



Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency Board Meeting
SPECIAL MEETING
Teleconference 1-866-969-8429 | Conference ID# 9170065
March 25, 2020
MINUTES

In Attendance: Ted Blondin – Chairperson
Alex Nitsiza – Vice Chairperson and Whati Representative
Henry Gon – Gameti Representative
Noella Kodzin – Wekweeti Representative

Executive & Staff: Shannon Barnett-Aikman, Chief Executive Officer
Linsey Hope – Director of Education

Regrets: Janita Etsemba – Behchokò Representative

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 10:10am.

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.

No conflicts of interest were declared relevant to the agenda for this meeting of March 25, 2020.

Approval of Agenda

This is a special meeting specifically to discuss the potential closure of TCSA schools, per the recommendation made last night by the Minister of Education, R.J. Simpson, as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response and management.

Be it resolved that the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency Board approves the agenda for March 25, 2020 as presented. Moved by Alex Nitsiza, Seconded by Noella Kodzin. Motion Carried Unanimously.

School Closures Due to COVID-19

COVID-19 is a global pandemic that's affecting almost 200 countries. At this point in time the focus of the NWTSA (including the TCSA), ECE and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association is contingency planning, staff wellness and protecting families in our community. We will eventually pivot to lesson



Planning and what's expected of teachers while schools are closed but we're not there yet. We expect to learn more later this week and will share information with parents and stakeholders at that time.

TCSA will follow current and future recommendations of the NWT Chief Public Health Officer as they may be issued, and will work in coordination with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) to ensure essential services are provided and to provide whatever assistance may be necessary to support the broader effort to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specific areas of discussion included:

- Concern re: the spread in other countries who have not responded quickly and decisively vs the countries who have done so and how that has positively impacted the limitation of transmission.
- Concern around the level of fear and anxiety present in our communities. Making a motion to close schools takes the pressure off parents who want to keep their children home to keep them safe but were worried that schools were going to re-open and they would feel pressure to send them back.
- These are appropriate actions considering the limits of our acute care services in the territory....we need to keep our people safe and encourage patience in our community members.
- Teachers will work from wherever they are in the NWT, in accordance with the OCPHO's recent public health advisories and orders to self-isolate.
- Public messaging to include heavy focus on the rationale for health and safety of the entire public so people understand why we are closing schools.
- TCSA Board members thanks the entire staff of the TCSA for all of their hard work.

Closure of TCSA Schools – Remainder of 2019-2020

Whereas the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic is, and has been, an evolving concern for public health and safety and has directly impacted JK-12 education program delivery, I move that in light of the COVID-19 crisis, the Tlicheo Community Services Agency (TCSA) confirms the closure of schools for the remainder of the 19-20 school year.

Be it resolved that in light of the continuing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and the increased concern for public health and safety, the Tlicheo Community Services Agency Board approves the closure of all TCSA schools for the remainder of the current school year, as recommended by the Minister of Education. Moved by: Alex Nitsiza. Seconded by Henry Gon. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn

This special meeting of the TCSA Board was adjourned March 25, 2020 at 10:50am.

Be it resolved that the TCSA Board adjourns the meeting on March 25, 2020 at 10:45am. Moved by Alex Nitsiza. Seconded by Noella Kodzin. Motion Carried Unanimously.





Chairperson Signature

June 24, 2020

Date



Chief Executive Officer Signature

June 24, 2020

Date