

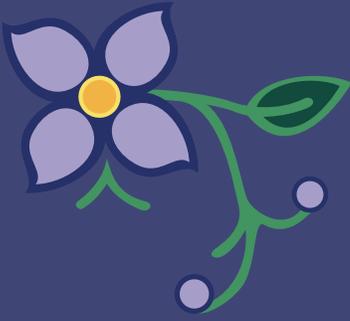
2018

Event Report:

Regional General Assembly Cree School Board



The 2018 Cree School Board General Assembly took place on June 5-6, 2018, in the Cree Nation of Eastmain. The theme of this event was “Continuing our Journey for Cree Education.” This report includes an overview of the event, including goals, organizational considerations, schedule, and feedback.



Regional General Assembly 2018

EVENT REPORT

Dates: June 5-6, 2018

Theme: Continuing our Journey for Cree Education

Location: Cree Nation of Eastmain

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Regional General Assembly takes place every two years. Staff from across the Cree School Board, primarily Coordinators, Managers, and Directors, come together at the Regional General Assembly to share information about progress and strategic direction.

Three specific objectives were identified for the 2018 RGA:

1. Share the responses to the Regional General Assembly Calls to Action (2016)
2. Share the progress being made in each sector and at the governance level, in relation to the four strategic themes of the Strategic Action Plan 2016-2021
3. Celebrate the 40th Anniversary with a tree-planting Ceremony, unveiling of the new CSB logo, and a celebration feast

ORGANIZATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Regional General Assembly 2018 was organized by way of a planning committee. The committee worked organized the following in advance of the event:

- Invitation and registration of delegates (using online form)
- Lodging for delegates
- Coordinating catering for breakfast, lunch, and gala
- Speakers and entertainment for gala
- Set-up of booths and communication with schools/departments about booths
- Ordering of gifts for delegates, speakers, and special guests
- Organizing tree planting ceremony with local school
- Coordinating branding/design look and feel for event (commemorative artwork/graphic design by Krystyna MacLeod)
- Coordinating the development of event collateral, including: event programme, gala programme, and PowerPoint template (Krystyna MacLeod); 40th Anniversary Video (Mushkeg Media Inc/Bideshi Films); 40th Anniversary Brochure (Shauna Vert/Design is Yummy)
- Event video and photography (Bideshi Films/Harry Bosum)



Schedule



High-level notes:

- Both days started and ended with a prayer from a local Elder
- School Commissioners rotated as Masters of Ceremony (four total)
- Daily activities were mainly presentations about strategic direction/progress and Q&A panels from CSB leadership; students and school staff presented at lunch

Note: the schedule listed below is based on the planned agenda, not the actual event times. Delayed start times, meal-times, and shortened Q&A sessions impacted the below schedule– see event feedback for details.

DAY ONE:

7:30 – 8:15 (0:45)		REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST	Day 1 Morning:
8:30 – 8:45 (0:15)	Call to Order - Nian Moses, School Commissioner + MC	Opening Prayer/Welcoming Song - Elder Daniel Moses	Welcome
8:45 – 9:30 (0:45)	Welcoming Remarks - Chief Kenneth Cheezo, CSB Chairperson Kathleen J. Wootton, Grand Chief Abel Bosum	Cree School Board Logo Launch	Response to RGA Calls to Action 2016
9:30 – 10:15 (0:45)	Response to the CSB Regional General Assembly Calls to Action 2016 - CSB Chairperson		
10:15 – 10:30 (0:15)		HEALTH BREAK	
10:30 – 11:15 (0:45)	Response to the CSB Regional General Assembly Calls to Action 2016 - CSB Director General		
11:15 – 12:00 (0:45)	Roundtable Discussion/Q&A on the CSB Regional General Assembly Calls to Action 2016		
12:00 – 13:25 (1:25)		LUNCH BREAK (+ presentation from Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary, and School staff)	Day 1 Afternoon:
13:30 – 13:45 (0:15)	Call to Order + Wrap-Up of Call to Action Roundtable		Ownership Linkage
13:45 – 14:45 (1:00)	Ownership Linkage – CSB Chairperson		Tree planting ceremony
14:45 – 15:00 (0:15)	Wrap-Up; Tree Planting Ceremony; Closing Prayer - Elder Daniel Moses		
16:00 – 19:00 (3:00)	40th Anniversary Banquet + Celebration		



