



## WINTER GATHERING REPORT

Friday, February 22, 2013 & Saturday, February 23, 2013

Holiday Inn Montreal Midtown Hotel  
420 Sherbrooke Street W., Montreal

**ADOPTED ON JUNE 12, 2013**

RÉSEAU  
pour la stratégie urbaine  
de la communauté  
autochtone à Montréal



Montreal  
Urban Aboriginal  
Community Strategy  
NETWORK

## **ATTENDANCE**

See attached list of participants.

## **AGENDA**

### **February 22, 2013**

Welcome and Opening Prayer with Marie-Laure Simon

Songs of welcome by the *Buffalo Hat Singers* Drumming Group

1. Adoption of the Agenda and of the Fall Gathering Report of October 3, 2012
2. Presentation by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS)
3. Adoption of the Nominations and Elections Process for the Present Gathering
4. Nominations, Presentations and Opening of the Elections Process
5. Presentation of the Achievements of the NETWORK's Working Committees
6. Interactive Activity on the Three (3) New Principles Proposed to the NETWORK
7. Update on the NETWORK's Steering Committee and Discussion on its New Mandates
8. National Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission – April 2013
9. Community Announcements

Closing Prayer with Marie-Laure Simon

### **FEBRUARY 23, 2013**

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Songs of Welcome

Family Activities

Songs

Creative Workshop

Children in Action

Door Prizes provided by the NETWORK

Closing Prayer

## **WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER WITH MARIE-LAURE SIMON**

The Co-Chair, Nakuset, welcomed the members and declared the meeting open at 9:30 a.m. She mentioned that the booths display the work achieved by the committees and she invited the participants to visit the booths during the breaks. She announced that Saturday will be devoted to family activities.

She invited Marie-Laure Simon to give the opening prayer.

## **SONGS OF WELCOME BY THE *BUFFALO HAT SINGERS* DRUMMING GROUP**

The *Buffalo Hat Singers* drumming group inaugurated the XIII<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the NETWORK with their songs.

### **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OF THE FALL GATHERING REPORT OF OCTOBER 3, 2012**

Nakuset read the proposed agenda.

#### ***Resolution 2013-02-22/01***

It was moved by Sylvie Cornez and seconded by Lucie Topping:

THAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

Adopted unanimously.

Nakuset asked if any corrections or changes to the Winter Gathering Report are needed. No changes were required.

#### ***Resolution 2013-02-22/02***

It was moved by François-Xavier Michaux and seconded by France Simon:

THAT THE WINTER GATHERING REPORT OF OCTOBER 3, 2012 BE ADOPTED.

Adopted unanimously.

### **2. PRESENTATION BY ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA ON THE URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY (UAS)**

John Gordon, National Director of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS), thanked the NETWORK members for the invitation and then expressed his sadness because it is the last time that he will be participating in the NETWORK gathering after four years of collaboration. Indeed, last fall, an administrative decentralization process was carried out by the Federal government and the UAS now comes under the Quebec regional office.

He presented the background of the UAS<sup>1</sup>, which began in 1997 in five cities of western Canada and initially had the following objectives:

- connecting communities;
- providing services to urban Aboriginal people;
- assisting Aboriginal communities in finding their own solutions to problems encountered in urban areas.

The UAS also aimed to allow the Federal government to work in partnership with the provincial, territorial and municipal governments as well as with the private sector.

In 2002, the UAS expanded and, in 2007, it was operating in 13 cities. Today, 15 urban centres benefit from it, the ultimate goal being 18 cities.

The UAS was implemented in Montreal in 2008 and the Montreal Aboriginal community rapidly established itself as one of the most dynamic within this framework.

In May 2011, the department name “Indian and Northern Affairs Canada” was changed to “Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada” (AANDC).

Administrative changes were made in April 2012, following the last budget, and three programs were transferred from Heritage Canada to the Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI) at AANDC, namely:

- Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program;
- Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth;
- Young Canada Works for Aboriginal Youth.

Then on September 4, 2012, the OFI was abolished, or rather divided, and consequently the three above-mentioned programs were integrated into the UAS. The OFI sector responsible for urban programs was integrated into the Regional Operations Branch. The transfer will be effective as of April 1, 2013.

John wished to emphasize the quality and commitment of the staff with whom he worked, especially Karen Mackarous and Travis O'Brien.

He welcomed Gérard Raharolahy who will be taking over at the regional office. Gérard thanked Marie-Laure Simon for the prayer she gave as well as Nakuset and Odile Joannette for their welcome. He attended the Steering Committee meeting the previous day and understands the concern about the current change. The aim is to have a more regional, local and community-level perspective. He assured the members that the regional office intends to be as present as possible, even though it is located in Quebec City.

