



REPORT OF FALL GATHERING

Held on November 3, 2010 from 8:45am to 4:30pm

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Auditorium, 6

Weredale Park, Westmount

ADOPTED ON APRIL 29, 2011



PARTICIPANTS – SEE LIST IN APPENDIX (Appendix 1)**AGENDA – FALL GATHERING 2010**

- Opening Prayer
- Welcome – Co-Chairs
- Press Conference
- Homelessness – «Projets autochtones du Québec»
- Foster Parenting – Social Services Working Committee
- Report – Social Services Working Committee
- Report – Employability, Training and Education Working Committee
- Report – Health Working Committee
- Consultation: How do we stay grassroots?
- Report – Steering Committee
- Report – Youth Working Committee
- ART•CULTURE – Local artist
- Report – Communications Working Committee
- 2011 Winter Gathering
- Community announcements
- Closing prayer

1. OPENING PRAYER

Mr. Immapik “Jacob” Partridge, an Inuk from Nunavik, Quebec opened the fall gathering of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK with a prayer in Inuktitut and English.

2. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Co-Chairs, Odile Joannette, Representative for the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) and Nakuset, Social Service Working Committee Representative welcomed over 90 participants to the gathering.

Nakuset provided for newcomers and the participants a brief background of the NETWORK and its origins.

Following Nakuset’s words, Odile expressed her welcome to all participants and noted with pride that the Fall Gathering 2010 was the 7th Gathering of the Aboriginal community.

She highlighted the fact that Montreal is the eighth (8th) Canadian city in terms of Aboriginal population (18,000 according to Statistics Canada 2006). She mentioned the alarming statistical portrait that usually defines the Aboriginal population and expressed that the Aboriginal community of Montreal was taking major steps forward to work together with all and mobilize toward positive change. The NETWORK has attracted over 500 individuals, organizations and groups based on its strong values of inclusiveness and representing all.

3. LOGO

Co-Chairs Nakuset and Odile unveiled the new logo of the NETWORK to community members.

Description of the Logo

The central crest (containing the heart shapes) makes reference to the city of Montreal's logo. The angle, colour and the shape have been transformed from the original to represent the six NETWORK Working Committees. In the centre, one will find a tepee and an inukshuk, which remind us that the NETWORK answers directly to the needs of the Montreal Aboriginal population – individuals from the First Nations, as well as Inuit city dwellers.

The hands symbolize the community's foundation as well as its actions, strength and support of the NETWORK. The feathers, the ulu (Inuit women scraping knife), and the variety of colours – including the medicine wheel's red, yellow, black and white, along with blue, green and orange – underline the diversity of the Aboriginal community in the greater Montreal region.

The ulu, for example, represents the indispensable leadership of women in the NETWORK. As well, this knife traditionally used by Inuit women, emphasizes that - beyond the will expressed by all the NETWORK's partners - the Working Committees must develop and use suitable tools to fulfill their mandates and priorities. The infinity sign represents the Métis people who come from Canadian Métis communities.

Logo Designer

Martin Dubé is a Cree from northern Saskatchewan who has lived in Montreal for most of his life. He is a graphic designer for the past thirteen years and he is married and has three children. Martin started his own graphic production company, Mikisew's Cree-ations, six years ago. The work that he does is inspired by Aboriginal art and culture, more specifically that of the West coast of Turtle Island (North American continent).

Tiohtiake Drum Group, Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM)

Tiohtiake Drum Group gave a welcoming song to the new NETWORK logo that unites the Aboriginal community of Montreal.

4. PRESS CONFERENCE

- Jane Cowell-Poitras, City of Montreal
- André Maltais, Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones
- Christopher Horton, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
- Claude Picard, Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador
- Pita Aatami, Makivik Corporation

Jane Cowell-Poitras, Municipal Councillor, Deputy Mayor, City of Montreal

Ms. Cowell-Poitras, City of Montreal, congratulated the NETWORK on its remarkable two years of hard work to organize itself and respond to the need to improve the quality of life of the Aboriginal citizens of Montreal. The NETWORK has reason to be proud of its accomplishments.

