



SUBJECT	Letter to Senates regarding Board endorsement of Indigenous Strategic Plan 2.0
SUBMITTED TO	Board of Governors
MEETING DATE	September 22, 2020
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	For information only - No action requested
LEAD	Nancy McKenzie, Chair of the Board of Governors
SUPPORTED BY	N/A

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has been considered previously by the Board of Governors and the Indigenous Engagement Committee on many occasions most recently by the Board of Governors on July 27, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 27, 2020, the Board of Governors received the Indigenous Strategic Plan 2.0 for its consideration. At that time, the UBC Senates had not completed their review of the Plan, nor had critical community consultation, notably with the Okanagan Nation Alliance, been concluded due to the current pandemic conditions.

Despite these outstanding and necessary processes, the Board recognized the importance of the Plan to the University as well as the importance of moving forward with its administrative governance work. The Board of Governors passed a motion endorsing Indigenous Strategic Plan 2.0 and committed to providing a letter to the Senates outlining its reasons for endorsing the Plan before the Senates had an opportunity to complete their academic governance work. A copy of the letter to the Senates is provided for information as appendix 1.

APPENDICES

1. Letter from the Board Chair to the Senates regarding the Indigenous Strategic Plan



Board of Governors
6328 Memorial Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

www.bog.ubc.ca

August 31, 2020

Dear President Ono,

On July 27, 2020, the UBC Board of Governors (BoG) voted to unanimously endorse the *UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan 2020*. The purpose of this letter is to provide some context to the UBC Senates on why the Board of Governors chose to move forward with endorsement at this time.

As you know the Indigenous Strategic Plan is an important high level plan for UBC and critical to UBC's aspirations to align with the TRC's Calls to Action and the BC government's *Declaration Act*. Valuing and prioritizing the quality of relationships is an integral value for both UBC and the Indigenous Strategic Plan. To that end, the Board of Governors recognizes that respectful community consultation and meaningful involvement in decision-making by both Senates on the Indigenous Strategic Plan is an important part of building quality relationships.

Ideally, the BoG and Senates would have considered the endorsement in the same governance cycle to avoid any perception that endorsement by one body was intended to compel or constrain action by one of the others. However, the current pandemic delayed consultation on the Plan with key constituencies – notably the Okanagan Nation Alliance which was scheduled to review the plan on March 13, the day stay home orders were initiated in BC- and a subsequent opportunity for full consideration by the Senates.

The BoG was in an awkward position as the plan has come to the board table 10 times as of the July meeting and the key constituencies who had been able to be consulted prior to the pandemic had reasonable concerns at what they perceived as prolonged delay.

On balance the Board felt that the risk to the relationships with those who had engaged in consultation in good faith was greater by further delaying the plan than the risk that someone may perceive this action as potentially intended to compel an outcome at the Senates which seems a small risk but one that we wanted to completely mitigate through providing our own account directly to you of the thinking that informed our decision.

We want to reiterate that the BoG fully respects the right of the Senates to arrive at an independent conclusion on matters of academic governance within the ISP. The endorsement step is intended to be interim and allow for matters within the administrative governance jurisdiction to move forward while also committing to bring back for ratification subsequent revisions to the Plan that may be an outcome of final community consultations and consideration of the Senates on the Plan.

Thank you for your time to read through this letter and your patience with this extraordinary process, another unusual moment for UBC as a result of pandemic impacts.



Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy L. McKenzie".

Nancy L. McKenzie, FCPA, FCA
Chair, Board of Governors
University of British Columbia