



Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency Special Board Meeting Minutes January 18, 2022

In Attendance: Ted Blondin - Chairperson
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

Regrets: Sara Nash – Executive Director of Operations & Program
Integration

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:10am. 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 18, 2022.

Approval of Current Agenda

This is a special meeting to review the NWT COVID-19 situation, and school reopening/continuation of remote learning.

Be it resolved that the Tlicho Community Services Agency Board approves the agenda for January 18, 2022. Moved by: Alex Nitsiza Seconded by: Marie Adele Football Motion Carried Unanimously.

TCSA School Closure Recommendation

COVID update in Tlicho region by Kevin Armstrong. Current cases: Confirmed cases in all Tlicho communities - 2 Wekweeti (related to travel – two households – team is onsite), 4 cases (related to travel – fully staff – confident that tracing and contact under control), 94 in Whati (community spread – worried about essential services like water and sewer but those staff are nearing the end of their isolation – hopefully starting to see numbers coming down), 125 active cases (staff situation is critical – community spread – isolation and documentation is getting tricky TG helping – don't know how many rapid testing kits were reported correctly – warming shelter in Sportsplex as of tomorrow with test kits – existing homeless shelter will be used for positive cases – school staff contracting COVID and we don't have operational ability to open), seeing improving vaccination rates in the younger groups in Whati/Wekweeti/Gameti and lower in Behchoko (58%) hoping to see this trend continue.

OCPHO – will likely not be recommending schools closures as much moving forward, now it is up to boards to close/continue with remote learning



Kevin – our recommendation is continue to remote learning for another two weeks, then meet again to decide if we can move back to in person, we may even want to revisit next week depending on community feeling by the end of the next week

Ted – our last motion closed to in person learning till Jan 21, 2022, and given the landscape likely we will need to take that recommendation.

Alex – Current situation the numbers are way up (especially Whati and Behchoko), want to take that into consideration, feels community would be concerned if we reopened, doing right thing to keep it remote for a bit longer.

Irene – 5 families with kids are isolating, wants to see continued closures

Rose – very frustrating to have schools closed but really no choice, need to continue our communication to share what is happening, especially radio and stress awareness and risk (especially little children), still seeing people drinking and visiting who are positive, need community to start thinking about the children – wants to see stronger messages on this front, people aren't following the rules, meaningful messages need to keep going out, people are sometimes stubborn and it is our children who are at risk because of it. This meeting was called yesterday, wanted to call around but did not have the chance, wants more notice for next meeting – this will give a chance to connect with community.

Ted – Richard Charlo spoke on radio this morning about how stressful online learning is, and taking a walk to calm down, 1800 number with ideas for how to deal with this stress, wants to see Norah on both CBC and CKLB in both English and Tlicho continuously with information. Need help to turn this around.

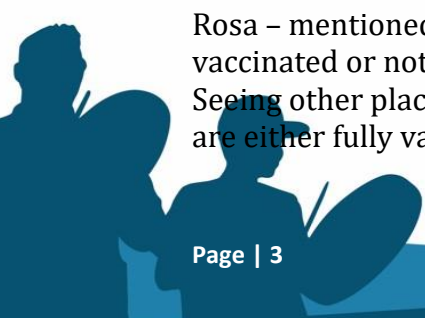
Action: TCSA will keep up the communications, specifically radio to supplement Facebook and other ads (in partnership with TG).

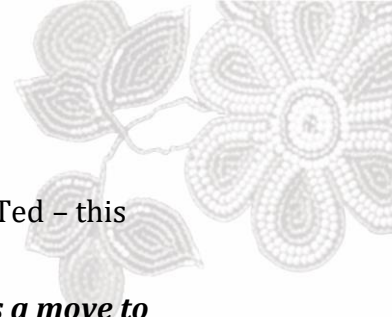
Irene: Questions about isolations – if a positive person wants to go on the land is that okay?
Response: Kevin yes but they should not go too far and keep communication in case they become sick.

Alex: is our community healthy – no, lots of unhappy people with more/continued restrictions, this affects the workers in every place of work, as a board how can we help not just COVID but also with mental health and wellness? Response Ted: many are following rules but some not and this is frustrating. Asking Kevin to speak to TG and CG about following up with people who are not following the rules.

Action: CEO to discuss concerns re: community members not following rules, and how to improve this. Certainly essentially services are disrupted by these rule breakers causing negative impact on the community. Wanting to see testing at the flights to small communities – OCPHO has implemented for some communities and has made a difference.

Rosa – mentioned % of vaccination rate, still it is lower and we are unsure if people are vaccinated or not. Are TCSA staff vaccinated – especially those in schools/health centers? Seeing other places firing staff who aren't vaccinated. Response Kevin: TCSA/GNWT staff are either fully vaccinated or required regular testing – we are at about 80% and the other





must submit to regular testing (rapid tests) and we track those results. Ted – this includes our contractors as well.

Be it resolved that the Tłı̨chǫ̀ Community Services Agency Board approves a move to distance learning for all Tłı̨chǫ̀ schools from January 21 to February 4, 2022 (inclusive) and will be revisited weekly to determine if earlier reopening or further closures are necessary.

Moved by: Rosa Mantla Seconded by: Marie Adele Football Motion Carried Unanimously.

Ted: request for Linsey to share what we are doing and what is working, remote online learning, by phone, hard copy packages, but not seeing high uptake in any method. Online Tłı̨chǫ̀ and physical education packages. Food packages to both TG hampers and individual families. Supports for SLP, students with complex needs, and counselling.

Rosa: Question about SLP – can they do it over the phone? Response: yes will follow up if you know of someone who is left out. Rosa been joining online for Indigenous language courses, very exciting to see this. When COVID came we didn't have all these technologies.

Closing Prayer

Rosa Mantla led the TCSA Board in a closing prayer.

Board Meeting Schedule

The next meetings will be on Tuesday Feb 1, 2022 at 11am. Special meeting on school closures.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:58am