John added that, so far, there is no clear direction from the Prime Minister's office. The general guideline is to try to work in a more integrated manner, and to that end, one of his tasks will consist of reviewing the various policies. Meetings will be held across Canada with the various Aboriginal communities, but this project remains to be confirmed. A new minister should be appointed shortly.

In terminating, he mentioned that over the past four years, he had the opportunity to see how each community is unique, both in terms of its needs and its organization. This is why he always insisted on the fact that uniform solutions cannot work. It is for each community to find solutions.

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<sup>1</sup> The backgrounder is available on the AANDC website:  
<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100010023/1100100010027>

He greatly appreciated the work carried out in Montreal, which demonstrates how a strategy can be applied effectively. Montreal has become a model.

### 3. ADOPTION OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS PROCESS FOR THE PRESENT GATHERING

Odile recalled that at the last gathering, it was resolved that for the co-chair positions, the representatives would be elected by the NETWORK membership. The Steering Committee was also mandated to prepare an election procedure to be submitted for approval by the present gathering. She presented the recommendation prepared for this purpose by the Steering Committee, which is found in the document entitled "Proposed Single-Use Elections Process – For the Period of February 22, 2013 to March 1, 2013". The only difference between the process proposed today and the process that will be effect for the coming year pertains to advance voting. In addition, it is planned that a signed confidentiality agreement will be added.

She stated that the NETWORK has 650 individual members from 140 organizations.

Dolorès André wished to introduce an amendment so that the members present at the gathering may submit nominations. This option does not appear in the document.

#### **Resolution 2013-02-22/03**

It was moved by Sylvie Cornez and seconded by Dolorès André:

THAT THE PROPOSED ELECTIONS PROCESS BE AMENDED IN ORDER THAT THE "NOMINATION PROCEDURE" SECTION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PHRASE: "EACH MEMBER PRESENT AT THE GATHERING MAY NOMINATE A PERSON".

Adopted by consensus.

#### **Resolution 2013-02-22/04**

It was moved by Dolorès André and seconded by Geneviève Beaudet :

THAT THE PROPOSED SINGLE-USE ELECTIONS PROCESS – FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 22, 2013 TO MARCH 1, 2013 BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

Adopted unanimously.

### 4. NOMINATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND OPENING OF THE ELECTIONS PROCESS

The Coordinator, Ramélia Chamichian, informed the meeting that only one nomination was submitted, which is that of Nakuset.

Under the electoral process that has just been adopted, if the number of candidates is equal to or less than two (2), they will be elected by acclamation, which is the case for Nakuset.

Given the vacant co-chair position, Odile opened the nominations period and mentioned that only the Aboriginal members of the Steering Committee and the alternates are eligible. Sylvie Cornez asked if the members of the Steering Committee could identify themselves. Odile invited them to rise and she introduced each of them in turn.

Dolorès nominated Francine Buckell. Francine Buckell is the co-representative of the AFNQL on the Steering Committee, along with Odile (but with only one voting right).

Francine thanked Dolorès for the confidence she placed in her. However, she mentioned that she would like a period of reflection in order to ensure, that if she agrees to commit herself, she will have the time to truly serve the community.

Odile reminded the members that the voting period will remain open until 10:45 a.m. on March 1<sup>st</sup>. If Francine Buckell accepts her nomination and remains the only candidate, she will be elected by acclamation. The members will be kept informed about this subject via the NETWORK website.

She asked if the members wished to nominate other candidates.

Geneviève Beaudet nominated Dolorès, on the condition that she is appointed alternate for the Employability-Training-Education Working Committee. Dolorès said she appreciated the nomination but preferred to decline.

There were no other nominations.

Odile invited the re-elected co-chair, Nakuset, to say a few words. Nakuset mentioned that she is Cree from Lac La Ronge, Saskatchewan but was adopted at the age of three by a non-Aboriginal family of Montreal because her mother was in residential school. When she became an adult, she was able to obtain her Indian status. She summarized her volunteering and career background. She is currently the Executive Director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and representative of the NETWORK's social services committee<sup>2</sup>. In conclusion, she said that she is very proud of the progress achieved by the NETWORK and she wants to continue participating in its development.

Louise Lachapelle inquired as to whether elections for the treasurer position were supposed to be held at the current gathering. Odile replied that under the Terms of Reference, it is the Steering Committee that elects the treasurer and secretary. Only the election procedure related to the co-chair positions was amended.

