wekweeti schools may reopen to in person learning pending conversations with community leadership.

Moved by: Irene Mantla. Seconded by: Alex Nitisiza Motion Carried Unanimously.

Closing Prayer

Rosa Mantla led the TCSA Board in a closing prayer.

Board Meeting Schedule

Next in-person Board meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:55pm

Be it resolved that the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency Board closes the Special January 6, 2022, at 12:55pm.





Chairperson Signature

March 11, 2022

Date

Chief Executive Officer Signature

March 11, 2022

Date

