

NETWORK SPRING GATHERING REPORT

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

**Université du Québec à Montréal Cœur des sciences
200 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal**

ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 31, 2013



ATTENDANCE

See the list of participants in the appendix.

AGENDA

Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer with Jacob Partridge

Songs of Welcome by the *Buffalo Hat Singers* Drum Group

1. Adoption of the Agenda and of the Winter Gathering Report
2. Steering Committee Update:
 - Presentation of the Strategic Plan 2012-2017 Modifications, Financial Report 2012-2013 and Forecasted Budget 2013-2014
3. Highlights of the NETWORK's Accomplishments and Action Plans
4. Update from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS)
5. Community Announcements

Throat-Singing by Taqralik Partridge and Nina Segalowitz

Closing Prayer with Jacob Partridge

JUNE 12, 2013

WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER WITH JACOB PARTRIDGE

The Co-Chair, Nakuset, welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open at 9:15 a.m. and invited Jacob Partridge to deliver the opening prayer.

SONGS OF WELCOME BY THE BUFFALO HAT SINGERS DRUM GROUP

The Buffalo Hat Singers drum group launched the XIVth Gathering of the NETWORK with their songs.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OF THE WINTER GATHERING REPORT OF FEBRUARY 22-23, 2013**

Nakuset read the tentative agenda for today's meeting.

She stated that the presentation on the Strategic Plan modifications will be postponed to the next Gathering as the document could not be ready on time because of computer problems. The members will receive the revised document by email as soon as it is available.

A participant asked whether these various items should not be approved by the Assembly. Nakuset replied that certain items on the agenda such as the report of the last Gathering, the financial report and the budget forecast must be approved during the meeting.

Resolution 2013-06-12/01

It was moved by Alana-Dawn Phillips and seconded by Carole Brazeau:
THAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS MODIFIED.

Adopted.

Nakuset asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the report of the last Gathering held in February 2013 (found in the meeting documentation package).

Allison Reid proposed a few changes to the "homelessness" item in connection to the Social Services Working Committee, on pages 9 and 10 in the English version:

- Page 9, second last paragraph, first line, she proposed: "the subcommittee evaluated the possibility of an initiative (instead of "implemented an initiative"). This would translate into French as: "le sous-comité a évalué la possibilité d'une initiative..." instead of "le comité a mis en place une initiative";
- Page 10, 1st paragraph, second line, she proposed that the term "etcetera" be replaced by: "service providers, the general public, and the vulnerable population that visits the Square"; this would translate into French as: "les fournisseurs de service, la population en général et la population vulnérable qui fréquente le square Cabot".

Resolution 2013-06-12/02

It was moved by Sylvie Cornez and seconded by France Simon:
THAT THE REPORT OF THE WINTER GATHERING HELD ON FEBRUARY 22-23, 2013 BE ADOPTED AS MODIFIED.

Adopted.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Nakuset reminded the participants that the presentation regarding the changes to the Strategic Plan is postponed to the next Gathering. She asked the Coordinator, Natasha Latter, to present *Financial Report 2012-2013* and *Budget 2013-2014*.

Natasha introduced herself. Natasha is Cree; her mother comes from northern Saskatchewan and Natasha grew up in Calgary, Alberta. She arrived in Montreal in 2004 and studied at McGill University. She worked in human resources at McGill to promote diversity in recruitment. She is replacing the Coordinator, Ramélia Chamichian, who is on maternity leave. She started in this position three months

ago and will continue until March 2014. She invited the members to contact her for any information they may need.

Presentation of Financial Report 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 financial report was presented on two pages, the first page shows the overall picture of the NETWORK's budget and the second page shows the overall budget, but broken down by NETWORK funders.

The first page (where the first line of the first column entitled "Forecasted Expenses") is divided into two columns: planned expenditures and actual expenditures at March 31, 2013 for all the NETWORK's activities. The table consists of three blocks: the first one shows the human resource expenditures, which are the costs related to the coordination of the NETWORK; the second block shows the operations expenditures and the third block shows the breakdown of revenues in grants provided by the four funders:

- AANDC: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- SAA: *Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones*
- AFNQL/FNHRDCQ: Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador and the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec
- City of Montreal

It was noted that the actual expenditures amount to \$132,207.23 while the budget was of \$154,675.00. There is thus an unspent balance of \$22,467.32 which is explained on the second page.

