



**CCDI PROVINCIAL MEETING**

**March 1, 2018**

**Minutes**

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**1. Approval of Agenda**

- Approved by: Kim Morin; Seconded by: Carol Ferguson

**2. Approval of Minutes dated March 2, 2017**

- Approved by: Tara Connolly; Seconded by: Jennifer Babin

**3. Updates/Reports**

**a) Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) Update Report - Wilfrid Chan, Research Policy Analyst, and Nelsa Roberto, Senior Policy Advisor, MAESD (See Attached)**

- The announcement for SAWD funding should go out next week and Wilfred will forward you the allocation if needed. CCDI expressed a concern that by the time we receive the funding, our current fiscal year will be completed. Any purchases would have to be completed prior to mid-March. Wilfrid will try to make a commitment to have funding available earlier next year. **(Ministry to follow-up)**
- Mental Health Funding has integrating disability and wellness into one unit. Some colleges used the funding for restructuring services; supports for aboriginal community; establishing a center; some were developing APPS connecting with organizations for cognitive behavior on line and some are providing counselors. Mental Health Services Grant can be used for employees to develop materials for residence advisors ie coordinator; some focused on addictions – ie addiction support counsellor.
- Transitions and resilience and connectivity with students on the spectrum – mental health support initiatives; do you have to do the same thing every year. If there is a switch from year one to year two it would be helpful to indicate why you switched. Funds are ongoing for three years.
- Good to Talk - Nelsa will inquire if there is a way to communicate terms of information specific to individual institutions. **(Ministry to follow-up)**

**b) BSWD (2017-2018) – Emily Kelsey, Jeff Wang, Policy Advisors, and Jessica Kelly, Manager, Student Financial Assistance Branch, MAESD (see attached)**

- Emily advised there were two disability offices that would not disclose information to the Ministry. That led to the changes for 2018-19 OSAP Disability Verification Form. There has been a collaborative working group consisting of CCDI, IDIA, and the Ministry. It was noted there are no students on the working group.

**Q & A**

- It was noted a psychoeducation assessment within four years will still be required. Even deaf and hard of hearing students must have documentation within the four years as this is a federal requirement and will not change. The federal government had acquired research by NOARC/ROC who recommended documentation should not be older than three years, but the federal government made a decision to use four years.
- There was concern that the financial offices will be able to assess the documentation. The Ministry are trying to review options at this time.
- It was noted the disability verification form was developed with members of CCDI, IDIA, and financial aid. The Ministry advised that when the form is submitted the financial aid office will not be required to interpret the disability but that a regulated health

professional will check the box. The form needs to be *submitted* by the student along with a regulated health professional documentation.

- The Ministry reiterated that only a student with a *permanent* disability will have access to the BSWD. ie MID students are currently deemed temporary; MID students would not have a regulated health professional.
- It was noted that if a student did not qualify for funding, the student will receive an email. There was concern expressed that students do not always look at their emails. We hope that in the student communication there is information regarding why they do not qualify as having a *permanent disability* but still may qualify for services in the DSO's office.
- The ministry will review how students are communicated to for eligibility of services.  
**(Ministry to follow-up)**
- There are situations where students do not self-identify with OSAP, then come to the office with documentation. If this is the case they still complete the form and would have to make that change at the financial aid office and provide documentation by the regulated health professional. The Ministry is trying to ensure where the permanent disability is flagged and we have the right documentation provided in the right way. That student will then qualify year after year.
- There are instances where a student's funding is on hold because of documentation. They are penalized for fees and they should not be. **(Ministry to follow-up on line to come to a solution).**
- Concern was expressed with the flow of information between the recommendations for BSWD applications and what information is housed at the financial aid office. We do not know what the documentation says and therefore may create a gap in services as they are focused on the permanent disability itself.
- The cost for documentation has increased and when asked if they could access the BSWD to cover costs of documentation, the Ministry advised that students may be able to use their TSA funds, or parent's medical plan. The Ministry advised they are increasing the BSWD to 1700.00 in keeping with raised psychologist's charges.
- It was suggested perhaps using community services as some students face barriers obtaining documentation.
- There was a discussion around removing lap tops and computers from eligible expenses as now most colleges require all students obtain a laptop not just students with disabilities. The Ministry has meets with the Federal government monthly and this has been discussed but it is mixed across the country in terms that some provinces agree that every single student needs a laptop but other provinces still want it funded under the federal government. The Ministry advised they would welcome our comments on this issue.
- The Ministry advised they have engaged OHRC and are OHRC compliant.
- It was suggested that asking the *type of disability* should not be added.
- Any student's complaints can be forwarded to the Director of the Student Financial Assistant Branch at the Ministry.
- Please provide any feedback/comments on the new 2018-19 Disability Verification Form to Carla/Kelley.

#### **OSAP and ODSP**

- Would the Ministry consider the definition according to ODSP be the definition/documentation and will revisit.

- The Ministry has worked to ensure child care is applied to OSAP non education costs. Any auxiliary fees are included that the student is eligible to receive.
- c) Heads of Student Services (HOSA) Report –Neil Buddel, HOSA Representative, Dean of Students, Centennial College**
- No report at this time as there is a HOSA meeting today, March 1, 2018.
- d) PD Feedback/Update/Future PD– Kirston Arbour, PD Coordinator**
- There was good feedback from the PD yesterday. It was suggested we need to have a further discussion around placements/field work and how we are collectively tackling that issue. We are recruiting for a new PD coordinator and would encourage everyone to consider joining the executive.
- e) Guidelines on Production of Memory Aids - Learning Strategists Report –Sherri Parkins (See Attached)**
- f) Adaptive Technology (AT) Abandonment in Post-secondary Contexts- Implementing Strategies to Minimize Loss of Resources - Janice Fennell, Manager, Accessible Learning Services and AODA and Andrea Zians, Adaptive Technologist/Learning Skills Advisor, Mohawk College (See Attached)**
- g) CCDI Executive Positions – Carla Grey**
- We would like to welcome our two new members: Janice Fennell, Western Regional Representative and Stephanie Ziolkowski, Central Regional Representative. There are a number of new positions coming up for 2018-19 to join the executive; Chair, Vice Chair, PD Coordinator, Northern Regional Representative and Adaptive Technologist. We would like to encourage members to consider joining this dynamic group. Should you require any further information, please contact CCDI our chair, Carla Grey.
  - **Terms of Reference – Kelley forwarded via email and there were no changes.**
  - **AGM - [CCVPS](#)** has scheduled their conference on May 14-15, 2018, hosted by Canadore College scheduled for May 14-15, 2018. The agenda has now been posted. Our members expressed their concern of not having another CCDI conference and expressed to the Chair we need to move forward to have our own networking group.
- h) Adaptive Technology (AT) Abandonment in Post-secondary Contexts- Implementing Strategies to Minimize Loss of Resources - Janice Fennell, Manager, Accessible Learning Services and AODA and Andrea Zians, Adaptive Technologist/Learning Skills Advisor, Mohawk College (See Attached)**
- i) Best Practice and Universal Design in Student Services Provision for College and University Students with Disabilities - Mahadeo A. Sukhai, Ph.D., Head of Research and Chief Accessibility Officer Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) (See Attached)**