Ms. Cowell-Poitras expressed that City Hall and its administration are very sensitive to the needs of the Aboriginal population and that it wants to achieve solid and concrete steps forward. She underlined that the City of Montreal has participated in the development of the NETWORK through financial, human resources and in-kind support,

The City of Montreal offered an important community tool, the Directory of Resources offered to Montreal's Aboriginal Community 2010 Edition. A PDF copy is available to the general public on the City of Montreal web site on the Social Development web page.

The Directory was presented to Nakuset and Odile Joannette and the directory is now the responsibility of the NETWORK to update on a regular basis for Montreal Aboriginal citizens and organizations.

André Maltais, Secrétaire général-associé, Secrétariat aux affaires autochtone

André Maltais, Secrétaire général-associé, expressed his pleasure for being invited to the Fall Gathering and congratulated the NETWORK for its inclusion of the Inuit and their growing population in Montreal. He underlined that the history of the City highlights the Iroquois settlement of Hochelaga where Montreal is now situated.

There is a collective challenge to address the needs of the Montreal Aboriginal population and the announcement of the NETWORK and its work is an important step forward. The work that the City of Montreal has done to support its Aboriginal population is evident. The Montreal City Police are acting in a constructive manner, the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal and its Aboriginal employees are helping and all partners have a role to play in moving forward.

The Government of Quebec sincerely hopes that Montreal will be integrated into the Urban Aboriginal Strategy of Canada in solidarity with other urban Aboriginal populations.

Christopher Horton, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

Christopher Horton replaced Elizabeth Tromp, the Assistant Deputy Minister, who was unable to attend because of a death in the family. She expressed her regret and requested that Christopher Horton act on her behalf.

Mr. Horton outlined the intent of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy that working with an urban Aboriginal community and its partners, that innovative solutions could be created to provide solutions to local issues. It is important to bring better coordination, enhanced collaboration to maximize existing investments to create increased focus and improve-results. He used the example of a UAS federal investment of \$60,000 in Manitoba that leveraged an additional \$400,000 from other governments and sources of financing to help a homeless shelter.

A gracious thank-you was extended to the NETWORK, the Steering Committee and the partners present at the press conference and Mr. Horton expressed that a strong partnership has been formed and will continue.

Claude Picard, Legal Advisor, Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

Claude Picard, replaced Chief Ghislain Picard who was accompanying the National AFN Chief to visit the James Bay Cree Territory. Chief Picard planned to visit the NETWORK and its members in the afternoon to express his support and interest to the Aboriginal community of Montreal.

The leadership of First Nations of Quebec has observed the work of the NETWORK to organize and respond to the needs of the Aboriginal population and many First Nation communities would like to do more for their members in an urban setting but are constrained by their jurisdictions. It is noticed that more community members are moving to urban settings across Quebec and it is becoming a challenge.

A next step for the NETWORK is to present priorities, work and results to the Chiefs and an invitation was extended to the NETWORK to do this in the near future.

The AFNQL expressed that it will support the NETWORK and to not hesitate to ask for assistance when needed.

Pita Aatami, President, Makivik Corporation

Pita Aatami, President, Makivik Corporation extended his greetings to the leadership of the NETWORK and thanked Ms. Allison Iruqumia, member of the Steering Committee for her work and efforts to organize the Inuit population of Montreal.

He gave a brief outline of the Association of Montreal Inuit (AMI) and acknowledged that partnerships are key in 2010 and beyond.

Makivik Corporation will support the NETWORK and work with the other partners at the federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations level to help create solutions and improve the quality of life of all Montreal Aboriginal citizens.

HEALTH BREAK

START OF FALL GATHERING 2010**5. SOCIAL SERVICES WORKING COMMITTEE****▪ FOSTER PARENT TESTIMONY**

Barbara McDonald-Simon, of the Tasiutigii Group (Social Service Working Committee) greeted the members of the NETWORK and thanked them for the opportunity to speak about foster parenting.

Barbara is from the Kanesatake Mohawk Territory and has been a foster parent for over fifteen (15) years and her experience is based on her own strong family network that helped each other out. Her interest in helping women and children started after being employed with the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal NWSM and coming to understand women and children who have left family violence to build a better life. Subsequently, she adopted two children and kept many more foster children over the last few years.

She has acted as a parent with Inuit and First Nations children and cared for special needs children. The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres have been very supportive of her role as a foster parent over the last fourteen (14) years and there is a need to highlight to the Aboriginal community a need for foster parents to care for Inuit and First Nations children.