The second page (both sides) contains the same information and provides a detailed description of the initial budgets and the updated budgets (expenses incurred) for each of the funders. It was noted that on the budget of the *Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones*, there is an unspent balance of \$16,634.97. From this amount, \$6,056.61 will be spent before mid-July 2013 on the activities of two (2) Working Committees. The remaining amount of \$10,578.36 will be carried forward to the 2013-2014 budget (see the note at the bottom of the page).

It was also noted that in relation to the FNHRDCQ funds (CDRHPNQ in French), there is an unspent balance of \$5,832.35, of which \$2,800.00 will be used for the NETWORK's website, \$1,338.64 for the translation of the annual report, and the remaining amount for the Social Services Working Committee and the Health Working Committee (see the note in the middle of the reverse side of the page).

Resolution 2013-06-12/03

It was moved by Paige Isaac and seconded by Alana-Dawn Phillips:
THAT THE 2012-2013 FINANCIAL REPORT BE ADOPTED.

Adopted.

Presentation of Forecast Budget 2013-2014

Natasha explained that the forecasted budget is presented in the same manner as the financial report: the first page shows the overall budget of the NETWORK categorized into three blocks: human resources expenditures, operations expenditures and anticipated revenues.

The following page (reverse side) shows the financial structure of the NETWORK, which is the budget projected per funder.

The table also shows the commitments that have been confirmed, namely an amount of \$33,639.00 from AANDC for human resources, and \$35,832.35 from the FNHRDCQ for operations expenses. Natasha pointed out that the City of Montreal also provides in-kind support, such as the availability of office space, in addition to the financial contribution of \$18,000.00 (yet to be confirmed).

The total budget for 2013-2014 is \$246,037.00 of which a sum of \$69,471.35 has been confirmed, and of which an amount of \$16,634.97 comes from the 2012-2013 budget surplus.

Questions and Comments

Alana-Dawn inquired as to why the translation budget is higher this year than last year and if the projected amount of \$2,800.00 for the website is the amount left to be spent this year and which is carried forward to next year. Natasha replied that since she is not fully bilingual in written communication, she will require more translation services. She added that the sum of \$2,800.00 indeed comes from the unspent budget for the website in 2012-2013. Nakuset explained that the updating of the website was not carried out as planned last year, but this will be done as soon as possible.

Alana-Dawn inquired as to whom are the funders referred to as "others" in the 2013-2014 budget for an amount of \$30,000.00; she also pointed out that a significant amount of the funding has not yet been confirmed. Natasha replied that it was the Treasurer who prepared the budget, and unfortunately, she was unable to attend the meeting today. These questions will be raised at the next Steering Committee meeting. Nakuset invited Alana-Dawn to attend the next Steering Committee as Alternate since she herself will not be able to attend.

Resolution 2013-06-12/04

It was moved by Genevieve Beaudin and seconded by Paige Isaac:
THAT THE 2013-2014 BUDGET BE ADOPTED.

Adopted.

Nakuset thanked Natasha for the presentation and congratulated her for the good work after only three months as Coordinator.

Information on WAPIKONI MOBILE and ODENA Initiatives

Nakuset invited representatives of the two **WAPIKONI MOBILE and ODENA** initiatives to present an overview of the initiatives as well as the progress made.

WAPIKONI MOBILE

An update on the activities of WAPIKONI MOBILE was presented by Karine Gravel and Mylène Guay as Manon Barbeau was not available today.

Despite the announced budget cuts, Wapikoni mobile is still very much alive. Its tenth anniversary will be celebrated in 2014. For the two trailers, more than one hundred activities take place each year in the Lac-Simon and Listuguj regions. To date, more than 2500 youth have participated in the activities and more than 550 films have been produced. In addition to filmmaking, Wapikoni mobile puts forth original Aboriginal music and offers video-clip recording and production services – Karine also invited the Buffalo Hat Singers drum group to join in.