## **5. PRESENTATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NETWORK'S WORKING COMMITTEES**

### **❖ ART•CULTURE Working Committee**

Louise Lachapelle presented the update on the work carried out by the ad hoc committee on the First Peoples cultural and art centre project. The inauguration is planned for 2017, which is the anniversary of the City of Montreal and several historical events.

The feasibility study was conducted by the consulting firm ArtExpert.ca. The study gave rise to an extensive consultation among the Aboriginal community. Thus, although the physical location does not yet exist, a virtual space has been created by the documentation collected.

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<sup>2</sup> The full speech delivered by Nakuset is available on the following website:  
[http://www.reseautlnetwork.com/dnn/Portals/0/Nakuset - Lettre de candidature 2013-02-22 \(1\).pdf](http://www.reseautlnetwork.com/dnn/Portals/0/Nakuset - Lettre de candidature 2013-02-22 (1).pdf).

The whole approach is based on the principles of Aboriginal governance and on a vision deeply rooted in the NETWORK and the ART•CULTURE Working Committee, a vision that puts forward the importance of vividly showing the first cultural diversity of the country.

The programming has also been outlined and the first elements can be consulted at the booth. The planned activities will involve space-related needs which have been estimated at 3,772 m<sup>2</sup>. As for the physical location itself, it represents a challenge for the architects because the goal is to be innovative, sustainable and certified LEED Gold. The forecasted budget is 19.4 million dollars.

From the study, it was learned that the centre is not only desirable but also wanted. When Odile and André Dudemaine presented it in late November 2012 at the mid-term meeting of Montréal Cultural Metropolis, Prime Minister Marois announced that the Centre was one of her three priorities for 2017, which raised the enthusiasm of the 900 participants at the event (and the most tweeted topic).

The deadlines, however, remain tight. In the upcoming steps, the most urgent is the selection of a definitive site among the four retained options in order to move forward with the search for funding. The feasibility study must translate into a formal business plan. Honorary, support and implementation committees must also be established and, finally, the architectural design must be developed in order to be able to proceed with the inauguration in 2017.

#### ❖ **Communications Working Committee**

Aurélié Arnaud announced that, regretfully, she is preparing to leave the Communications Working Committee and, thus, the Steering Committee. Aurélié explained that it is a small committee and she is the only representative of an Aboriginal organization, the other members being government representatives. This year, the Communications Committee mainly worked on the development of the NETWORK's communication tools. When her predecessor, Jean-François O'Bomsawin, left last year, a recommendation was made to the members to abolish the committee because it was felt that the Communications Committee did not have the same working autonomy as the others. But 52% of the members chose to maintain it. A proposal to establish an ad hoc committee had been raised, but no decision was taken.

Marc Saindon was hired as communications officer. He supports the Communications Working Committee in the implementation of the communication tools, including the Facebook page where information may be posted as needed.

Dolorès asked if the website will be updated shortly. Indeed, Marc is currently working on its update.

Carole Chouinard proposed to appoint Carole Brazeau as new representative on the committee. She accepted and said she is ready to provide assistance to the committee on a volunteer basis. Carole Chouinard invited other members, especially from the community, to follow Carole Brazeau's example and to join the committee.

#### ❖ **Health Working Committee**

Rossell Bérard replaced Sacha Rose Kiesman as committee coordinator two months ago.

The Health Working Committee now has a logo, designed by graphic designer, Martin Dubé, who incorporated the NETWORK's logo and integrated various elements proposed by the committee members.

At the last gathering, Sacha Rose announced the launch of the health needs assessment which was based on a consultation with 200 persons. From the assessment, it was concluded that there is a need to provide the community with a holistic health centre and the committee worked on a proposal to that end. It is available for consultation at the committee's booth.

The committee also worked towards establishing partnerships with various organizations, funders and individuals in view of implementing the project. For example, the McGill University Health Centre will be developing, in collaboration with the *Groupe d'intérêt en santé autochtone (GISA)* of the Faculty of Medicine of the *Université de Montréal* and physicians from *Hôpital Ste-Justine*, a series of awareness workshops, for physicians and nurses, on the needs of the members of the community.

Collaborative efforts were also undertaken with the *CLSC Côte-des-Neiges* in order to discuss the possibility of including the Aboriginal holistic health centre in the *RUIZ* "health village" proposal, which would allow obtaining services related to health and traditional Aboriginal nutrition within a multicultural project.

Funding requests were submitted to Health Canada and to Canadian Heritage under its Aboriginal Women's Program (AWP). The challenges mentioned in the needs analysis include "the difficulty for Aboriginal people to establish roots or, at least, to define baselines to settle in Montreal".