Barbara expressed her support of the NETWORK and felt it was important to underline to all the important role of the children to make life better for Aboriginal people and the future. She encouraged members of the NETWORK to consider a foster parenting role and to spread the word around the community. Barbara left due to an urgent family health situation.

▪ ELDER COMMENTS

Imaapiik "Jacob" Partridge was invited to say a few words. Elder Partridge discussed a part of the oral history of the Inuit and the connection to the First Nations, including the Hopi of the United States of America and relayed his message of the need to live together and protect each other.

Nakuset, gave an update to the members on the research and compilation of a manual for foster and adoptive families of Aboriginal children to be ready for distribution in 2011 – 2012.

She stated to members that because of the number of priorities for Aboriginal social services, the Working Committee divided itself into three groups. The 1st group is the social services working group that will focus on the foster and adoptive family initiatives, the 2nd is a working group to address the homelessness issue and the 3rd is a working group focused on justice.

▪ HOMELESSNESS – «PROJETS AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC»

Homelessness is an urgent issue in Montreal for the Inuit and the First Nations from across Canada. There is an increasing number of new individuals and Aboriginal youth coming into the city who need housing, training, employment and education in order to succeed and improve their quality of life.

«Projets autochtones du Québec» started in 2004 as a temporary 8 bed shelter to respond to this need. In 2010, it has expanded to a 40 bed facility intended for (beds for men, women and emergency beds). The participants of this community initiative are dealing with addiction problems

(in a good number of cases very severe addictions), lack of adequate training and employment skills, lack of stable housing and very mobile.

Donald Jackson, a local Aboriginal community member spoke to the NETWORK members about the role this homeless shelter played in his life.

Donald spoke about his numerous health challenges and stay in the local hospitals in the 1990's and on release had no where to go. He discovered the homeless shelter by accident and used PAQ services on a regular basis until he could stabilize his employment and revenue situation and pay for an apartment. PAQ provided temporary shelter and helped him become a more responsible person through assisting other Aboriginal individuals in need of housing, training and employment.

Donald stated very clearly to NETWORK members that "PAQ is needed and that natives helping other natives" helped to create hope and a stable life in Montreal. Living on the streets of Montreal is hard and PAQ can play an important role to newcomers to the city of Montreal. Donald expressed his hope that the services of PAQ will continue.

Terri Normandin, Homelessness Working Group, Social Services Working Committee

The Homelessness Working Group, a working group composed of members of the Social Services Working Committee has been in operation since September 2009. At this point, the working group is focused on the needs and aspirations of «Projets autochtones du Québec», the homeless shelter that maintains 40 temporary beds for 30 men and 10 women.

Terri expressed her thanks to the City of Montreal, Social Development division for their administrative support via the work of Guy Lacroix.

The working group is composed of organizations that work in the area of homelessness and the larger objective is to consider an Aboriginal healing centre for men. The focus at this time however, is to strengthen the homeless shelter in its programs, services and funding.

Terri thanked the working group for their support and indicated her personal plan to return to full-time studies towards a certificate and that she had to leave her leadership role.

Patricia Eshkibok, Justice Working Group, Social Services Working Committee

Patricia Eshkibok, is working with and for the Justice Working Group and is well-known for her work in the area of Native Parajudicial Services of Quebec (NPSQ) in Montreal and Kahnawake.

The beginning of the Justice Working Group is a result of the noticeable gap in Aboriginal family services and the increasing Aboriginal youth files coming before the courts and placed under the «*Direction de la protection de la jeunesse (DPJ)*».

There is a noticeable increase in the number of Aboriginal families, youth and children in care, especially Inuit families and children from Nunavik who arrive for foster care in Montreal, and there is no support worker designated to address this population in need. A family court worker is needed in Montreal.

Patricia asked the community and the NETWORK for their support to get the word out and to signal this problem to the management of NPSQ and the provincial government.

6. EMPLOYABILITY-TRAINING-EDUCATION WORKING COMMITTEE

Dolorès André, representative for this Working Committee, greeted the NETWORK members and highlighted the presence of Mrs. Francine Buckell who is the Director of the Urban Strategy of the FNHRDCQ responsible for the First Nations Human Resources Development Services of Montreal (FNHRDSM) and Mr. Ralph Cleary, Director of the FNHRDCQ. Dolorès thanked her Working Committee members for their active involvement and interest over the past year. Dolorès also highlights the 10th anniversary of the FNHRDSM and the Urban Strategy of the FNHRDCQ.