She mentioned the importance of broadcasting the productions of Aboriginal music and film creators, within the communities as well as outside the communities. This helps to build bridges between the communities. The idea of bridges between Aboriginal communities is also being pursued between Aboriginal communities in other provinces (for example, in British Columbia) and even in other countries, such as Bolivia, Peru, Chile and Panama. There is, for example, an exchange project between the Mapuche of Chile and the Attikamek of Manawan.

Wapikoni mobile will be making a second stopover in Montreal this summer between July 7th and August 26th and will be located next to its offices (400 Atlantic St.). Last year, Wapikoni mobile was set up in Old Montreal, thanks to the support of the team involved in the 11 Nations Exhibition at the Bonsecours Market.

Karine and Mylène requested the support of the NETWORK members to disseminate information about the project and to invite Aboriginal youth between the ages of 15 and 30 to come forward to participate – it's free!

For her part, Mylène just arrived from New York where she was part of a Wapikoni mobile delegation that attended a meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – held from May 20th to May 31st, 2013 at the United Nations headquarters. The delegation took advantage of the event to encourage young Aboriginal filmmakers/directors in the world to become part of the network.

ODENA

Rolando Labrana is a research officer for the DIALOG Network – a research network relating to Aboriginal peoples. Rolando already had the opportunity to present the ODENA project (a joint initiative of the DIALOG Network and the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec*) to the NETWORK.

The ODENA project, which aims to produce an overall picture of the urban Aboriginal people of Quebec, is in its fourth year of research. The project included a wide survey, through interviews and questionnaires, among Aboriginal people living in certain towns and cities of Quebec, including Quebec City, Trois-Rivières, Val-d'Or, Senneterre, Sept-Îles, Chibougamau and Montreal.

For the past year and a half, ODENA has been touring the Friendship Centres of the cities involved and has been interviewing Aboriginal people who reside in these cities in order to better understand the challenges of living in urban areas. The survey aims to cover 1000 persons, of which 650 have already been reached. The survey interviewers have now been in Montreal for two (2) or three (3) months and should be completing the surveys in November 2013. All data collection related to the project should be completed in December 2013, before moving on to the analysis stage for the last year of the project.

Rolando invited Aboriginal people aged 18 and over to come and answer questions about their life in the

city, the adaptation and the challenges. He left his contact information on-site and said he is very available for meetings at their office or coffee shops or elsewhere.

NETWORKING BREAK

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NETWORK'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTION PLANS

Nakuset invited the Working Committees to present the highlights of their respective accomplishments. There will be no presentation from the ART•CULTURE Working Committee.

❖ Health Working Committee

Suzanne Stephenson has been serving on the Health Working Committee since November 2011. She is also Liaison Officer for the Saint Elizabeth First Nations, Inuit and Métis Program, a network for the exchange and sharing of information between Aboriginal community health care workers. It is a pan-Canadian network that works mainly online.

Suzanne mentioned the involvement of the Health Working Committee in the national event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was held in Montreal, for the province of Quebec, from May 24th to May 29th, 2013. During the event, the Health Working Committee organized sweat lodges at the Botanical Gardens, up to four (4) times a day throughout the event, for survivors, healers, volunteers and other participants. Forty-seven persons participated in the 15 ceremonies that took place during these few days. The initiative helped to raise awareness about these ceremonies and it is hoped that it will open doors to a better understanding about the benefits of these ceremonies and greater access for Aboriginal people to this type of initiative.

The *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)* approached the NETWORK's Health Working Committee for the implementation of an Aboriginal health clinic in Montreal. Two clinics of this type already exist, one in Val-d'Or – Minowé – and the other in La Tuque. The Health Working Committee is continuing to study the feasibility of a holistic health clinic in Montreal. Suzanne reminded the participants that it is a complex project and that the funders are asking for the organizational aspect to be strong and experienced in the implementation of such a project.

In terms of partnerships with universities, Suzanne mentioned the agreement with Dr. Syd Miller of Concordia University as part of a study on stress and cardiovascular diseases among Aboriginal people.

The Health Working Committee also submitted a conference proposal for the Annual Conference of the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA) which brings together all types of health care professionals in order to address issues related to drug abuse. If the proposal is accepted, Chantal Robillard and Carrie Martin will attend the conference that will be held in Bethesda, Maryland in November 2013.