D<sup>r</sup> Syd Miller, from the Psychology Department of Concordia University, is conducting a study on "stress and risk of cardiovascular disease among Aboriginal people" and he sought the collaboration of the committee; the committee agreed as long as the research benefits the Aboriginal community of Montreal.

Finally, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be holding hearings in April 2013 and it mandated the committee to be in charge of the sweat lodge at the Botanical Garden. Those attending the event will have access to the sweat lodge and healing sessions for a period of four to six days.

The NETWORK website contains more and more documents relating to the Health Working Committee, including the health needs assessment report. The existing Aboriginal health services are available in the database for consultation.

#### ❖ **Social Services Working Committee**

Nakuset mentioned that the Social Services Working Committee focuses on three issues:

- children's social services, under the responsibility of Garnett Forbes;
- justice, under the responsibility of Vivien Carli;
- homelessness, under the responsibility of Tealey Normandin.

#### ○ *Social Services*

Nakuset stated that the committee continues to publish requests in the NETWORK's newsletter in order to find Aboriginal foster homes because there are many children are on a waiting list for placement. She invited interested persons to contact Garnett Forbes who is responsible for this component. She reminded the meeting of the publication of the Guide for non-Aboriginal foster families.



o *Justice*

This sub-committee is working on two major projects. First, there is the project involving Cabot Square. Its first phase consists of research, funded by the City of Montreal, the *Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones*, the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ) and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), in order to determine the issues related to Cabot Square and the best practices that can be applied. The goal is to get the organizations that work in the vicinity to dovetail with each so that people frequenting the Square will be able to obtain services. The study is based on interviews and should be available in July.

The committee has hired Allison Reid as coordinator. It also intends to prepare a long-term strategy.

Nakuset invited Andrea Carroll to present the second project entitled “Justpeace”. Andrea explained that the sub-committee is working on setting a resource in place that can provide legal information and socio-judicial services at all stages of the justice system and takes into account the rights, needs and realities of the Aboriginal community of Greater Montreal. Such resources exist in other cities and give rise, for example, to intervention protocols.

The aim of the project is to arrive at integrating concepts of traditional justice and to have a centralized resource. Andrea consulted judges, prosecutors, liaison officers of the Montreal Police Department (SPVM), socio-judicial workers, and transition-house workers, at the provincial and federal levels. She received significant support from the Correctional Service of Canada and had the opportunity to approach the Parole Board.

At the present time, the sub-committee is focusing on the needs assessment, but also plans to develop tools. Andrea thanked the funder, *Justice Québec*. The sub-committee plans to solicit other funders in order to implement the agency and to hire Aboriginal workers who will work at the agency and carry out field work as well.

o *Homelessness*

Tealey reported that the sub-committee enjoys wide participation from the organizations in the area. Various workers make presentations to the sub-committee about the services they offer and the resources available, information that the sub-committee is quick to share with the other committees.

At present, the committee is working on the development of a strategic plan, which will represent an important milestone. In addition to analyzing the needs of homeless people in Montreal, the sub-committee seeks to raise awareness among storekeepers and residents in the Cabot Square vicinity. The underlying objective is to make the Square a safer place for people who frequent it.

In this spirit, barely a month ago, the subcommittee evaluated the possibility of an initiative entitled *PARC (Project on Aboriginal Rendez-vous Connexion)* in order to obtain greater commitment on the part of various organizations. For example, an idea took hold to organize a festival and to raise awareness in the community on the issue of homelessness as well as on the reality of Inuit persons and First Nations members who are in the habit of frequenting the Square but who are not necessarily homeless. The festival is expected to take place in late summer or early fall.

In turn, Allison presented her mandate in relation to Cabot Square. Two phases must be conducted in the coming months. The first, for which funding has been secured, will extend until mid-July 2013. It consists of developing a long-term strategy, on a three-year or five-year basis, corresponding to the Cabot Square

upgrading period and following steps. Interviews will be conducted with frontline workers, government representatives, service providers, the general public, and the vulnerable population that visits the square. In order to arrive at a concerted strategy with all partners in the area as to be able to provide services that truly meet the needs of the clientele in the coming years.

The second phase aims to narrow the cultural gap between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the neighbourhood. In the past years, there has been much hostility. The committee will seek to twin Aboriginal cultural events with activities that are held in the vicinity. To this end, Allison will call on the ART•CULTURE Working Committee and the Communications Working Committee, in particular, so that everyone can play a role in the project.

### ❖ **Employability-Training-Education Working Committee**

Paige Isaac informed the members that the committee worked very hard to implement two programs that are providing excellent results.