DAY TWO:

7:30 – 8:15 (0:45)		BREAKFAST	Day 2 Morning:
8:30 – 8:40 (0:10)	Call to Order – Rachel Kawapit, School Commissioner + MC Opening Prayer – Elder Florrie Mark-Stewart		Video presentation
8:40 – 9:10 (0:30)	Video Presentation – Listen to our Past, Speak to our Future		Progress 2016-18 from all three sectors
9:10 – 10:15 (0:55)	Youth Sector Progress 2016-18 – Director of School Operations + Director of Education Services		Visitation of booths
10:15 – 10:30 (0:15)		HEALTH BREAK	
10:30 – 11:00 (0:30)	Adult Sector Progress 2016-18 – Director of Sabtuan Adult Education Service		
11:00 – 11:30 (0:30)	Post-Secondary Sector Progress 2016-18 – Director of Post-Secondary Student Services		
11:30 – 12:00 (0:30)	Visitation of Booths		
12:00 – 13:25 (1:25)		LUNCH BREAK	Day 2 Afternoon:
13:30 – 14:15 (0:45)	Call to Order – Clarence Tomatuk, School Commissioner + MC 2018-2019 Organizational Priorities – Panel/Q & A - Student and Community Engagement		Panels/Q&As - 2018-19 Organizational Priorities
14:15 – 14:45 (0:30)	2018-2019 Organizational Priorities – Panel/Q & A – Organizational Review and Staffing		Short DG + DDG presentations on key projects
14:45 – 15:15 (0:30)	2018-2019 Organizational Priorities – Panel/Q & A – Data Management and Integrity		
14:15-15:30 (0:15)		HEALTH BREAK	
15:30 – 16:00 (0:30)	Cree Education System – Speaking to our Future – CSB Director General		
16:00 – 16:15 (0:15)	Capital Projects & Wrap-up – CSB Deputy Director General (Operations)		
16:15 – 16:30	Closing Remarks – CSB Chairperson Closing Prayers – Elder Florrie Mark-Stewart		

40th Anniversary Gala



Theme: Listen to the Past, Speak to the Future: Celebrating the Cree School Board's 40th Anniversary

Meal: Three course dinner featuring Traditional Foods (sigabon, bannock, and donuts), assorted salads, turkey, ham, and dessert

Speakers: Youth Grand Chief Kaitlyn Hester-Moses and Cree Nation of Eastmain Youth Chief Denis Moses acted as MCs. Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum was the special guest speaker for the night. Welcome messages were also given by Chief Kenneth Cheezo.

Entertainment: Following the meal, guests were treated to traditional fiddle and square dancing and a school dance troupe demonstration. Entertainment was provided by students from the communities of Chisasibi, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Nemaska, Mistissini and Waswanipi

Décor: Cultural motifs and natural elements were used in the décor. Virginia D. Blacksmith led the décor team. Centrepieces were provided by Sabtuan Adult Education Services Northern Building Maintenance instructor Darren Phillips and students. Logo Woodburning was provided by Robie Nicholls and Rene Shecapio. Redfern Shecapio, a Welding Program student at Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Program, also created commemorative artwork for the event.

Panel/Q&A Topics and Presenters

Panels and Q&A periods were a highlight for attendees, many of whom noted they would have appreciated more time to ask questions. Below is a list of panel topics & presenters

- Roundtable Discussion on CSB Regional General Assembly Calls to Action 2016
- Panel on Student and Community Engagement - Jane L. Blacksmith, Director of Post-Secondary Student Services; Theresa Mark, Coordinator of Administrative Services – Adult Education; Shawn Iserhoff, Coordinator of Strategic Planning & Projects
- Panel on Organizational Review and Staffing - Elma Moses, Director of Education Services; Natalie Petawabano, Director of Human Resources; Shawn Iserhoff, Coordinator of Strategic Planning & Projects
- Panel on Data Management and Integrity - Matthew Rabbitskin, Director of Finance; Kimberly Quinn, Director of School Operations; Jane L. Blacksmith, Director of Post-Secondary Student Services; Theresa Mark, Coordinator of Administrative Services – Adult Education; Shawn Iserhoff, Coordinator of Strategic Planning & Projects





Response

A survey of 50 delegates was taken following the Regional General Assembly. Overall, the respondents ranked the event a 3.57 out of 5.00. Respondents were most satisfied with the registration process, the venue, and the information provided. They were least satisfied with the time of the year the event was held.