The Health Working Committee, in collaboration with the health interest group of the *Université de Montréal*, is also involved in the development of training content related to cultural competency and safety, intended for the Ste-Justine Hospital staff. This training aims to help the staff to gain a better understanding of Aboriginal people and to provide them better services in terms of health care.

Finally, the Committee hopes to conduct a fundraising event in order to fund its activities, but to also raise public awareness about the Committee and about Aboriginal health issues.

Questions

Alana-Dawn wished to know what is meant by *strong and experienced organization is required* with regard to the clinic project.

Pascale Annoual replied that this pertains to the criteria that must be met in order to obtain the necessary authorization to manage a clinic of this nature, which includes the ability to demonstrate solid experience in managing projects of this type as well as financial stability and capacity – which is not the case for the Committee. The Committee would doubtlessly have to join up with another organization in order to obtain its support, as was the case for the funding of the sweat lodges. The Committee will also need to hire an employee as coordinator, since they are all volunteers. It will also need a space for the clinic. They “tested the waters” with the City of Montreal, but health facilities are not part of its responsibilities. In 2013-2014, the Committee’s priority will be to find a location for the clinic. Suzanne added that a meeting will be held during the summer with the persons in charge of the Minowé Clinic de Val-d’Or in order to learn more about their experience.

A participant asked if any partnerships have been established with universities for the clinic.

Suzanne reminded him of the partnership with the *Université de Montréal* and she also mentioned that they are in contact with Dr. Stanley Vollant, a surgeon at the Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal (CHUM). She concluded by saying that the Health Working Committee, in the same manner as the other NETWORK Working Committees, does not aim to accomplish everything alone but, rather, seeks to expand its collaboration with other stakeholders in order to achieve its objectives.

❖ Social Services Working Committee

Nakuset pointed out that this is a very large committee composed of three (3) sub-committees: social services (youth protection), justice and homelessness. The Justice Sub-Committee currently has two projects underway, thus, there will be two separate presentations on these projects.

Social Services Sub-Committee (for Youth Protection)

Nakuset mentioned that the Sub-Committee is currently working to develop content for trainings for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals that aim to raise awareness about cultural realities. They will be holding a meeting in Ottawa this fall with persons in charge of the Inuit Children’s Centre in order to learn more about their practices. Sub-Committee members will also be participating in a one-day training session of this type at Tungasuvvingat Inuit. The development of such trainings will be a long process. Nakuset was pleased to announce that new members are joining the Sub-Committee: Gina Metallic and Elizabeth Fast.

Justice Sub-Committee

Justpeace Project

Andrea Carroll presented an update on the Justpeace project. She reminded the participants that the objective of the project is to implement legal aid services for Aboriginals, with the involvement of the communities. The three members of the Committee worked almost full-time during the past few months to ensure the advancement of the file. They collaborated with the justice community groups in Aboriginal communities located in various areas, since this type of initiative does not exist in Montreal.

The Committee recently finalized an extensive consultation with actors in the field of justice: judges, lawyers, Aboriginal staff in the courts, social workers, etc. The consultation revealed that the legal

community has a real desire to collaborate in this type of initiative to promote access to justice and to develop specific services for Aboriginals, but there are many obstacles to overcome.

The Committee also met with the Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto. It is a very dynamic group that has been in operation for 20 years and has developed a range of services, with the elders and the youth, and has also built a network of volunteers. They were welcomed with open arms and were able to exchange best practices. They were very impressed with the Toronto network, but Andrea pointed out that it has been in existence for many years, while the NETWORK is still in its early stages. It is necessary to take the time to prepare, because the funders are demanding, which is normal for such an important activity.

The Committee expects to submit a report on the preparation phase within the next two weeks, and is currently developing an important funding request for the next steps, in collaboration with the Cabot Square project.

Cabot Square Project

Allison Reid presented a report on the progress of this project that aimed to develop a concerted strategy for improved safety at Cabot Square. This six-month project was launched in January 2013. The project worked in collaboration with all stakeholders involved in the sector, social workers, shelters, day centres, etc.

