

Mino Bimaadiziwin Partnership Meeting

2020 Jan 21

Meeting Note

Partners attending: Trea, Justin, Jide, Marleny, James, Jay, Tanzim, Keshab, Reanna, Shirley, and Lancelot with consultation and support for motions with the Island Lake Elders Ivan, Norman and Norah.

1. Introductions and Welcome

2. Research Update:

Jide and Cat had several research trips in Island Lake in summer and Jide again during freeze up (November/December). They combined their trips with teaching homebuilding students and participating in the builds for deeper learning and integration. A research visit will be made during reading week to possibly include Jide, Cat, Mandeep and Reanna.

3. Conferences update:

The partnership researchers (students and profs) are speaking at many conferences to share their learning. One of the events is the 7th Indigenous Health Symposium on Jan 23rd and 24th. There will be two one-hour panels, one on Homebuilding in Island Lake led by Justin with 5 people from the partnership presenting and the other about food and land led by Keshab with 6 people presenting. Jide is also presenting a paper with Shirley on his research on capacity-building.

Also, the partnership/Shirley have been invited to present at the UCN conference in Thompson (Feb 12th and 13th) which coincides with the National Aboriginal Housing Conference in Thunder Bay (11th to 13th), where we also are invited speakers. Participants, including people from Island Lake, will be attending both conferences. Jide, Justin, Rez, Marleny, Bryce, 2 Garden Hill trainees and Shirley at UCN, presenting on the 12th. Reanna, Larry, Daryl and Shirley at the National Aboriginal Housing Conference presenting on the 11th. Organizing the presentations for the conferences is underway.

4. Copyright claim by Indigenous Development Support Services (IDSS) regarding “Boreal Home Builder/Building name and Program:”

The Mino Bimaadiziwin partnership have been using the term “Boreal Homebuilder program/project (BH)” from the beginning of this partnership for the last two years, with the name originating with U of M not Indigenous Development Support Services (IDSS). Brian for IDSS recently wrote: “IDSS legally owns and copyright of the Boreal Home Builders/Building program including Standing Tree to Standing Home names and their curriculum. So, if anyone uses the name or curriculum they would have to basically ask permission to use them in any context... I do not have an issue with Shirley using the names, however IDSS only ask that they are acknowledge in the presentation...I will send you the documents.” And “to present the Boreal Home Builders/Building Program she will have to acknowledge IDSS as well.” This demand that IDSS must grant permission and receive credit/mention whenever anyone (partners,

students, communities) present using the name Boreal Home Builder (we spell it differently using two words only as Boreal Homebuilder) with [legal] paperwork, implies a threat of legal action. These demands are particularly problematic and uncertain for students doing their thesis work with this organization requiring permission. Although IDSS seems to have falsely represented the situation with no copyright to the name this name of Boreal Home Builder (as well as Homebuilder due to its similarities) seems to be spoiled due to any negative reputation that IDSS accrued. The fact that IDSS is copyrighting a non-existent Boreal Home Builder curriculum, when they have never shared or provided useable curriculum to the project/program is highly problematic ethically. See IDSS limited copyright at: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/app/opic-cipo/cpyrghts/dtls.do?fileNum=1161937&type=1&lang=eng>.

Jay from ATI, which is the organization delivering the Homebuilder curriculum, noted his concerns with IDSS' lack of transparency in not consulting them or the partners. Jay read a letter chastising IDSS during the meeting.

Even though IDSS has no rights or trademark over the name Boreal Homebuilder, their pretense of ownership and use of the name may spoil the name with their reputation and brand and make it problematic to use. As well, IDSS may pursue further predatory action to pursue a trade-mark or register this name as a business. It should be noted that Universities have a powerful way to trade mark, called The Official Mark, to keep the names they use in the public domain and protected. The partnership can engage the University legal team if necessary.

We acknowledge that the Mino Bimaadiziwin partnership needs to be guided by the seven Indigenous values of Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth, which are intrinsic to a full and healthy life. Claiming a name for proprietary interests by IDSS seems to go against these values. The Mino Bimaadiziwin partnership is committed to producing intellectual property with the university to provide public good not private profit that is open source. As a result, the partnership needs to consult the research office and copyright office/research services of the university regarding the copyright for the name of the program and regarding IDSS. We will investigate the powerful Official Mark trade mark which Universities applicability to retain the name as well as consider a new name. With these views the partnership endorsed the following motions:

Motion 1: Indigenous Development Support Services (IDSS) be removed from the Mino Bimaadiziwin partnership, based on the lack of consultation with partners in joint programming, not adhering to the Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) principles, non-compliance to the SSHRC policy “Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publication” that highlights knowledge generation should be accessible to public, with consultation of the office of the Vice President Research and International (VPRI).

Moved by Trea, Seconded by Justin [Vote: Unanimous-10, None against, no abstentions – one non-voting observer]

Motion 2: Mino Bimaadiziwin Partnership, after consultation with the Copyright office/Research Services, will remove the use of “Boreal Home Builder/Building Program” if the name is deemed spoiled even with fair use and rights. The meeting recommended

applying the partnership name of Mino Bimaadiziwin, which was accepted by all partners, to its Homebuilder programming and other programming for the present until a final decision on a name is made by the partners.

Moved by Marleny, Seconded by James [Vote: Unanimous -10, None against, No abstentions – one non-voting observer]

5. Other business

Reanna & Lancelot's update on Studios:

Two architecture studios are being planned to work with Wasagamack in the fall of 2020 and winter of 2021 for 7 to 10 days to design homes in line with culture and environment, considering climate change. Prof Shawn Bailey is an Indigenous scholar who is part of these studios with Prof Lancelot and Shauna Mallory-Hill. Starting to design the studio. Prof Lancelot will have a class of 10 to 15 students and Prof Shauna Malloy-Hill will have a class of 4 to 6 students and with Shawn's group it is expected to be about 25 students. Shirley will also run a NRI graduate course at the same time in the fall to further collaborate and assist the studios. We considered late September or early October 2020 for the weather and will look how that combines with harvesting/on-the-land week before we arrive at a date. Shirley has asked Norah Whiteway, an elder at Wasagamack, how we can book Old Post and hire a cook/fisher to camp and use the cabins for a week this fall. We are looking at how to work with the school in Wasagamack to have a class or two camp out with us to share knowledge and programming.

Justin: Justin shared his sketches/designs of a log cabin for Garden Hill and received feedback to make it a square with an enclosed veranda. Also, Justin was instructed to look at some aspects of the stick-build community design to see how the wood stove was near the bedrooms with vents to allow the wood stove to heat the rooms.

Jay: Will finalize project name with the partners to work outside the copyright as the curriculum being used was not developed from IDSS. The project was noted to have two streams:

- 1) curriculum design and training, and 2) research and knowledge synthesis. The curriculum committee and curriculum development for the Mino Bimaadiziwin partnership and Homebuilder program will consider how to proceed using OCAP to ensure that this curriculum is Mino Bimaadiziwin partnership and public.

Motion to adjourn

1. Lancelot
2. Jide

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.