Dolorès invites Paige Isaac of the First Peoples' House, McGill University to join her and present the results of the Working Committee to date.

Dolorès and Paige highlighted 17 meetings of the Working Committee, brainstorming sessions to build initiatives in this area. In August 2010, an event was organized for Aboriginal youth with the participation of over 30 youth. A guide to employment and training is currently being prepared by Working Committee members and is intended as an information tool.

More importantly, the Working Committee has prepared a pilot project entitled «Projet d'insertion socio-professionnelle» intended for Aboriginal individuals. Two cohorts of 15 members each will be chosen to follow a training period of preparation for the labour market, experience local employment in a training setting or be supported in their return to formal schooling and go through a follow-up period of evaluation and support. A certain number of funders have been identified to fund this pilot project and the process of application is underway.

Another priority is the Aboriginal student network across Montreal composed of CEGEPs, vocational schools, colleges and universities and the Working Committee is looking at options to increase a sense of community and encourage the students to complete their studies and attain their educational goals. The Working Committee is preoccupied with the First Nations post-secondary education funding issue across Canada but has not yet formulated a response to this situation.

The Working Committee ETE has collected and compiled a binder of information on funding programs which exist on the governmental level: municipal, provincial and federal to share it with the office of coordination of the NETWORK. This reference tool is available to all interested members. As this mandate has been completed, the terms of reference of the Working Committee will be reviewed.

7. HEALTH WORKING COMMITTEE

Chantal Robillard, alternate for the Health Working Committee, presented the results of the Health Working Committee and its priorities. She highlighted to members and the Steering Committee a need to create better communications between Working Committees as some activities and priorities are complementary to each other and could share resources and information.

Health has had six meetings and is focused on the database of health services and the establishment of an Aboriginal health centre. The research for the database is moving forward and a needs assessment is the next step toward the objective of establishing a health centre. A couple of meetings have been requested, for example with the Public Health Agency of Canada, etc. It is intended that the needs assessment will move forward in 2011 with results to be presented in the Fall of 2011 or Winter of 2012.

As with other Working Committees, the members of Health are full-time students, researchers or employees elsewhere and it is not easy to meet and move priorities forward.

8. CONSULATION ACTIVITY

Nakuset, with help from other Steering Committee members, organized a brief consultation activity asking NETWORK members how to stay close to the grassroots and have individuals become active agents of change in Aboriginal community life in Montreal.

A guiding question was created with 5 sub-sets of questions and members of the Fall Gathering provided their feedback for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

Guiding Question:

“We have success in involving community organizations, now how can we get individual community members involved in the NETWORK?”

Sub-set questions:

1. *What are the things that make people participate?”*

- Traditional cultural activity
- Family friendly
- Spaghetti dinner
- Free food
- Music
- Potlatch - Give away
- Contest and prizes for participation
- Facebook
- Fun activities, Dance, Bingo
- Child care
- Subject of personal importance instead of speeches (i.e. video and media)
- In a relaxed setting
- Translation and promotion
- A well-known personality
- Bring your friends
- Feeling included
- Networking
- Feedback
- Relevance of the activity
- Precision & clarity of the message
- Presence or support of authority
- Rigorous approach
- Professionalism
- Publicity
- Regular scheduled activity
- Word of mouth
- Spirituality
- Back to tradition
- Participation of role models

2. *What are the barriers to participation?*

- The cost
- No motivation
- Isolation and location
- Transportation
- Language
- Timing

- Access to information
- Business
- Personal invitation and/or touch
- Discomfort
- Distance
- Temperature (weather)
- Child care
- Parking
- Bad public relations
- Subject is not relevant
- Too tired
- Babysitting & family implication
- Exclusion
- Lack of snack
- Bad schedule? Ex: evening schedule/hours
- Lack of treatment
- Level of literacy – missing communication tools (i.e. telephone)
- Too formal
- Variety of interests and representation
- Funding
- Promotion and communication
- Local travel
- Competing events on same day
- Parking & lack of place
- Lack of traditional knowledge
- First needs not yet met