Since January 2013, the project first identified the needs of vulnerable populations (through surveys conducted among 35 individuals); it developed a detailed map of the various services provided by the *Centre local de services communautaires (CLSC)*, community centres, shelters, and other institutions (more than thirty organizations). The project also met with the general public in order to inform them of its work and to hear their concerns.

In May 2013, the project organized a first meeting with stakeholders in the field, government representatives and other institutions in order to present the findings of the research and an outline of the three-tier strategy (simple, intermediate and complex) for the purpose of discussion. A second meeting will be held next week to further explore the solutions on the table and to finalize the strategy. It should be completed by mid-July 2013, and the Committee is seeking funding to enable the implementation of the strategy in the short and medium term.

The project will also hold a first meeting with the community sector to find solutions to problems relating to co-existence between the residents and Aboriginal people – to address the issue of residents feeling unsafe. Allison pointed out that Cabot Square will be closed next year for renovation and the challenges due to the closure will have to be examined.

She emphasized that the project also conducted research in order to analyze best practices in terms of strategies for the safety of Aboriginal people in public spaces, including examples of Vancouver and Toronto, as well as a review of literature from the research departments of universities and agencies in Montreal.

The project partners include the City of Montreal via the Ville-Marie borough, the YMCA, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, and others.

Questions

A participant inquired as to when the activities will begin. Will there be an information booth or something similar?

Allison reminded the participants that the project aimed to establish a strategy to respond to the problem related to safety in the Square. Following the strategy proposal, funding will have to be sought for the short, medium and long-term solutions.

Homelessness Sub-Committee

Sylvie Cornez is the Chair of the Sub-Committee and she is also a consultant for Makivik Corporation.

Sylvie recapped the four (4) priorities of the Sub-Committee's action plan:

- Sharing of information between the various committees, partners, research organizations working on the issue of homelessness, as well as the Cabot Square project;
- Identification of the needs of vulnerable populations and the production of a chart indicating the services already offered to this clientele – with the development of a resource guide;
- Identification of projects that will help meet the needs identified – for example, the recent implementation of a “respite/sobering up centre” by the City of Montreal (which seems to respond to the needs, since it is always full);
- Prevention, through training tools and cultural activities at Cabot Square to promote and celebrate Aboriginal culture.

At each of its meetings, the Sub-Committee brings together between 15 and 20 partners who are involved in the file, and invites researchers who have studied the subject to attend the meeting to present their findings.

To conclude this section on the Social Services Working Committee, Nakuset mentioned that the Social Services Working Committee has prepared a table that provides all the necessary information to recruit foster families for children who need protection. The Committee members distributed this information at the Kahnawake Pow Wow and the Land InSights First Peoples' Festival, and will also distribute the information at McGill University's Pow Wow. It also distributes the information manual for adoptive parents.

❖ Employability-Training-Education (ETE) Working Committee

Paige Isaac introduced herself, she is Mi'gmaq from Listuguj. She is Coordinator at the First Peoples' House at McGill University, and is also the Representative of the Employability-Training-Education Working Committee.

She said that the Committee's objective is to allow Aboriginal people to achieve their aspirations in terms of basic education and employment. She mentioned that the Committee meets once a month at the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ) at Phillips Square.

As in the case of the NETWORK's comprehensive strategic plan, the Committee's strategic planning document was unfortunately lost due to the computer problems experienced by the NETWORK, and the document is currently being rebuilt. The Committee has two main priorities: improve the services provided to Aboriginals in employment/training/education, and identify the service providers who offer this type of services to Aboriginals.

She stressed the importance, for example, of language courses for better labour market integration of Aboriginal people. The Committee is seeking to increase participation in language courses and to find new partners to give the courses.

The Committee is currently preparing funding applications for the next MAMU event, a major job fair which was already held three times. Last year, the MAMU job fair was held in this very same hall. There were many partners offering employment and training services, more than a hundred participants, as well as music. The Committee will be hiring a person in December 2013 to ensure the preparation of the next edition that will be held in March 2014.

She also mentioned that the Montreal Aboriginal Reference Guide was updated, an important reference tool for newcomers to Montreal. Several copies are available on-site, and it can also be accessed online through the NETWORK's website.