First, the Aboriginal Reference Guide, printed in 12,000 copies, is in high demand. An update is being prepared and a reprint is planned.

Secondly, the committee is preparing the third edition of the Aboriginal job fair, the MAMU project, which aims to bring Aboriginal youth to achieve their full potential academically and professionally. The funding application was approved, but in part only. Paige wished to thank Service Canada, the SAA and the FNHRDCQ for their financial support.

The committee has produced a leaflet that describes its mission and objectives and provides the contact information of its members. It is also working towards the development of an annual strategic plan; however, it should extend over a five-year period in order to allow the committee to carry out all its projects. For example, the committee wishes to develop other tools and activities for its partners in order to facilitate their understanding of the history and realities of Aboriginal people and to make them aware of their needs.

A call for applications was launched to recruit an agent to organize the MAMU fair. Geronimo Inutiq was hired. He said he was pleased to present the MAMU project and greeted all the committee members and all those who are dedicated to promoting the interests of the community.

He presented the draft of a poster that should be distributed as of next week. The MAMU fair aims to bring together employers as well as training and employment stakeholders in order to present the opportunities that are available to the target population, namely Aboriginal youth between 16 and 30 years of age. However, the event is also open to the whole community. Resource persons will speak on various topics, for example, the right attitudes and skills to develop in order to promote one's employability. Indeed, awareness must be raised about the community within society in general as well as its ability to engage at all levels of society and not only at the Aboriginal level. He extended an invitation to attend the fair in order to encourage the youth who are involved. It will take place on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A participant inquired about the Ka Mamukanit socio-professional integration project. Dolorès said that the initiative aims to bring Aboriginal youth to develop their personal and professional potential and to restore their cultural identity. Marjolaine Thernish is the project manager. It started in September 2011 and today, a third cohort is underway. Forty-five participants have already benefited from the program, and the third-cohort participants are preparing to enter the labour market. As the project covers wages and fringe benefits, Dolorès invited the organizations in attendance and seeking a trainee, to recruit a youth from the program. Bérénice Mollen, who is present in the hall, acts as community liaison officer to find placements

for the graduates. A fourth group will be starting in three weeks.

Francine Buckell, Director of the Urban Strategy of the FNHRDCQ, stated that the project is proceeding in an exceptional manner. The results are beyond expectations. Negotiations were held with various governmental agencies, and two federal government sectors have confirmed the continuation of the program up to the sixth cohort.

#### ❖ Youth Working Committee

Odile mentioned the difficulties in setting up this committee and the efforts made by the Steering Committee to that end. This being the case, it has not yet been possible to hold a first meeting. Several organizations are awaiting an invitation, including the Youth Council of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, the new Montreal Native Community Development Centre and the New World Institute (NWI). Thus, there is a list of organizations to mobilize and an invitation will soon be sent in order to take note of the proposal prepared by the youth who participated in the NWI's summer school. It will then be possible to appoint a representative and adopt terms of reference. The Youth Committee will be able to benefit from the expertise of the five (5) other established committees.

#### 6. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY ON THE THREE (3) NEW PRINCIPLES PROPOSED TO THE NETWORK

Odile reminded the members that at the last gathering a discussion took place about the role of the NETWORK on issues involving advocacy, which in French is called *plaidoyer* or *promotion/défense des droits*, or *promotion/défense des intérêts*. For a number of members, this role does not fall within the mission of the NETWORK which was created to provide services to the community.

The Steering Committee prepared proposals of amendments to the Terms of Reference. Odile read the proposals.

She invited the members to form three sub-groups to discuss the proposals:

- the Turtle sub-group, whose rapporteur is Marc Saindon;
- the Whale sub-group, whose rapporteur is François-Xavier Michaux;
- the Owl sub-group, whose rapporteur is Claude Picard.

In plenary, the rapporteurs shared the comments as well as the potential additions, amendments and sub-amendments put forth by the respective sub-groups. After discussion, the following resolutions were adopted:

#### **Resolution 2013-02-22/05**

It was moved by Sylvie Cornez and seconded by Marie-Laure Simon:

TO APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF A NEW PRINCIPLE IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

Autonomy of the Working Committees – The six (6) Working Committees are the NETWORK's expertise in each field of interest prioritized by the community and for which they are mobilized. They are

autonomous entities in that they have each developed Terms of Reference specific to their operating mode and have developed specific action plans to address the challenges of their respective fields. However, they still have specific roles and responsibilities in the NETWORK's Terms of Reference (appendix A, section 5) and in its Strategic Plan. In addition, while pursuing their respective missions, they work in accordance with the vision, mandate and principles of the NETWORK and are accountable to both the members of their communities and the general membership of the NETWORK.

