

Report of the Senate Membership Committee

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by: Lorne Vanin, Chair, Membership Committee

Date of Meeting: October 17, 2026

Subject: **Membership Committee – Report on Activities**

Summary of Activities:

The members of the Membership Committee are Lorne Vanin (chair), Chancellor Scott Banda, Eryn Siba, Karen Mitzel and Scott Burant. Since the date of the last Senate meeting, the committee met on September 11, 2026. The following is an update on the work of this committee.

Summary

The committee reviewed proposed amendments to the Senate bylaws that would recognize Indigenous governments as a distinct category of Senate membership. The committee supported a framework that would allow additional Indigenous governments to participate at their discretion and would exempt representatives in this category from the automatic loss of membership following two consecutive absences. The committee recommended that the Senate Executive Committee and Senate approve the amendments set out in the attached draft.

The committee also discussed whether expectations for appointed members to communicate Senate information to their organizations, and bring their organizations' interests and concerns to Senate, should be formalized. Members supported stronger communication but raised concerns about administrative burden and differing organizational structures. No decision was made.

The committee was advised that a member association is expected to dissolve and may recommend another association for Senate membership. Further information will be provided when available.

Next Steps and Timeline:

The proposed bylaw amendments will proceed to Senate for consideration. The committee will gather further information from the Senate Engagement Committee and Senate members about reporting to member organizations and will return to the matter at its Spring 2027

meeting. The committee will consider the association membership matter when further information is available.