She thanked the Committee members for their commitment and invited the participants to visit their Facebook page. The Committee is still seeking members as well as partners who are available to work on these issues.

Ka Mamukanit Project

Marjolaine Thernish is an Innu from Maliotenam. She is the project manager of the Ka Mamukanit Project, a socio-professional integration project for Aboriginal youth.

Marjolaine mentioned that the project welcomed its fourth cohort last March, and that the integration component will be starting on September 2nd, 2013. To date, 60 youth living in Montreal have benefited from this initiative.

The idea of the project took root in 2009 at a meeting with representatives of the City of Montreal, the *Collectif des entreprises d'insertion*, Service Canada and the Montreal Urban Service Centre. A committee of funders was established, and the first funds were secured in 2011. The first cohort of youth started in August 2011. The overall objective of the Ka Mamukanit project (which means "Building Together!") is employment integration and support for urban Aboriginal youth. The project aims to help youth cope with the difficulties they face in order to integrate employment or an educational program; improve their pre-employability, and develop their skills.

The project includes two (2) components: the pre-pathway and the integration component. The pre-pathway is a 24-week session (including a four-week exploratory internship) to ensure the development of basic skills. This session includes activities relating to labour market information with professionals; self-awareness and social and personal development, cultural identity, networking, cultural renewal in terms of Aboriginal spirituality, etc. The length of the integration session is from 12 to 26 weeks. Depending on the case, at that time, the youth are either employed, have returned to school or are in need of other services or resources.

The criteria for participation are to be Aboriginal, be between 16 and 35 years of age, have little or no work experience, be unemployed, have not completed college-level studies, be a single parent, be homeless, etc. The participants grew up in Montreal or have recently arrived in the city in order to improve their lives. They come from communities across Canada.

The cohorts are made up of groups of 15 individuals. Out of the three previous cohorts (a total of 45 individuals), 41 completed the first component. Among those, 25 found a job, three (3) are self-employed, nine (9) returned to school and four (4) are unemployed.

Many employers of various types have enthusiastically teamed up with the project, such as TAZ, CKUT at Concordia, the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal Inc., Portage, the Royal Bank, etc.

Recently, new training partners were added, Wapikoni mobile for video-editing, Ex-Aequo Idée Action,

TOHU, Quebec Native Women Inc., ÉQUITAS, First Nations Youth Network, Native Para-Judicial Services of Quebec, Women's Centre of Montreal, etc.

Marjolaine underlined the presence in the hall of a few participants of the current cohort, including Emmanuelle Kopalie-Soucy, an Inuit from Iqaluit, who gave a brief testimonial. She said it was difficult for her to adapt to life in Montreal as an Aboriginal – the future seemed blocked. Her aunt gave her some information about the program and she registered. The program allowed her to practice her French and to gain computer skills. She will soon be participating in the *TOHU* program with people of different nationalities to exchange with other cultures. She learned to set a goal and to try to pursue it and to better understand the Montreal environment. She hopes that her participation in Ka Mamukanit will help her in terms of the future.

Questions

A person expressed surprise in that *Emploi-Québec* is not among the partners.

Marjolaine replied that even if it was not mentioned in her presentation, *Emploi-Québec* is closely involved in the project and provides ongoing support to the project team.

A person wished to know what will happen after the fourth cohort.

Marjolaine replied that a funding request has been submitted and they are awaiting a response. This project is not permanent, it was intended as a pilot project, and thus, is always seeking funding and must demonstrate results.

❖ Communications Working Committee

Carole Brazeau is the new Representative of the Working Committee since the last Gathering. She mentioned that the Communications Working Committee has developed and/or reviewed its policies and procedures. She is pleased to announce that today she recruited a new person, Evelyne Wabanonik-Paradis, as Alternate. A Communications Officer should be hired soon; the position will be announced within the NETWORK.

Carole said that the newsletter is published each month and that the deadline for submitting information is the 20th of each month.

Nakuset thanked the Working Committees and invited the participants to have lunch.

4. UPDATE FROM ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA (AANDC) AND THE URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY (UAS)

Alana-Dawn replaced Nakuset who had to leave the meeting – she invited Gérard Raharolahy to present the update on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS).

