



June 1, 2023

Re: Endorsement of the Indigenous Evaluators Network

United for Literacy (formerly Frontier College) is the national registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and adults across Canada through literacy. Since 1899, our “All Welcome” approach and innovative services have been transforming every place into a learning place. We co-design and deliver programs where we are invited, and we aim to support local capacity-building that enables simple, low-cost literacy supports to be integrated into other community-based programs and services over time.

For over a decade, United for Literacy has been building and refining our organizational program evaluation practice to ensure program quality and efficiency, and to be accountable to the 100+ communities we serve and partner with, as well as our funders and supporters across the country. Our management team works with frontline staff and external evaluators to collect data, measure our impact and identify areas for improvement each year.

Last year, our programming included 137 partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations. As a non-Indigenous organization that evaluates its programs with Indigenous communities, organizations, and staff members each year, United for Literacy:

- endorses the creation of an Indigenous Evaluators Network as part of the Canadian Evaluation Society
- seeks to engage with the Network for exchange of information and organizational learning
- would use the Network as a resource for our organization
- wishes to be considered as a member of the Network, as a mutually beneficial relationship that aims to promote culturally informed evaluation practices by non-Indigenous evaluators and organizations
- wants to explore opportunities to integrate the Awakening the Journey Vision Model, an Indigenous evaluation resource and tool
- wants to explore professional development opportunities for our staff who are involved in evaluation activities in Indigenous communities, including First Nation, Inuit, and Metis employees





EST. 1899

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United for Literacy programs in partnership with Indigenous communities include the following models: summer literacy camps for children and youth, reading tents, donating books and supplies, individualized support for adult learners, and year-round tutoring and education programs for all ages.

In the summer months, more than 80% of our seasonal staff are First Nation, Inuit and Metis university students and/or experienced educators hired from the community, normally selected with input from the hosting community. In 2022, 84% of summer staff were hired from Indigenous communities. In BC and Ontario, the summer and year-round work is led by Community Literacy Catalysts, who are hired in the local community to develop partnerships and programming that strengthen access to one to one, small group, and family learning supports all year-round. All programming is informed by community aspirations, priorities, and assets identified through ongoing, jointly-led needs assessment.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to and support the critical work of the Indigenous Evaluation Network, to continue listening to the leading voices of evaluators in the network to inform our activities at United for Literacy, and to be front-runners in implementing Indigenous approaches to program evaluation in non-Indigenous delivery organizations.

Congratulations to all the Indigenous Evaluators involved in the Planning Committee for bringing this important group to fruition. We hope to be a valued ally in the work ahead, and we welcome the chance to integrate greater Indigenous cultural understandings into our evaluation practice.

Richard Harvey
VP, Programs & Impact

Angela Briscoe
Director, Government Relations

