



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE  
INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**2  
February 20, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44**

MEMBERS PRESENT Lorraine Rekmans  
Phillip Seymour

MEMBERS ABSENT Patti McDonald

STAFF PRESENT Hillary Geneau, Director of Corporate Services

OTHERS PRESENT Caroline Rigutto, Affordable Housing Coordinator, United  
Counties of Leeds and Grenville  
Tracy Birtch, Homelessness Team Leader, United Counties of  
Leeds and Grenville  
Sarah Tuck  
Finian Paibomesai  
Charles Gauthier

---

**A. Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by the consensus at 4:15 p.m.

**B. Opening Prayer**

An opening prayer was not provided.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**#IAC-2025-01**

The agenda was amended by consensus to move the closed session to  
Item L.

*Be it resolved that:*

*The agenda for February 20, 2025 be approved as amended.*

**D. Disclosure of Interest**

None.

**E. Closed Session**

**#IAC-2025-02**

*THAT the Indigenous Advisory Circle move into Closed Session at 6:07 p.m.*

1. Indigenous Advisory Circle - Member Applications

**F. Open Session**

**#IAC-2025-03**

*THAT the Indigenous Advisory Circle move back to Open Session at 6:20 p.m.*

*THAT the Indigenous Advisory Circle recommend Council approves the appointment of Sarah Tuck and Chris Wilson.*

**G. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**#IAC-2025-04**

*Be it resolved that:*

*The following meeting minutes be approved as circulated:*

1. Meeting Minutes - December 19, 2024

The minutes were approved by consensus.

**H. Delegations**

1. Counties of Leeds and Grenville Housing and Homelessness Plan

Affordable Housing Coordinator Caroline Rigutto and Homelessness Team Leader Tracy Birtch presented regarding the Counties of Leeds and Grenville Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Guest Finian Paibomesai asked about programs for private property owners. Caroline Rigutto advised there are some programs for property owners and information can be circulated.

Member Lorraine Rekmans asked why the percentage for affordable housing has gone from 25% of a person's income to 30% and suggested advocacy needs to be done in this regard. Caroline Rigutto advised this parameter is set by the province.

Member Phil Seymour advised of a successful program in BC called M'akola.

Member Lorraine Rekmans suggested adding a question to self-identify as Indigenous on the Counties' housing application.

Lorraine Rekmans suggested including a who and a why statement as part of the vision statement and suggested that a relationship-building approach be a value.

Guest Finian Paibomesai suggested adding community-building as a value.

Member Lorraine Rekmans asked how many people are aging out of their homes in the area and whether this is considered in the plan.

Member Lorraine Rekmans suggested focusing on ending homelessness may not be a good tactic but instead to support those who are homeless.

Member Phil Seymour asked what the root cause of homelessness is, and Tracy Birtch noted there are a variety of issues including mental health, addiction, and that homelessness can often occur after someone has been institutionalized such as in a prison or hospital.

## **I. Decision Items**

### **1. Events Calendar**

The members reviewed the upcoming significant dates and suggested an event on Saturday, March 22 at 1:30 p.m. to mark the Spring Equinox. The event can include a fire and tea. Director Hillary Geneau will have paths plowed if needed.

### **2. 2025 Meeting Dates**

The members agreed to meet on March 20, but will then explore meeting on Wednesdays after March.

### **3. Planning and Value Mapping/Archeological Exercise Follow-up**

This item was not discussed.

### **4. Crystal Clear Policy Follow-up**

The members reviewed briefly. Member Lorraine Rekmans had already provided comments to Kemptville District Hospital staff and Member Phil Seymour will be part of a further discussion at the next Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

### **5. Draft Reconciliation Framework**

This item was not discussed.

## **J. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports**

## **K. Other Business**

### **1. Items for Next Meeting - March 20, 2025**

The members and guests agreed the March 20 meeting will focus on planning for Mino-jichaag-mtigwaaki.

**L. Public Questions**

None.

**M. Adjournment**

**#IAC-2025-05**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

*Be it resolved that:*

*The meeting be adjourned at 6:20 p.m.*