Gérard works at the Quebec regional office of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada . He reminded the participants that last February 2012, Gordon announced the dissolution of the Office of the Federal Interlocutor in Ottawa and the transfer of activities to the regional office in Quebec City. The transition from Ottawa to Quebec is going well, and they are still in a period of familiarizing themselves

with the UAS and the various networks. The Regional Office works with the Montreal NETWORK, but also with other urban Aboriginal partners, including Native Friendship Centres in Quebec and Quebec Native Women Inc. that also operate in urban areas.

At the last Gathering, Gordon announced that the Department wished to undertake a consultation with its Aboriginal partners to renew the Department's strategy which dates back to 1997. In addition, the transfer of three programs from Canadian Heritage to various other departments in 2012 makes it even more necessary to harmonize the actions.

They will soon be starting the consultations or engagement sessions with the NETWORK. In fact, they wished to undertake this discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for next week, but he learned that it may be cancelled. He will send the basic consultation documents to Natasha for distribution among the members.

The Regional Office wants to take every opportunity to meet with its partners in order to better understand the issues and to develop an approach in Quebec – as localized as possible for its relations with urban Aboriginals. Montreal is an important city they are aware of this, but there are Aboriginal people in other cities and this must be taken into account.

The Regional Office will maintain relations with representatives of other federal departments involved in Quebec: the departments of Justice, Skills Development Canada, Economic Development Canada, Public Safety, as well as with colleagues of relevant Quebec departments in order to work in a more concerted and harmonized manner.

Community Announcements

- Gustavo announced that a grand Aboriginal festive march *Idle No More: Let's celebrate together!* will take place on June 21st, 2013 starting at Place Jacques Cartier in Montreal at 1:00 p.m.
- Paige Isaac of the First Peoples' House of McGill University announced that a Pow Wow will be held at McGill University on September 20, 2013 and that the Aboriginal Awareness Week will take place from September 23-27, 2013.
- It was noted that the annual general meeting of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal is being held today, June 12, 2013, at the Nouvel Hotel.
- It was also noted that National Aboriginal Day events will take place in Montreal on June 20, 2013.

Performance by two (2) Aboriginal singers, Anik Sioui and Emilie Monnet, the meeting interpreters, who are also members of *Odaya*, a group of 5 Aboriginal women of various origins who live in Montreal.

Jacob Partridge told of the defining moments of his life and of aspects of his vision of the world.

Performance by throat-singers, Taqralik Partridge and Nina Segalowitz.

CLOSING PRAYER BY JACOB PARTRIDGE

On behalf of Nakuset who had to leave the meeting, Alana-Dawn thanked the participants and declared the meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.

| No. | Nom Name | Prénom First name | Organization |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Achneepineskum | Norman | Buffalo Hat Singers |
| 2 | Alashuak | Annie | Ka Mamukanit |
| 3 | Annoual | Pascale | Arts, Racines & Thérapies |
| 4 | Barnes | René | Batshaw |
| 5 | Barrera | Fredy | City of Montreal |
| 6 | Barudin | Jessica | McGill University School of Physical Therapy |
| 7 | Beudet | Geneviève | Individual Member |
| 8 | Boudreault | Valérie | Secrétariat aux affaires Autochtones |
| 9 | Bourdages Jérôme | Alexandra | Women's Centre of Montreal |
| 10 | Bourque | Lynn | CPE Rising Sun |
| 11 | Brazeau | Carole | Communications Working Committee |
| 12 | Cajelait | Marcel | City of Montreal |
| 13 | Carrol | Andréa | Individual Member |
| 14 | Carroll | Cathy | Batshaw |
| 15 | Cash | Ted | Individual Member |

