



vpacad@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic
TEL: 778.782.3925
FAX: 778.782.5876

8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** May 8, 2024
FROM Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/6
RE: Name Change for the First Nations Language Centre (SCUP 24-24)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dilson Rassier", is written over the "RE:" line of the memorandum.

At its meeting on May 8, 2024, SCUP reviewed and approved the name change from the First Nations Language Centre to the Indigenous Languages Centre. The document is attached for the information of Senate.

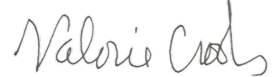
C: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Memorandum

From: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research pro tem

Date: May 1, 2024

Re: Renaming of the First Nations Language Centre



To: Dilson Rassier, Chair, *Ex-officio*, Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)

Attached is the memo from the Office of the Dean at Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in support of the name change of the First Nations Language Centre (FNLC) to the Indigenous Languages Centre. The name change was proposed back in 2021 as a new steering committee was formed and a constitution was written. The rationale for the change aligns with the current usage in the university. I recommend approval for the change of name of the First Nations Language Centre to the Indigenous Languages Centre.

Motion: That SCUP approve the renaming of the *First Nations Language Centre* to the *Indigenous Languages Centre*.

Attachments:

1. FNLC Constitution
2. Memo of support from the Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Constitution of the Indigenous Languages Centre (June 21, 2021)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Indigenous Languages Centre at Simon Fraser University was founded in 2011 with the purpose of developing ongoing partnerships with Indigenous communities engaged in language revitalization efforts, providing academic support for community-based efforts to revitalize seriously endangered languages in Indigenous communities throughout British Columbia and neighbouring areas, offering research expertise with a focus on Indigenous language revitalization theory and practice in communities, supporting language curriculum development, facilitating research in the applied and descriptive linguistics of critically endangered languages, and facilitating communication between Indigenous communities and the university.
- 1.2 The Indigenous Languages Centre is affiliated with Simon Fraser University and conducts its activities in such a way as to serve SFU's mission of engaging Indigenous language communities at local, national and global levels and to enhance the reputation of the research and academic programs of the University.
- 1.3 The Indigenous Languages Centre will achieve its purpose by supporting local Indigenous language learning in a safe environment while maintaining high academic standards, in collaboration with Indigenous community organizations; working in concert with academic programming in Indigenous languages offered by SFU to improve effectiveness and impact of this programming; delivering support for local Indigenous language learners and instructors by facilitating language curriculum design, language course and lesson planning, student assessment, and evaluation formats as part of the centre's focus on research in language revitalization; conducting collaborative research on best practices and locally practicable solutions in Indigenous language revitalization and maintenance; enabling, attracting and conducting collaborative research with Indigenous communities in applied linguistics of Indigenous languages, including, e.g. pedagogical grammars of Indigenous language proficiency, and multimedia design and online delivery of Indigenous language learning; attracting graduate students doing research in various fields relevant to Indigenous languages and linguistics, community language revitalization, language planning and documentation; and facilitating networking and collaboration among Indigenous language learners of diverse languages to share successes, challenges, learning and teaching methodologies, research projects and results.

2. Governance

- 2.1 The Indigenous Languages Centre is constituted as a Research Centre at Simon Fraser University under the terms of SFU Policy R 40.01, comes under the direct authority of the

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and conducts its affairs in accordance with all other University policies.

2.2. An annual report on the Indigenous Languages Centre's activities and financial status from April 1 to March 31, including the current membership of the FNLC Steering Committee will be submitted to the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, by the Director before June 30th of each year and to the Vice-President Research by August 31st of each year.

2.3 The Indigenous Languages Centre is headed by a Director and governed by a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, including the director, is made up of eight faculty members, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, as set out in Policy 40.01. All members of the Steering Committee serve for a two-year term, renewable. In addition to its regular membership, the Indigenous Languages Centre may also appoint additional affiliate members belonging to Indigenous language community groups and organizations with whom the FNLC has active partnerships in research and collaboration.

2.4 The Director of the Indigenous Languages Centre shall be a tenured SFU faculty member appointed by the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences under advisement from the Indigenous Languages Centre Steering Committee upon nomination by the Steering Committee. The Director serves a renewable five-year term.

2.5 The Director's tasks include the following responsibilities, which may be delegated but not abrogated.

- Chairing the Steering Committee;
- Overseeing the Indigenous Languages Centre's finances;
- Developing the Indigenous Languages Centre's policies in consultation with the Steering Committee
- Recruiting members
- Promoting and publicizing the Indigenous Languages Centre's activities;
- Hiring Centre personnel, including any support staff and research assistants;
- Preparing the annual report to the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Vice-President, Research, and for review by the Steering Committee.

2.6. The task of the Steering Committee is to determine the overall direction of the Indigenous Languages Centre and to oversee the management of its operations. While it normally operates by consensus, when necessary it can make decisions by majority vote, including the appointment of new members of the Steering Committee. The Director has the right to vote.

2.6.1. The Steering Committee meets at least twice a year either in person or remotely.

2.7. Membership in and affiliation with the Indigenous Languages Centre is by application to the Director and the Steering Committee, who may also recruit members to apply.

3. Funding

3.1 The activities of the Indigenous Languages Centre are currently funded by various SSHRC research grants and awards, including a Partnership Grant and an Impact Award.

3.2 Additional and ongoing funding will be secured by the Director and members from sources external to the university.

4. Revision of this constitution may be made every three years, as appropriate.



MEMO

Faculty of Arts and
Social Sciences
+1 778 782 9982
fassadri@sfu.ca
sfu.ca/fass

Academic Quadrangle
6165
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

ATTENTION Dr. Marianne Ignace, Director, First Nations Language Centre

FROM Steeve Mongrain, Associate Dean, Research & International

RE Approval of the name change, First Nation Language Centre

DATE April 18, 2024

PAGES 1

Dear Dr. Ignace,

The Dean's office is pleased to support the proposal to change the name of the First Nations Language Centre to the Indigenous Languages Centre.

When the Centre was renewed in 2021, a new steering committee was formed, and a new Constitution was written. At that point, the steering committee was unanimously in favour of changing the name from First Nations Language Centre to Indigenous Languages Centre. The rationale was in good part to harmonize it with current usage in the university - e.g. change from First Nations Studies department to Indigenous Studies, First Nations Languages Program to Indigenous Languages Program, name change in course designations and credentials. Because of various administrative issues in implementing the name change, the support is still there, and it is now the right time to proceed with the name change.

Steeve Mongrain
Associate Dean, Research & International
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences