

**Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 22, 2023**

**The Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission acknowledges this meeting was held on the Traditional Territory of the Syilx/Okanagan Peoples.**

✓ = attended    X= Absent    \* Not required    A= Alternate Attended

**Advisory Council Executive:**

✓	Calissi, James, Chair
✓	Larson, Janice, Vice-Chair
✓	Checkley, Mike, Past Chair

✓	Hughes-Geekie, Sharon
✓	Nagy, Angela
X	Quinn, Paula

**Advisory Council:**

X	Alexander, Andrea
X	Barker, Phil
✓	Benson, Gavin
X	Blitz, Maurice
X	Bruns, Myles
✓	Buchanan, Brad
X	Carroll, Mandi
✓	Cannan, Ron
✓	Collins, Dave
✓	Csek, Nikki
✓	Dawn, Jeremy
✓	Douglas, Laurel
X	Evans, Bob

✓	Friesen, Jason
X	Gipps, Paul
X	Harper, Shauna
X	Ireland, Blair
X	Labrecque, Cory
✓	Lake, Brea
X	Lewis, Chris
✓	Malcolm, Ryan
✓	Mitchell, Kray
✓	North, Steve
✓	Preston, Adriana
X	Price, Dan
A	Pringle, Julie

X	Quinn, Paula
X	Ritchie, Geoff
X	Rogers, Dan
X	Stack, Luke
X	Stewart, Tony
X	Sulentich, Ruth
X	Threlfall, Rich
✓	Thurnheer, Laura
X	Udzenija, Nicole
X	Wentworth, Noel
X	White, Jill
X	Widmer, Larry

**Staff and Consultants:**

✓	Allin, Paige
X	Braun, Tory
✓	Lesack, Sascha

✓	Mallory, Krista
✓	Stark Leader, Myrna
✓	Trevino, Valentina

✓	Weston, Eva
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**Guests:**

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## **1. Call to Order**

Chair James Calissi called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 unanimously approved.

## **3. Item**

*Dr. Neil Fassina, President of Okanagan College, gave a presentation on the past, present, and future of the BC Labour Market and how the college is adapting to changes. One of the key points highlighted was the need to change the higher education system to meet the needs of society. This includes recognizing that students learn differently and at different paces. The presentation also highlighted the talent crunch, shift of power from capital to labor, and skills shortage in the labor market. The BC government predicts that there will be one million job openings in the next 10 years, with 80% of jobs requiring higher education.*

*The presentation also addressed the stigma around colleges versus universities and the need to move towards an educational system that is inclusive and accommodates everyone's learning abilities. The college needs to fit around people's lives and help students get to where they need to be.*

## **4. Discussion**

*In terms of accommodating First Nation's population, the college is taking steps to help ease the transition from grade school and make these students comfortable and feel welcomed. The college has a 10% First Nation's population and is working towards inclusivity for all.*

*The challenge in the labor market is not necessarily on the training side, but rather battling other sectors that offer more flexible working hours and better benefits. There is also a stigma around specific job industries, which can make it difficult for the college to attract students to certain programs.*

*For OC to create this inclusive and diversified plan, funding is also a challenge, and the way that the COEDC Advisory Council can support the college is by getting the word around about what OC's plan is and the council can be a voice to promote the value of the college.*

*Finally, there is a need to support workers who want to take a specific class without having to sign up for a whole program. This will require the college to offer more flexibility in its course offerings and provide options for workers to take classes on a part-time or as-needed basis.*

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## **5. New Business**

- No new business

### ***Adjournment:***

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

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