| No. | Nom Name | Prénom First name | Organization |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 16 | Cheezo | Fred | Buffalo Hat Singers |
| 17 | Chiasson | Stephanie | |
| 18 | Coonishish | Eleanor | Ka Mamukanit |
| 19 | Cornez | Sylvie | Makivik Corporation Representative |
| 20 | Côté | Eric | Buffalo Hat Singers |
| 21 | Cunningham | Julie | Université de Montréal |
| 22 | Doucet | Albertine | Tutor (English-French) |
| 23 | Drugge | Jeffrey | Ka Mamukanit |
| 24 | Dumoulin | Vincent | Ka Mamukanit |
| 25 | Fast | Elizabeth | McGill University |
| 26 | Fraeze | Jeremy | End Poverty Now |
| 27 | Gobeil | Danielle | Centre St-Pierre |
| 28 | Gosselin | Cindy | Statistics Canada |
| 29 | Gravel | Karine | Wapikoni Mobile |
| 30 | Guay | Mylène | Wapikoni Mobile |
| 31 | Harrilal | Lorraine | 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy |

| No. | Nom Name | Prénom First name | Organization |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| 32 | Huang | Cindy | End Poverty Now |
| 33 | Isaac | Paige | Employability-Training-Education Working Committee |
| 34 | Kopalié-Soucy | Emmanuelle | Ka Mamukanit |
| 35 | Labrana | Rolando | Dialog (INRS) |
| 36 | Lacroix | Guy | City of Montreal |
| 37 | Lafferty | Lois | Ka Mamukanit |
| 38 | Langlois-Côté | Andréanne | Individual Member |
| 39 | Latter | Natasha | NETWORK |
| 40 | Lennon | Emily | Native Friendship Centre of Montreal |
| 41 | Lépine | Julien | Secrétariat aux affaires Autochtones |
| 42 | Logan | Carley | Ka Mamukanit |
| 43 | Martel | Bianca | Ka Mamukanit |
| 44 | Mollen-Dupuis | Berenice | Ka Mamukanit |
| 45 | Monet | Emily | Innutelecom |
| 46 | Moushoom | Roger Junior | Ka Mamukanit |
| 47 | Nauya | Simiuni | Ka Mamukanit |

| No. | Nom Name | Prénom First name | Organization |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| 48 | Neault | Hubert | Vocational Training Centre for Aboriginals in Construction Trades |
| 49 | Neill | Diana | Individual Member |
| 50 | Normandin | Tealey | Native Women's Shelter of Montreal |
| 51 | Nutton | Jennifer | Centre for Research on Children and Families |
| 52 | Oscar | Schenley | Ka Mamukanit |
| 53 | Partridge | Imaapik | Elder |
| 54 | Partridge | Taqralik | Throat singer |
| 55 | Perreault | Marc | Individual Member |
| 56 | Perry | Joseph Michael | Ka Mamukanit |
| 57 | Phillips | Alana-Dawn | Social Services Working Committee |
| 58 | Potts | Ruth | Batshaw |
| 59 | Pouliot | Eric | Cercle des Premières Nations UQAM |
| 60 | Raharolahy | Gérard | Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada |
| 61 | Raymond | Normand | Buffalo Hat Singers |
| 62 | Reid | Allison | NETWORK |
| 63 | Rixhon | Anne | Cercle Premieres Nations UQAM |

| No. | Nom Name | Prénom First name | Organization |
|-----|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 64 | Samoisette | Gilles | Innutelecom |
| 65 | Segalowitz | Nina | Throat singer |
| 66 | Shearer | Jennifer | Native Women's Shelter of Montreal |
| 67 | Simon | France | Centre Wampum |
| 68 | Simon | Marie-Laure | Centre Wampum |
| 69 | Sioui | Anik | Innutelecom |
| 70 | Standup | Mike | Elder |
| 71 | Stephenson | Suzanne | Health Working Committee |
| 72 | Thernisj | Marjolaine | Ka Mamukanit |
| 73 | Topping | Lucie | Centre Wampum |
| 74 | Trari | Mustapha | City of Montreal |
| 75 | Verret | Brigitte | Centre Wampum |
| 76 | Vidal Arispé | Felipe | Buffalo Hat Singers |
| 77 | Wabanonik Paradis | Evelyne | Ka Mamukanit |
| 78 | White | Leah | Ka Mamukanit |
| 79 | Zamora | Gustavo | UQAM |

| No. | Nom Name | Prénom First name | Organization |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 80 | | Nakuset | NETWORK Co-Chair |