Adopted by consensus.

**Resolution 2013-02-22/06**

It was moved by Dolorès André and seconded by François-Xavier Michaux:

TO APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF A NEW PRINCIPLE IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

Distribution of information – The NETWORK has developed for its community members tools of communication for sharing and dissemination of information. Members of the NETWORK can therefore access and disseminate any public information through these tools with respect to the communications policy and procedures.

Adopted by consensus.

**Resolution 2013-02-22/07**

It was moved by Lucie Topping and seconded by Mélanie Lumsden:

TO APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF A NEW PRINCIPLE IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

Cooperation and non-partisanship – The NETWORK is an initiative promoting unity as well as the positive outcomes resulting from collaborative efforts between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, as well as between the public, private and community sectors. Therefore the NETWORK will avoid taking public positions that can jeopardize the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. However, the NETWORK is not neutral as it works tenaciously to the improvement of the quality of life of Aboriginal people living in the greater Montreal area.

Adopted by consensus.

**7. UPDATE ON THE NETWORK'S STEERING COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION ON ITS NEW MANDATES**

Given the time devoted to the previous item, Odile summarized the Steering Committee's report. It prepared the budget forecasts that are contained in the kit. They are based on the budgets of previous years. They include a slight increase to take into account the additional resources related to the coordination of the working committees.

Odile proposed to send the finalized budget to the members by email since it has to be validated before the Steering Committee can submit funding applications for the next fiscal year. Last year, the forecasts covered two years, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Four partners were solicited and two of them confirmed their commitment for 2013-2014. AANDC confirmed a contribution of \$33,000 and the FNHRDCQ through the Urban Strategy, an amount of \$30,000 for 2013-2014. The NETWORK's situation is therefore somewhat more comfortable than the previous year.

There was no objection to the proposed procedure.

## **8. NATIONAL EVENT OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION – APRIL 2013**

Mr. Robert Watt, Inuk originally from Kuujuaq in Northern Quebec, is the Co-Director of the Inuit Sub-Commission of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). He was hired by the TRC three years ago and since then, he has met with 37 communities. He has personally gathered nearly 1,000 statements that tell terrible stories. But he realized that the approach gives tremendous power to the survivors when they can present their statements in front of witnesses.

Mr. Watt presented the TRC. It will be holding a national event in Montreal from April 24 to 27, 2013. It is a public event and he invited the NETWORK members wishing to attend, to visit <http://www.trc.ca>.

Among the activities that are scheduled to take place during the meeting, one the most important is the recording of private statements. The TRC wishes to hear all those affected by the residential school system, namely the survivors, their families, the community members and even former employees.

During the event, there will be a special screening of films including the recent documentary "We Were Children".

An honorary witness ceremony will be held. These witnesses are recruited among public figures who assume the responsibility of sharing the truth and reconciliation message of the Commission. They include Mr. Robbie Wiseman, Holocaust survivor and Ms. Sheila Fraser, former Auditor General. These persons act as ambassadors of the Commission worldwide.

Three commissioners will be on site to listen attentively to the statements made by anyone who wishes to speak publicly. Persons who are present may share an expression of reconciliation on their own behalf or on behalf of their organization. It can be in any form, whether it is a written statement or a gift of art or artefact.

Few Canadians know the history of residential schools. The national event provides an opportunity to teach this history and it is why the TRC planned learning spaces. Several religious communities have preserved their photo and document archives and these will be displayed. They were made available to the Commission by the Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and United churches affected by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

An education day is planned for high school, college and university students so that they will be sensitized to the issue of residential schools.

In terminating, Mr. Watt said that the TRC is in need of volunteers. The survivors feel proud to be supported by First Nations members. He invited those present to call on their networks to recruit volunteers. A form will soon be posted on the website for that purpose.

Ms. Donna Roberts, Regional Coordinator of Health Canada's Indian Residential Schools Resolution

Health Support Program, which is a component of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement signed by the First Nations, Inuit, federal government and churches in 2007, presented and explained the support provided to survivors.

Support services are available in every community across Canada and Quebec. A working group was established to bring together Aboriginal professionals and cultural support workers who are able to provide direct services to former students, their families and anyone affected by the residential schools.

When the program was implemented, following the signing of the Agreement, it was not foreseen that cultural support would be offered. However, as there is an increasing demand for this type of support, Health Canada had to reopen its contribution agreement in order to include it.

The support program applies when a person is eligible for the Common Experience Payment (CEP) or is receiving payments. As a result of a court decision, any person having attended an Indian residential school in Canada receives a certain sum of money in compensation for loss of culture and loss of a sense of community belonging. The application deadline for compensation under the CEP was set for September 2011.

