

## **OFIFC – Indigenous Youth Council Annual Report**

### **Introduction**

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In the final year of the OFIFC Indigenous Youth Restructuring Committee, their primary focus has been to update youth council related documents as well as finalizing the roles and responsibilities. Unfortunately, COVID-19 had caused some barriers related to youth outreach, the IYRC has completed their goals, and will transition into the OFIFC – Indigenous Youth Council. The IYRC has had a successful year and is excited to announce and move forward with the OFIFC – IYC.

### **Face to Face Meeting - February 8 - 9 2020 - Toronto, Ont. OFIFC.**

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During the February face to face meeting the Restructuring Committee began the rebuilding of the OFIFC-IYC and identification of youth related barriers at a local level and a provincial level. By identifying those barriers, the IYRC was able to determine how they wished to rebuild the IYC and what types of supports they needed for the IYC. The IYRC took the time to review, edit and update elections procedures and the Terms of Reference, leading them to discussing new roles for the IYC. Major changes to the structure are that OFIFC Board of Director Youth Representatives now hold an official position on the IYC, renaming of the Executive Committee positions and a more equal spread of roles and responsibilities for the council. It was also determined that there should be a focus on local outreach but can be difficult to do for council members as they often have other commitments. It was stated that they need a dedicated staff person to assist in IYC planning, organization, and outreach, leading to the development of the Youth Engagement Facilitator. It was then decided that the IYRC would be dissolved in July, during the Youth Gathering, allowing the IYC to begin as a newly formed council.

### **Youth Elections Assembly Preparation**

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Due to the ongoing pandemic, the annual Youth Gathering had to be cancelled and was replaced with the Youth Elections Assembly, which is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> via Microsoft teams, ensuring that all safety measures are being properly adhered too. For the Youth Elections Assembly there has been outreach to former youth delegates, Friendship Centres Executive Director's, and staff for the hope to have a encourage and promote youths to be part of the elections and represent their community. During the Assembly youth will only be covering legality items that include the annual report, elections, and review of the OFIFC - IYC Terms of Reference.

For the Youth Gathering, there is not a set date on which this may happen, but it is estimated to be within the fall months. This is a rapidly changing situation that we will keep a close eye on and update our members as we go. The theme to this gathering is proposed to be skill development and building new ideas together that would help youth improve on bringing these skills to their workspace, and back to their communities.

### **OFIFC - Indigenous Youth Council - Structure**

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The OFIFC IYC will consist of eight members with two representatives from each of the OFIFC regions. During the OFIFC-IYC Elections Assembly one representative from each region will be elected in by youth delegates from the Friendship Centres. The remaining four delegates will be voted in during OFIFC regional meetings and will serve as the youth director on the OFIFC Board of Directors. As the Youth Engagement Facilitator position has now been filled the role of scrutineer will now fall onto the Youth Engagement Facilitator. In addition to fulfilling the role of scrutineer the Youth Engagement Facilitator will also work with OFIFC IYC in the communication and outreach with Friendship Centres and local youth councils. The Executive Committee will be selected at a special meeting, within 30 days of the Youth Assembly amongst the eight newly elected members. In which of the eight elected members, four will be Executive members. The Co- Chairs and the Communication Liaison, while the Youth Executive is voted in during the election period at the OFIFC AGM.

### **OFIFC – Youth Elections Assembly – July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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On Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Youth Elections Assembly took place via Microsoft Teams. In total there were six youth in attendance for the Assembly. As stated in previous sections the topics that were covered within the meeting were only legality items. A review of the updated OFIFC - IYC Terms of Reference was provided for the youth to approve. The Indigenous Youth Restructuring Committee (IYRC) gave their final annual report, providing the youth membership with what business had been addressed and completed during the year. It should also be stated that as on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the IYRC will now be dissolved and the newly elected and developed OFIFC Indigenous Youth Council would take its place as a functioning council.

Prior to going into elections, the youth were explained the roles and responsibilities of the OFIFC – IYC to ensure they understood commitment levels before agreeing to be nominated. They were also given an overview of the election process and clearly outlined when certain elections were to take place. Upon elections two youth had put their names forward to be elected into Regional Representatives. The two youth were both voted in by acclamation, filling six out of the eight positions on the IYC. There will be a call out to Friendship Centres to fill the vacant positions. The selection process and how to move forward with call outs will be later determined by the OFIFC – IYC. The newly elected OFIFC – IYC members will be participating in an orientation meeting within 30 days of the Assembly, to provide them with a clear understanding of their roles, responsibilities, expectations and identify any training the youth need to be successful on the council.

### **Conclusion**

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During this time, a huge thank you and appreciation goes out to the Indigenous Youth Restructuring Committee and other youth who were actively involved during the restructuring process. Your time, dedication and effort do not go unrecognized. Your input and work are valued, the OFIFC IYC looks forward to continuing to advocate and provide opportunities for the Urban Indigenous Youth in the Friendship Centre movement.

### **OFIFC – Indigenous Youth Council**

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It is with pleasure to announce 2020-2021 OFIFC Indigenous Youth Council;

**Southwest Regional Representative:**

Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

James Schlonies - M'wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre

**Southwest Regional Representative** (OFIFC Youth Board Member)

Nolan Heion - Barrie Native Friendship Centre

**Southeast Regional Representative**

Thalia Kechego – Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre

**Southeast Regional Representative** (OFIFC Youth Board Member)

Claudia Meness – Odawa Native Friendship Centre

**Northeast Regional Representative**

Vacant

**Northeast Regional Representative** (OFIFC Youth Board Member)

Miisheen Shawana – Sault Ste. Marie Indian Friendship Centre

**Northwest Regional Representative**

Vacant

**Northwest Regional Representative** (OFIFC Youth Board Member)

Martin Cheechoo – Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre

Sincerely,

The OFIFC – Indigenous Youth Council