3. *What strategies would work for the NETWORK?"*

- Survey
- Consultation
- Promote the distribution of the invitation
- Artist as a spokesperson (i.e. Elisapie or Florant Vollant)
- Celebration – dance - kiosk
- Participate in the school events
- An awareness strategy
- Go get the people where they are
- Create a support team
- Updated information – web site
- Open the doors to indigenous people from South America
- Promote in communities prior to their travelling to Montreal
- Personal and community history
- Food and fun
- Cultural awareness and sharing
- Negotiation
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Story Telling
- Non-political
- Team building and autonomy
- Ice breakers
- Humour and laughing
- Workshops

4. *What barriers exist for the NETWORK?"*

- Funding
- Space (location)
- Translation
- Communication inside and outside
- Lack of confidence
- External commitment
- Political issues
- Personal
- Red tape / bureaucracy
- Too slow
- Volunteers
- Negative images
- Positive models and success stories
- Lack of perseverance
- Lack of time
- Lack of human resources
- Overloaded
- Not feeling included enough
- Lack of humour and fun
- Lack of confidence in the organizations` capacities
- Take small steps
- Lack of concrete goals
- Lack of grassroots
- Too political

5. *How will the barriers be addressed?"*

- Communication strategy
- Face to face
- Web
- Promote, be present, make known the NETWORK
- Media – radio (Kahnawake, Concordia, McGill)
- Recruiting
- Fun things
- Newsletters
- Sharing resources
- Post in community organizations (billboards)
- Social networks – Facebook – e-mail
- Media relations
- More collaboration between Working Committees and partners
- Less isolated work + together
- Encouraging groups to participate
- Secondary products, i.e., t-shirt
- Team building

AFTERNOON PROCEEDINGS

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR (AFNQL)

Chief Ghislain Picard, AFNQL, expressed his regret to members of the NETWORK for not being available to attend the morning press conference due to his work and travel schedule.

He wanted to assure the NETWORK members that the AFNQL takes the development and growth of the NETWORK seriously as Chiefs observe the increased move of their community members into urban areas such as Montreal. He reiterated earlier comments that it was good to see the involvement of the Inuit in the Montreal initiative and felt that it was important that partners, groups, organizations work together to ensure success.

While the AFNQL is focused on the numerous issues and concerns of the First Nations of Quebec, they are mindful that urban and off-reserve issues remain important and they will support initiatives such as the NETWORK to help move forward.

He reminded NETWORK members of the AFNQL Chiefs invitation to present the NETWORK at one of the gatherings in the upcoming future to discuss the priorities and challenges of the Aboriginal population of Montreal.

9. STEERING COMMITTEE

Odile spoke to the NETWORK members of the various priorities and challenges for the Steering Committee.

She reminded the members that the voluntary sectors are key to the success and the individual and organization volunteers are to be thanked for their time and energy attending meetings, providing their important input and giving their support.

Over the recent 2010 year, two community gatherings have been held and a third is planned in 2011 for the members. Meanwhile, 23 meetings were held by the Steering Committee and that these are time-consuming as the involvement of each and everyone is encouraged.

The Steering Committee has a limited budget in the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year but succeeded in following the strategic plan, hiring of the Coordinator, supporting Working Committees where possible and responding to inquiries and requests for information and/or assistance by individuals and community groups.

The partnerships created through the NETWORK are numerous, over 500 groups and individuals are members and follow the NETWORK activities, newsletter and Working Committee meetings. Odile thanked the City of Montreal for its support and involvement and the resources it has provided to ensure success.

The period of May to October 2010 were focused on the creation of the logo, Working Committee meetings and activities, creation of the web site that will soon be on-line and refining the public communications aspect – the newsletter and promoting the NETWORK via the media. Odile recognized the criticism coming from various groups that the development process was long but that this stage is complete.

She recognized that even with human resource support, internal and external communications are complex. In the upcoming months, the communications between Working Committees and communications with the public will become priority, as much more focus will be put on the actions and results of the Working Committees.

It was highlighted once again to NETWORK members that three of four priorities are moving forward. To work with and consolidate «*Projets autochtones du Québec*», to establish an Aboriginal artist and cultural intervener funding program via the «*Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec*», and to help the «*Projet d'insertion socio-professionnelle autochtone à Montréal*» become a reality to assist Aboriginal youth and others who need assistance with training and employment. Odile mentioned that the Inuit remain an important part of the Montreal Aboriginal population and that the Steering Committee supports the Inuit in their efforts to organize and help each other.

