



**BOARD (PUBLIC)**  
**Report No. 24-022**

**30 January 2024**

**Appointment of an Indigenous Community Representative to the  
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

Key Contact: Michele Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services, (613)  
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**PURPOSE:**

1. To appoint a community representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for a term from 31 January 2024 to 14 November 2026.

**STRATEGIC LINKS:**

2. Appointing an Indigenous community representative to the SEAC aligns with the pillar of social responsibility, particularly the District's commitment to progress toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

**CONTEXT:**

3. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) undertook a lengthy consultation process regarding changes to Board Policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee to encourage and enable the representation of the Indigenous community during the winter and spring of 2023. On 25 April 2023, the Board approved the revisions to include up to two Indigenous community representatives in the voting membership complement.

Section 4.5 c of Policy P.019.GOV: Special Education Advisory Committee (Appendix A) states that "Up to two (2) members to represent the interests of Indigenous students with special education needs, as selected by the Indigenous Education Council."

With the change to the policy, and the unanimous support of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), the candidacy of Waneek Horn-Miller is presented here for Board approval. Her application and biography are provided under separate cover.

## **KEY CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **4. Indigenous Centered Membership Campaign**

In the fall of 2023, the IEC gathered input from members to ensure community engagement in planning an Indigenous centered SEAC membership campaign for an Indigenous representative on the SEAC. The IEC collaborated with an Indigenous graphic designer and aimed to access the Indigenous community by ensuring the translation of outreach material into Algonquin, Inuktitut, or Mohawk. The IEC launched the membership campaign in late November 2023 and the initial application deadline was mid December 2023.

The IEC convened a membership circle that recommended Waneek Horn-Miller as the Indigenous representative to the SEAC. At the IEC meeting on 18 January 2024, members unanimously supported the appointment of Ms. Horn-Miller. Subsequently, the campaign was extended to support other interested Indigenous community members interested in filling the second seat on the SEAC.

The candidate was contacted by staff to confirm the following:

- The candidate is aware that this is a community volunteer position with no remuneration;
- The candidate is aware of the time commitment and length of term associated with the position (two year appointment and minimum of ten meetings per year); and
- The candidate meets the criteria to hold the position of community representative, as noted in Section 4.6 of Policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

5. The costs associated with the appointment relate to the hiring of an Indigenous graphic designer and translation services.

## **COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:**

6. The campaign seeking Indigenous community representatives for the SEAC was well advertised in the District's weekly parent, staff and student outreach emails, on the District's social media sites and on the School Council News page. The campaign has recently been extended to 29 February 2024 in the hope that a second position could be filled.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Waneek Horn-Miller be appointed as an Indigenous community representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term ending 14 November 2026.

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Michele Giroux  
Executive Officer, Corporate Services  
(ext. 8607)

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Pino Buffone  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Policy P.019.GOV: Special Education Advisory Committee

Appendix B: Waneek Horn-Miller, Application and Biography (provided under separate cover)