

Rationale for Indigenous Representation on the TBDSSAB Board

The enhancement of Indigenous awareness and relations is a strategic directive in The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) 2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan. TBDSSAB has requested a meeting with Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in January of 2022 during the ROMA conference to provide a presentation on Indigenous representation on the TBDSSAB Board. MCCSS is the lead Ministry for DSSABs and is responsible for the *DSSAB Act*. The purpose of this presentation from the TBDSSAB Board would be to recommend Indigenous representation on the TBDSSAB Board. The Regulation to the *DSSAB Act* does not currently permit flexibility for this recommendation. The Blue Sky Community Healing Centre was contracted by TBDSSAB to research and develop a rationale to have Indigenous representation on their Board to present initially to the Board of Directors and then to the MCCSS. The following is a summary of that rationale:

1. The District Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board of Directors has adopted an objective in its 2023 Strategic Plan that there be Indigenous representation on their Board.
2. Having Indigenous representation on regional district boards has been adopted by the province of British Columbia since 2007.
3. Population demographics within the Thunder Bay District illustrates a high representation of Indigenous people.
4. Recommendations from the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.
5. Letters of Support from Indigenous community organizations requesting Indigenous representation on the Board.
6. Culturally appropriate strategies and policies.

More Details

1	Recommendation from current TBDSSAB Board of Directors	TBDSSAB 2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan Under the 2023 Objectives of the document: Indigenous representation on the Board to enhance Indigenous awareness and relations (on page 11).
2	Adopted by the province of British Columbia since 2007	BC Regional Districts (RDs): Regional Districts are federations with boards consisting of elected representatives from electoral (unincorporated) areas, municipalities, and Treaty First Nations. The regional district system was created in 1965, in response to increased rural demand for services such as water, sewage and zoning in rapidly urbanizing rural areas. They have three main purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide local government for their (unincorporated) electoral areas; • provide legal structures for members to collaborate on sub-regional services; and

Rationale for Indigenous Representation on the TBDSSAB Board

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable the provision of services across an entire region. <p>Regional districts can exercise a range of corporate and regulatory powers provided through provincial legislation. Regional districts also provide a broad range of services.</p> <p>Based on provisions in the Local Government Act, regional district elected officials exercise powers and perform the obligations of the local government with input from staff and citizens. The <i>Local Government Act</i> sets out the roles of regional district directors, their voting strength and voting process at the board table, accountability of boards through meetings and procedures, and public engagement processes.</p> <p>Learn more about Regional Districts here: Regional Districts in B.C. - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</p> <p>Treaty First Nations and Regional Districts Since 2007 the Local Government Act (LGA) has enabled Treaty First Nations (TFNs) to sit as voting members of regional district boards, representing treaty lands that were also removed from any municipality or electoral area.</p> <p>The Final Agreement (or Treaty) lays out the specifics on which regional district and when the TFN will join. Then <i>Local Government Act</i> provides the “details” of participation – see Part 7</p> <p>Six First Nations (represented by 2 treaties) are represented at RD board tables, by their appointed elected official(s), based on the population of the treaty land jurisdiction they represent.</p> <p>As of July 2021, there are six TFN regional district members:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="641 1606 1412 1818"> <thead> <tr> <th>TFN</th> <th>Regional District Name</th> <th>Joined</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tsawwassen First Nation</td> <td>Metro Vancouver</td> <td>2009</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TFN	Regional District Name	Joined	Tsawwassen First Nation	Metro Vancouver	2009
TFN	Regional District Name	Joined						
Tsawwassen First Nation	Metro Vancouver	2009						

Rationale for Indigenous Representation on the TBDSSAB Board

		Huu-ay-aht First Nations	Alberni Clayoquot	2012
		Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ (Ucluelet) First Nation	Alberni Clayoquot	2012
		Uchucklesaht Tribe	Alberni Clayoquot	2014
		Toquaht Nation	Alberni Clayoquot	2016
		Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tl̓es7et'h' First Nations (KCFN)	Strathcona	2021
		<p>Beyond Treaty First Nations</p> <p>BC is committed to implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</p> <p>The Act requires government, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensure new and existing laws are consistent with the UN Declaration o Develop and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration o Monitor progress through public annual reporting. <p>There are a total of 79 specific actions, released in the DRAFT Action Plan for this Act, one of which is:</p> <p>1.13 Support inclusive regional governance by advancing Indigenous participation in regional district boards. (Ministry of Municipal Affairs)</p> <p>Learn more here: Declaration Act – Government of British Columbia</p> <p>This resource also gives you an idea of the different types of partnerships more generally the communities work together on.</p> <p>CivicInfo BC Joint Indigenous and Local Government Initiatives and Relations</p>		

Rationale for Indigenous Representation on the TBDSSAB Board

		<p>As well as one of the funding streams to help support this work:</p> <p>Community to Community Forum Program for Local Government & First Nations - Province of British Columbia</p>
3	<p>High representation of Indigenous people</p>	<p>This information was received from Dr. Lana Ray, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Learning, Lakehead University Indigenous Research Chair in Decolonial Futures</p> <p>Sourced from http://www.wellivinghouse.com/what-we-do/projects/our-health-counts-thunder-bay/</p> <p><u>only illustrating portions of project content developed in 2020:</u></p> <p>Our Health Counts Thunder Bay</p> <p>An inclusive community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in Thunder Bay</p> <p>Population-level Data Collection</p> <p>Only 15% of Indigenous adults in Thunder Bay completed the 2016 Census.</p> <p>OHC Thunder Bay study findings indicate that there are 23,080 – 42,641 Indigenous adults in Thunder Bay. This is 2 – 4 times more than estimated by Statistics Canada. The 2016 Census indicated 9,780 Indigenous adults (15 years+) live in Thunder Bay.</p>
4	<p>94 Calls to Action</p>	<p>Professional Development and Training for Public Servants</p> <p>57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.</p>

Rationale for Indigenous Representation on the TBDSSAB Board

		<p>National Council for Reconciliation</p> <p>55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems. <p>Health</p> <p>18. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.</p> <p>19. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess longterm trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality,</p>
--	--	---

Rationale for Indigenous Representation on the TBDSSAB Board

		<p>maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.</p> <p>Education 9. We call upon the federal government to prepare and publish annual reports comparing funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves, as well as educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.</p>
5	Letters of Support	<p>TBDSSAB has provided an updated list of partner Indigenous organizations to approach for a Letter of Support.</p> <p>A Letter of Authority to the communities introducing Blue Sky has been finalized.</p> <p>A Letter of Support template for the partner Indigenous organizations has been prepared and will be provided to the organizations for their review and input.</p> <p>There may be one or two letters received in time for the Board of Directors meeting on December 16, 2021. The goal is to have more letters in time for Minister’s meeting in the third week of January 2022.</p>
6	Culturally Appropriate Strategies and Policies	<p>This information will be gathered through the various activities conducted in collaboration with Blue Sky and TBDSSAB, such as, survey, focus groups, tours and job shadowing and other input as provided through the partner Indigenous organizations. Could include discussions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) recognize rights and sovereignty of Indigenous people, having them sitting at the table and being partners for decisions b) important to be included as true partners and not tokenism. This would indicate more than one person (both for Indigenous representation on the board as well as Indigenous employees) c) becoming reflective of community, i.e., the community being able to see themselves within TBDSSAB