Odile thanked the members of the Steering Committee for their involvement and commitment and expressed the hope that even more partnerships will be created in the upcoming year as all partners learn to work together and achieve common objectives.

10. YOUTH WORKING COMMITTEE

Widia Larivière and Jorge Herrera, representative and alternate for the NETWORK's Youth Working Committee were not available in the afternoon.

Odile presented the current situation of this Working Committee.

The Working Committee had no success in recruiting youth to become members and contribute to the creation of priorities or actions that would help Aboriginal youth across Montreal. There appears to be, at this time, a couple of distinct groups of youth. One is the Aboriginal student population who are integrated into the Secondary, CEGEP, Technical, Vocational and post-secondary institutions and who have access to services, student groups and organizations that work in the education field. The second group appears to have less education, no employment or adequate housing and who use the services of «*Projets autochtones du Québec*» and the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal. This group is mobile, harder to connect with and focused on their priorities, and they are not in regular sustained contact with local organizations.

The Youth Working Committee is a concern at the Steering Committee level and it will be discussed in order to create some possible options to reach out and involve these groups in the NETWORK.

11. ART•CULTURE WORKING COMMITTEE

Melissa Mollen-Dupuis, local artist, ART•CULTURE

Melissa, a local Aboriginal artist presented to the NETWORK members her previous educational and work life and her introduction to the Aboriginal art and culture environment in Montreal. She noted that when she first started, she did not have the necessary contacts and possibly not all the skills needed. The ART•CULTURE Working Committee helped her create an important personal network of contacts and opportunities that normally she wouldn't have been able to create alone. She expressed her thanks to Terres en Vues and other members of the Working Committee for opening doors, introducing her to important contacts and finding a local opportunity to become involved with the First Nations Garden at the Montreal Botanical Gardens, City of Montreal and help introduce visitors to First Nations and Aboriginal culture and realities.

Catherine Joncas, representative, ART●CULTURE

Catherine briefly presented the work and priorities of the Working Committee and spoke about the events from April to October, 2010 where the ART●CULTURE Working Committee played an important community role. Spring and summer are the high seasons of activities with plays, theatre, summer festivals and music events where Aboriginal culture becomes an important ambassador and means of conveying Aboriginal culture, history and knowledge. The move of «*FESTIVAL PRESENCE AUTOCHTONE*» was a challenge as it happened last minute and even though the number of participants was slightly down, it had been overall a success and laid a new foundation in a new setting for Summer of 2011.

A new project by the «Centre d'histoire de Montréal» was mentioned that will recognize sites and events of Aboriginal history and interest in Montreal. This is a new step of recognition by the City of Montreal, something that has never occurred in the past.

The priorities of the ART●CULTURE Working Committee of a «*lieu communautaire*» and a local cultural development fund are moving forward. In respect to the «*lieu communautaire*», a working group has started to meet to develop this priority and interested NETWORK members can contact either André Dudemaine or Catherine for more information on this. The local cultural development fund has met a few obstacles and the Working Committee intends to follow-up with the «*Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec*» to follow up on its promise of establishing a fund for Aboriginal artists in Montreal.

Members of this Working Committee have been actively involved in Steering Committee events and the Coordinator has been active with the NETWORK Coordinator over the summer period promoting the events, the NETWORK and providing information to the public.

12. COMMUNICATIONS WORKING COMMITTEE

An update of the work that has been accomplished since the April 2010 Spring Gathering was presented by Jean-François O'Bomsawin. A number of key initiatives were organized and delivered for the NETWORK such as steps to:

- Organize and deliver a successful logo contest – contest results were presented today to all NETWORK members.
- Coordination and delivery of the November 3, 2010 press conference
- Hire and supervise a NETWORK summer student
- Hire and supervise the «Parrainage professionnel» intern
- Create of a media database
- Collaborate in development of NETWORK web site
- Develop a communications strategy and a communications strategy for the new web site

Like other Working Committees, Jean-François thanked the members of the Working Committee and publicly recognized that it is a challenge to contribute volunteer time when participants have full-time jobs elsewhere. However, the Communications Working Committee was pleased to see this important step achieved today with the announcement of the logo, the presentation of the NETWORK to the public, the delivery of important communication tools such as letterhead, promotional items, etc and the upcoming web site to be available to the public shortly.

