



ACAD 33:

Program Advisory Committee (PAC) -

Terms of Reference

Effective Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

1.0 Our Commitment

Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG) is grounded in the vision of Chief Shingwaukonse'ibun, who called for the creation of a Teaching Wigwam where Anishinaabe people could gain the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a changing world while maintaining Anishinaabe aadziwin — our language, culture, and ways of knowing.

As an Indigenous institute recognized under the Indigenous Institutes Act (2017), SKG is committed to delivering programs that are community-driven, culturally grounded, and academically rigorous.

Program Advisory Committees (PACs) are an important part of SKG's governance and quality assurance framework. PACs bring together community members, practitioners, knowledge holders, graduates, and sector leaders to provide guidance that ensures programs remain relevant to the needs of communities and responsive to emerging social and economic realities.

Through this collaborative approach, SKG ensures that graduates are prepared with the knowledge, skills, cultural grounding, and ethical responsibilities needed to contribute to the wellbeing of their families, communities, and Nations.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) is to provide community-informed advice and guidance that supports the development, quality, and continuous improvement of SKG programs.

PACs serve as a circle of knowledge and guidance, connecting the institute with the communities and sectors our graduates will serve. The committee ensures that programs remain:

- Rooted in Anishinaabe knowledge and values
- Responsive to community priorities
- Aligned with labour market and workforce needs
- Supportive of student success and lifelong learning

PACs also support SKG in meeting quality assurance expectations of the Indigenous Advanced Education Skills Council (IAESC) and other regulatory frameworks.

3.0 Alignment with SKG's Seven Strategic Pathways

The work of the Program Advisory Committee supports SKG's Seven Strategic Pathways, which guide institutional planning, governance, and program development.

3.1 Identity

PAC members help ensure that programs reflect Anishinaabe identity, knowledge systems, and cultural values, supporting the development of graduates who are grounded in their culture and responsibilities to community.

3.2 Governance

PACs contribute to SKG's community-informed governance model, ensuring programs are shaped through shared leadership and accountability to communities.

3.3 Land

PAC guidance supports the integration of land-based learning, cultural practices, and place-based knowledge within program design where appropriate.

3.4 Community

PAC members bring forward the voices, priorities, and experiences of communities, helping ensure programs respond to real community needs and contribute to community wellbeing.

3.5 Partnerships

PACs strengthen relationships between SKG and community organizations, employers, service providers, and professional sectors, creating pathways for student placements, employment, and collaboration.

3.6 Language

PACs support the recognition and integration of Anishinaabemowin and Indigenous language revitalization within program design where appropriate.

3.7 Communications

PAC members contribute to the sharing of knowledge between SKG and communities, helping ensure programs remain transparent, responsive, and connected to the people they serve.

4.0 Role Within SKG Governance

Program Advisory Committees are part of SKG's community-guided academic governance and quality assurance framework.

PACs operate in an advisory capacity, providing guidance that informs academic leadership and program development.

Recommendations and advice from PACs are shared through program leadership to the President and Chief Academic Officer and ultimately to the SKG Board of Directors, supporting informed decision-making.

This governance approach reflects SKG's commitment to shared responsibility, community voice, and culturally grounded institutional leadership.

5.0 Key Areas of Guidance

Program Advisory Committees provide guidance in the following areas:

Program Development

- Advise on the development of new programs and learning pathways
- Identify competencies, knowledge, and skills needed by graduates

Program Relevance and Community Needs

- Identify community priorities and emerging social or workforce needs
- Ensure programs reflect the realities of the communities they serve

Curriculum Quality and Currency

- Review program curriculum to ensure it remains current, relevant, and aligned with sector developments
- Provide input into program review and renewal processes

Student Learning and Success

- Identify opportunities for experiential learning, community placements, and mentorship
- Support approaches that strengthen student success and retention

Workforce and Sector Insights

- Share insights related to labour market trends and professional expectations
- Support the development of graduates prepared for meaningful employment and community leadership

6.0 Committee Composition

PACs reflect SKG's community-centered governance model.

Each committee typically includes 8–10 voluntary members who bring diverse perspectives and experience relevant to the program area.

Membership may include:

- Community leaders and practitioners
- Subject matter experts in the field
- Representatives from relevant organizations or service sectors
- Elders or Knowledge Holders
- Recent program graduates
- Current students

Membership seeks to ensure representation from community, professional practice, and lived experience.

PAC members serve as trusted advisors and partners supporting the success of SKG programs and students.

7.0 Meetings

PACs generally meet:

- Monthly or quarterly depending on program needs
- Meetings typically last approximately one hour
- Meetings may be held virtually or in person

Meetings are intended to provide space for shared dialogue, reflection, and collective guidance.

8.0 Guiding Principles

The work of the PAC is guided by the following principles:

- Respect for Anishinaabe knowledge systems
- Community voice and participation
- Commitment to student success
- Collaboration and shared responsibility
- Continuous learning and improvement
- Upholding cultural integrity and academic excellence

9.0 Recognition of Service

SKG recognizes the important contributions of PAC members through:

- Honoraria for Elders and Knowledge Holders
- Public recognition of contributions
- Opportunities to participate in community and institutional gatherings

Participation reflects a shared commitment to supporting future generations of learners and strengthening the capacity of Anishinaabe communities.