In addition, the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) came to an end in 2012. Also arising from a court decision, the process allowed former residential school students to show in front of a group, that they suffered psychological, physical or sexual abuse. The support services were provided to former students and their families before, during and after the hearings.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation is also an integral part of the Agreement. Its funding ended in 2012 and its activities will be completed this year.

Four major events took place in Canada, prior to the major event to be held in Montreal. The first took place in Winnipeg and attracted a large number of former students and wide Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participation, including former teachers as well as church representatives. This was followed by the Inuvik event which mobilized residents of the Far North. Following that meeting, the education system decided to create secondary-level course on the history of residential schools and to make it a mandatory requirement for graduation. This consists of a major tangible impact of the Commission. The next meeting was held in Halifax. But the one that attracted the greatest participation was the meeting held in Saskatoon last summer.

The process proves difficult in Quebec because those affected have long kept their stories to themselves. The French-speaking First Nations did not follow the events that took place in other cities in Canada. But things are starting to change with the beginning of Commission hearings in various regions.

The Commission held a meeting in Sept-Îles, with two days devoted to public testimonies and two days to private testimonies. Some fifty persons participated in the event, but no church representatives or non-Aboriginal persons were present. The event gave rise to family reconciliations. Many children had been kept in ignorance of what their parents experienced in the residential schools. Support was provided to those who testified, mainly emotional and cultural support.

The second meeting was held in Val-d'Or and attracted about 150 persons, three-quarters being Aboriginal. But this time, church representatives and non-Aboriginals were present to hear the testimonies. Support was provided to the First Nations members, and also to church representatives and non-Aboriginal persons who were shocked by what they heard. The next meetings will be held in La Tuque and Chisasibi.

The residential schools created considerable division in families in Quebec. Second-generation and third-

generation children are surprised and are beginning to better understand that their parents brought back the teachings received in the residential schools, such as control and punishment, which are not part of First Nations tradition. Children are thus becoming closer to their parents so as to forgive them.

The Government of Canada is committed to maintaining the Health Support Program until March 31, 2015. Several organizations in Canada are seeking to implement similar support programs because five years are not always sufficient to erase the wounds of the past.

On the occasion of the Commission's passage in Montreal, about a hundred Aboriginal professionals will be available to provide support. Montreal was chosen, rather than Quebec City, because of the networking that can be relied on. In fact, participants are expected from across Quebec as well as the Maritimes and Ontario.

## **9. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Emmanuelle Wolff, from the Francophone sector of Scouts Canada, wished to announce that a world gathering will be held in August 2013 at the base camp located between Ottawa and Maniwaki. It will bring together 5,000 youth who are between the ages of 18 and 25 years and come from about a hundred countries.

Several hundred participants will be staying in Montreal for three days. The organization is seeking Aboriginal partners to allow them to experience a day of cultural immersion which will be followed by community service, for example, planting a garden, repairing or improving a building, facilitating a group of youth or any other activity proposed by the partners.

These activities are intended to be a sharing and discovery opportunity for both the Aboriginal community of Montreal and the participants from the five continents.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Odile invited Marie-Laure Simon to give the closing prayer. She thanked the participants and declared the meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 23, 2013**

**FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY**

**From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The family day brought together parents and children around cultural activities, creative workshops and various games.

Artists from various Nations gave performances which were highly appreciated, including: drumming, hoop dancing, dance and art workshops, etc.

Door prizes were distributed.

Mike Standup gave the opening and closing prayers.



Appendix 1

Attendance February 22, 2013

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
1	Achneepineskum	Norman	Buffalo Hat Singers
2	Amadou	Lamine	Individual Member
3	André	Anne-Maire	Individual Member
4	André	Dolorès	Urban service centre of Montreal at the FNHRDCQ
5	Angus	Kathleen	Correctional Service of Canada
6	Annoual	Pascale	Arts, Racines & Thérapies
7	Arnaud	Aurélie	Femmes autochtones du Québec (FAQ)
8	Audette	Michelle	Individual Member
9	Beaudet	Geneviève	Individual Member
10	Bérard	Rossel	NETWORK
11	Bergeron	Annie	Centres des femmes de Montréal
12	Boudreault	Valérie	Secretariat aux affaires autochtones
13	Branders	Amandine	Individual Member
14	Brazeau	Carole	National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
15	Buckell	Charles	Aboriginal Community Development Centre of Montreal
16	Buckell	Francine	First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec
17	Buckell	Geneviève	Innutelecom
18	Carroll	Andrea	RedWolf Community Strategies
19	Carroll	Cathy	Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
20	Cash	Ted	Individual Member
21	Chamichian	Ramélia	NETWORK
22	Charland	Justin	Buffalo Hat Singers
23	Chouinard	Carole	City of Montreal
24	Churchill	Molly	McGill University
25	Constantin	Louise	Centre St-Pierre
26	Cornez	Sylvie	Individual Member
27	Côté	Karl	Buffalo Hat Singers
28	Crane Marin	Brenda	Individual Member
29	Daponte	Sarah	Individual Member
30	Delaronde	Dakota	Individual Member