13. EXPECTATIONS OF THE WINTER GATHERING

A brief data collection of issues and concerns that should / could be discussed at the Winter Gathering was conducted. NETWORK members had a few suggestions for Working Committees and the Steering Committee as subjects that needed to be addressed. The following items were mentioned:

- NETWORK legal status, options and recommendations
- Discussion and development of a human resources policy
- Activate a social network – between beginning of February 2011 and end of March 2011.
- Update the NETWORK strategic plan for 2011 - 2012
- Web site multi-language that translates into including Aboriginal languages, most pressing would be Inuktitut.
- Create bridges with and between Working Committees
- Options to better manage the volunteer offers
- Identify spokespersons to promote the NETWORK

14. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several NETWORK members used the forum to announce their upcoming community events.

Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
Upcoming Annual General Assembly
Invitation to attend and participate

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
Recruitment of Aboriginal families to act as foster families

15. CLOSING PRAYER

Mike Standup, Traditional Advisor, Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, provided the closing prayer to the NETWORK Fall Gathering.

OTHER ELEMENTS TO ATTACH TO FINAL REPORT**CREDITS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

Elder Imaapiik “Jacob” Partridge

Traditional Advisor Mike Standup

Marie-Céline Charron, Aboriginal Student
Traditional Hoop Dancer

Chad Katsenhake:ron Diabo, Drum Carrier
Tiohtiake Drum Group, Native Friendship Centre of Montreal

APPENDIX TO ATTACH

- Agenda November 3, 2010
- Volunteer Elder Imaapiik “Jacob” Partridge
- Biographies of Press Conference speakers
- Copy of the new NETWORK logo
- Working Committee Written Reports
 - Social Services*
 - Employability, Training and Education*
 - Health*
 - Steering Committee*
 - Youth*
 - ART•CULTURE*
 - Communications*
- Volunteer Elder Mike Standup
- List of November 3, 2010 Participants
- Copy of November 3, 2010 evaluation results

Appendix 1: List of Participants

Elders
Imaapiik "Jacob" Partridge
Mike Standup
Participants of November 3, 2010
Robert Charles Aitken Projets autochtones du Québec
Patrice Allard City of Montreal
Adamic Alaku Service Canada
Dolorès André Service de développement des ressources humaines des Premières Nations de Montréal
Pascal C. Annoual Arts, Racines et Thérapies
Aurélie Arnaud Quebec Native Women
Patricia Auclair Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtone du Québec
Diane Bélanger Individual
Daniel-Paul Bork Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK
Suzanne Bourdon Photographer
Catherine Brown Collectif L' Autre Montréal
Francine Buckell FNHRDCQ
Margaret Butler Individual
Adrienne Campbell Projets autochtones du Québec
Andrea Carroll Individual
Ramélia Chamichian City of Montreal
Jason Champagne Centre de santé et des services sociaux Jeanne-Mance
Dean Dussault National
Frida Charles-Antoine Emploi Québec/Kativik regional government
René Charest CLSC de Faubourg, CSSS Lamontagne
Carole Chouinard City of Montreal
Ralph Cleary FNHRDCQ
Kakwiranoron Cook McGill
Sylvie Cornez Chez Doris
Brenda Crane-Martin Centre des femmes de Montréal
Loic Dimarcantano Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones
Martin Dubé Cree-ations
Garnett Forbes Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

Amélie Girard ART•CULTURE Working Committee
Henri Goulet City of Montreal
Janice Hamel Centre de santé et des services sociaux Jeanne Mance
Lorraine Harrilal Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
Jorge Herrera Friendship Native Centre of Montreal
André Huot CCS Services Communautaires Catholiques
Paige Isaac McGill
Allison Irumia Association of Montreal's Inuit
Anais Janin ARTIAL
Gustavo Zamora Jimenez Cercle des Premières Nations de l'UQAM
Odile Joannette FNHRDCQ
Catherine Joncas Théâtre Ondinnok, ART • CULTURE
Carrie Martin Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
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Caroline Monpetit – Le Devoir

Marc Pacanowski – Radio Canada

Mélanie Chabot – Revue DS

Maud Emannelle Labesse – Revue DS
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Pierre Pagé – Radio Ville- Marie

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