**AFN Yukon Region Indigenous Post-Secondary Graduation**

**Advisory Working Group**

**Terms of Reference**

**Purpose:** The working group will collaborate to share expertise and dialogue in developing options to ensure that all Indigenous Post-Secondary students in Yukon and outside Yukon have equitable access to an Indigenous Post-Secondary Graduation ceremony, fostering cultural identity, values, and ceremony, while also contributing to better self-esteem, health, academic performance, and overall well-being.

**Mandate:** The working group’s mandate is to advise the coordinator and AFN in their planning and preparation for an Indigenous Post-secondary graduation ceremony in May 22, 25 in Whitehorse, YT. This group will identify the needs of the post-secondary students, and outline what it will take to achieve their vision for an Indigenous Post-Secondary Graduation in the Yukon.

**Student Advisory Working Group Overview**

* The Working group will consist of 6 Post Secondary Students who live in the Yukon and identify as Indigenous or who are YFNs outside the territory.
* The Working group will have two YFN Elders on the committee to help, guide the committee in a culturally competent way.
* The Working group will host 4-5 meetings from Sept 2024 – May 2025
* Each Working groupmember will receive an honorarium of $250 per meeting. Food will be provided at all in person meetings.
* Committee members outside the territory may participate via zoom.

**Date Summary of Meetings and Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sept 2024 | *In-person meeting* |
| Nov 2024 | In- person  Introduction to the plan at the AFN Yukon Summit |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | *In-person meeting* |
| March/April 2025 | *In-person* |
| May 2025 | *In-person*  Participate in ceremony |
| June 2025 | Wrap-up |

**Membership**

* Membership will be by invitation or appointment by working group Chair(s)
* In the event a working group member wishes to step down the Chair(s) will strive to fill the vacant membership

**Working group members will consist of but are not limited to representatives from:**

* Yukon First Nations Post-Secondary Students from various nations
* Yukon First Nations Elders
* Indigenous students who are in post-secondary residing in the Yukon and other regions
* Yukon First Nations Education Directorate-Youth Advocate? Yukon U?

**Roles and Responsibilities**

This working group will be co-chaired by the **coordinator**. The coordinator will provide coordination of meetings and communications on working group matters

* Guide discussion
* Schedule meetings, create and distribute meeting agendas and distribute meeting minutes.

The **secretary** will:

* Take meeting minutes and distribute them to the group

**Committee members** will:

* Attend meetings
* Participate in discussions
* Analyze and offer feedback on issues for consideration

**Decision-Making Authority**

* This working group is advisory and will not be responsible for making any final decisions that directly affect individuals, nor will it exercise any governing powers.
* The advice and recommendations provided by working group members will inform AFN Yukon on event delivery.

**Jurisdiction**

* Nothing in these Terms of Reference or the work of the working group will be construed to limit or otherwise affect any authority or jurisdiction of the Minister of Education under the *Education Act* or other laws.
* The working group will try to find common ground on the issues identified. In the event of a disagreement, working group members will identify together the precise points of disagreement and will propose ways to resolve the issue.

**Confidentiality and External Communication**

* All discussions of the working group are confidential. Confidential information includes proprietary, technical, business, financial, legal, personal or any other information that the Chair(s) explicitly indicates is confidential.
* Any public communications or press releases related to the progress and actions of the working group will be jointly developed with AFN Yukon.
* All communication with the public regarding the event will be managed through AFN Yukon.

**End of term**

* The working group will be dissolved when the expected results have been delivered by May 2025.