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
31	Drugge	Jeffrey	Health Canada
32	Eshkibok	Patricia	SPAQ
33	Forbes	Garnett	Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
34	Gadbois	Dolorès	Individual Member
35	Gareau	Jean-Marc	Individual Member
36	Gershuny	Sandy	World foundation for Prosperity and Autonomy
37	Gordon	John	Urban Aboriginal Strategy
38	Gosselin	Cindy	Statistics Canada
39	Gull	Alan	Individual Member
40	Harrilal	Lorraine	2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy
41	Hayohok	Judy	Individual Member
42	Heutte	Jack	Innutelecom
43	Inutik	Geronimo	Individual Member
44	Joannette	Odile	NETWORK Co-Chair
45	Lachapelle	Louise	Individual Member
46	Lacroix	Guy	City of Montreal

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
47	Langdeau- Parent	Emmanuelle	Correctional Service of Canada
48	Lebon	Julie	Individual Member
49	Legault	Louise	John Abbott College
50	Lumsden	Mélanie	Exeko
51	Mackarous	Karen	Urban Aboriginal Strategy
52	Martel	Michelle	Women's Centre of Montreal
53	Michaux	François- Xavier	Exeko
54	Mollen-Dupuis	Berenice	Ka Mamukanit Project
55	Mollen-Dupuis	Melissa	Quebec Native Women
56	Morin	Kayla	Concordia University
57	Mulucto	Malaya	Individual Member
58	Nauya	Louise	Individual Member
59	Nelson	Thelma	First Nations & Inuit Suicide Prevention Association of Quebec and Labrador
60	Normandin	Tealey	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
61	Perreault	Marc	Individual Member
62	Picard	Claude	APNQL

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
63	Pineau	Brett	Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
64	Raharolahy	Gérard	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
65	Raymond	Normand	Buffalo Hat Singers
66	Reid	Allison	NETWORK
67	Saindon	Marc	NETWORK
68	Samoisette	Gilles	Innutelecom
69	Sifu	Gabrielle	ACCIKL
70	Simon	France	Centre Wampum
71	Simon	Marie-Laure	Centre Wampum
72	St-Amour	Louise	Statistics Canada
73	St-Laurent	Danielle	Correctional Service of Canada
74	Topping	Lucie	Centre Wampum
75	traducteur	Mireille Caron	Innutelecom
76	traducteur	Pierre Messier	Innutelecom
77	Trozzo	Sophia	Concordia University
78	Voyer	Élise	Equitas

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
79	Watson	Bailey	Individual Member
80	Watt	Robert	Individual Member
81		Nakuset	NETWORK Co-Chair

Attendance February 23, 2013

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
1	Achneepineskum	Norman	Buffalo Hat Singers
2	Brazeau	Carole	National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence
3	Charland	Justin	Buffalo Hat Singers
4	Cornez	Sylvie	Individual Member
5	Coté	Karl	Individual Member
6	Diabo	Barbara	Children in movement
7	Gagnon	Emma	Buffalo Hat Singers
8	Grey	Janice	Individual Member
9	Lacroix	Guy	City of Montreal
10	Legault	Phillipe	Individual Member

No.	Nom    Name	Prénom    First name	Organization
11	Neill	Diana	McGill University
12	Phillips	Alana-Dawn	CPE Rising Sun
13	Pierre	Linda	Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal
14	Raymond	Normand	Buffalo Hat Singers
15	Saindon	Marc	NETWORK
16	Standup	Mike	Elder
17	St-Laurent	Danielle	Correctional Service of Canada
18	Tellier	Kristina	Individual Member
19	Watt	Robert	Individual Member
20		Dakota	Individual Member
21		Nakuset	NETWORK Co-Chair

Attendance Children February 23, 2013

No.	Prénom    First name	Age
1	Danika	17
2	Diana Neill (Logan)	
3	Diana Neill (Tristen)	
4	Emily	
5	Eva-Bella	6
6	Kisten	6
7	Loic	
8	Makisses	3
9	Malik	
10	Sandrine	9