MAIN CONSIDERATIONS (RAISED MULTIPLE TIMES IN FEEDBACK)

- **Advance notification of housing, schedule, and other requirements** – Generally, people felt the RGA was well organized. It was noted that more advance preparation on housing, scheduling, and expected items to bring would be helpful next time. Attendees would also appreciate having a copy of the programme and a map of the venue prior to the event starting.
- **Start on time and maintain schedule** – The program was late at several points. Respondents suggested this may be due to several factors, including delayed starts in the morning, ambitious scheduling, and catering issues. Multiple people noted that being on time was important to them and that this should be prioritized at the next RGA. They also communicated that the Q&As were rushed due to time constraints, which threw off the balance and interactivity of the proposed schedule.
- **Involvement of teachers, youth, community members, and other entities** – Several people noted that involving youth and teachers would make this a more well-rounded event for the school board. Suggestions included: inviting youth and PSSS students to speak/ask panel questions, scheduling the event at a more convenient time for teachers/students to attend, using the RGA to present awards/recognition to graduates, and allowing other entities to host a panel about their education needs.
- **Consider a third day to fit in more interactive activities** – Respondents were impressed that so much fit into two days. Some suggested that a third day could be valuable to provide more time for question periods, visiting booths, and hands-on activities. Others (though not as many) felt 2 days was enough. In addition, some were not able to make it to both days due to their own schedules.
- **An interest in more collaborative, interactive activities** – Most people appreciated the information passed on and understood that time constraints limited Q&A periods and interactive activities. However, there was an appetite among many respondents for more collaborative activities and feedback gathering. Some suggested that interactive questions and activities be integrated into presentations for a more engaging experience.
- **Reconsider date** - holding event during exam week makes it difficult for schools to participate. In order to include more teachers and students, respondents suggested avoiding exam week for future RGAs. Some suggested holding the event before Goose Break, if weather can be managed, while others thought the summer would be an optimal time.
- **Booth visitation, student dancers a highlight** – Attendees were impressed with the quality of students' work and enjoyed visiting the booths. Many also cited the dancers who performed as a highlight. In general, entertainment and presentations that included youth were appreciated by attendees.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (ITEMS RAISED ONLY ONCE IN FEEDBACK):

- Easy access to copies of the presentations, possibly on a USB distributed at the end or paper copies distributed at the beginning
- More hands-on activities and collaborative exercises
- Bring booths into the main area, so staff at booths can watch the presentations
- Appreciated inclusion of Cree language in presentations
- Would like to see more Cree language used during events
- The technical crew was placed in front of the bathrooms, making toilet access a bit challenging
- More vegetables at meals and better coordination with catering would be appreciated
- Consider highlighting booths from schools (for example, by having only school booths on day one) to showcase their importance
- This could be an opportunity to invite parents and take hard questions from community members
- Is it appropriate to celebrate the 40th Anniversary during the RGA?
- A “Where are they now?” presentation showing former students in the workplace/community would be a great way to showcase success stories
- Livestream the event

Summary

The Regional General Assembly is a valuable opportunity for Cree School Board staff and communities to come together, share information, celebrate success and define steps for the future. The 2018 Regional General Assembly also had the added significance of celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Cree School Board.

At the Regional General Assembly 2018, attendees enjoyed the booths, question and answer periods, and informative presentations. Some recommended that more interactive activities, involvement of teachers/students, and additional measures to maintain the schedule would be helpful in future events. As this event takes place every two years, this feedback could be helpful to future Regional General Assembly planning committees.

We appreciate all the individuals who planned, attended, and provided feedback on the Regional General Assembly 2018. Overall, it was a successful and memorable event.