



**NETWORK FESTIVE GATHERING REPORT  
ABORIGINAL ARTS FAIR**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2014**

**EVO Hotel**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor — Ambassador C  
420 Sherbrooke St. W.**

**ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 27, 2015**



## ATTENDANCE

See attached list of participants.

## AGENDA

1. Word of Welcome and Opening Prayer with Delbert Sampson
2. Songs of Welcome by the *Buffalo Hat Singers* Drumming Group
3. Adoption of the Agenda and of the Gathering Report of February 24, 2014
4. Presentation and Adoption of the New Version of the Terms of Reference
- NETWORKING BREAK – ABORIGINAL ARTS FAIR
5. Presentation by the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)* – Community Strategic Planning
6. Steering Committee Recommendations Regarding the NETWORK's Participation in the Community Strategic Planning Process under the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) and Composition of the Committee
7. Interactive activity: Collective Reflections on Courses of Action to be Prioritized
8. DestiNATIONS Presentation and Consultation
9. NETWORK Working Committees Presentation
10. NETWORK Steering Committee Update: Financial Statements 2013-2014; Budget 2014-2015; Consultation for the Next Gathering; Announcement of Next Elections
11. Community Announcements
12. Closing Prayer with Delbert Sampson
13. Closing of the Gathering

---

### 1. WORD OF WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER WITH DELBERT SAMPSON

Nakuset, Co-Chair, declared the Gathering open at 9:30 a.m.; she stated that it is the 17<sup>th</sup> Gathering.

She mentioned the Arts Fair that will be held at 10:20 a.m.

She invited Mr. Delbert Sampson of the Shuswap Nation of British Columbia to deliver the opening prayer.

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

Nakuset invited the members of the *Buffalo Hat Singers* drumming group to give a performance.

Ramélia congratulated Nakuset, the Co-Chair, who was named the "2014 Woman of the Year".

### 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE GATHERING REPORT OF FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Nakuset read the proposed agenda.

**Resolution 2014-12-09/01**

It was moved by Alana-Dawn Phillips and seconded by Paige Isaac:  
THAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA BE ADOPTED.  
Adopted by consensus.

Nakuset asked if there were any corrections or changes to be brought to the report of February 24, 2014.  
There were none.

**Resolution 2014-12-09/02**

It was moved by Tina Lee and seconded by Alana Boileau:  
THAT THE GATHERING REPORT OF FEBRUARY 24, 2014 BE ADOPTED.  
Adopted by consensus.

### 4. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE NEW VERSION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The new version is found in the kits provided to members. The amendments are indicated in red.

**Questions and comments**

At the request of a participant, Ramélia Chamichian explained the amendments and the purpose of the amendments.

On page 5, regarding the decision-making process, all members previously had decision-making authority and they were taken into account in the establishment of the quorum. But the governments expressed the wish to be considered observers.

On page 8, the Coordinator position was better defined by adding a job description.

On page 10, under "Committee Process" on the determination of quorum, Paige Isaac requested that the "two (2) other representatives of the other categories" be clarified and that it be specified that they consist of Aboriginal organizations' representatives, namely the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) and Makivik.

A correction in the appendix was requested with regard to the name "Education and Employability Circle" (reverse the terms), in both the French and English versions.

**Resolution 2014-12-09/03**

It was moved by Rachel Deutsch and seconded by Lynn Bourque:  
THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED, INCLUDING THE CLARIFICATION BROUGHT TO THE "COMMITTEE PROCESS" SECTION AS WELL AS THE CORRECTION MADE IN THE APPENDIX.  
Adopted by consensus.

## NETWORKING BREAK – ABORIGINAL ARTS FAIR

The participants were invited to attend the opening of the Aboriginal Arts Fair. The *Buffalo Hat Singers* gave a performance as well as the hoop dancer, Barbara Diabo.

### 5. PRESENTATION BY THE *REGROUPEMENT DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC (RCAAQ)* – COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tanya Sirois, Executive Director of the RCAAQ, stated that 2014 was a year that changed the urban Aboriginal environment. She was accompanied by Marie-Claude Leclerc from Aboriginal Affairs of Northern Development Canada (AANDC), who presented the new context.

On February 6, 2014, Minister Valcourt announced that he was adopting a new and improved strategy of which its key objective is to increase Aboriginal participation in the Canadian economy. Previously there were four programs; these programs were consolidated into two programs:

- Community Capacity Support;
- Urban Partnerships.

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) has been mandated by the Minister to administer the two programs. In Quebec, the possibility was considered of replicating the national model by making the RCAAQ, member of the NAFC, the agent responsible for the administration of the programs. The cornerstone of the administration of funds entrusted to the NAFC is based on regional and community strategic planning carried out in partnership with AANDC.

Tanya explained the approach that the RCAAQ intends to use to undertake the planning. She mentioned that the changes affect many organizations across Canada. They do not, however, represent choices made by the NAFC or AANDC, Quebec region, but stem from a political restructuring at the federal level. The budget envelope is granted to the NAFC and its management is subsequently distributed among the provinces.

As of late September, early October 2014, the RCAAQ began developing an action plan consisting of 11 processes that correspond to the 10 regions where a Native Friendship Center is located, plus a specific approach for the Inuit. Regarding Montreal, it was important to present a reference framework based on the following vision: contribute to the lives of dynamic urban Aboriginal communities, involved and rooted in their community and enjoying shared prosperity. Three strategic directions were also developed:

- remove barriers and obstacles to Aboriginal participation in the economy;
- create complementary efforts in order to improve the quality of life of Aboriginal people (avoid duplication of services, but take complementary actions);
- optimize government action in a changing urban Aboriginal context.

In addition, according to one of the federal requirements, it is important to be aligned with the Quebec government and the municipalities in order to maximize the actions already underway, but especially to develop new ones. Subsequently, community initiatives are undertaken.

In addition, specific objectives include:

- mobilizing key players in a spirit of partnership;
- diagnosing the state of the situation and the major trends;

- identifying and prioritizing the needs of urban Aboriginal people;
- highlighting the diversity of urban Aboriginal communities.

The RCAAQ proposes a framework. However, each municipality concerned will have to determine its priorities within the process while aligning itself with economic participation.

The role of the RCAAQ is to ensure the proper functioning of the process because it is accountable to AANDC in terms of the results at the financial level, but it only acts as guide and observer. The organizations that make up the local steering committee will decide the priorities.

Regarding Montreal, the RCAAQ met with the NETWORK's Steering Committee in October 2014 and with several major players of the City of Montreal on November 12, 2014. The plan is to establish a steering committee that would be responsible for complying with the requirements of the improved UAS by March 31, 2015. The community strategic plan must contain:

- a portrait of the Montreal Aboriginal community, which has already been completed to a large extent;
- barriers to participation in the economy;
- existing programs and initiatives, namely the work already underway;
- priority areas for action – and not the means to implement them – underlying a vision (which is the most important aspect).

The next steps consist of:

- early January 2015: first meeting of the steering committee;
- January-February 2015: gathering of elements that will constitute the community strategic plan;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March 2015: symposium for the convergence of the 11 processes organized by the RCAAQ;
- between now and the end of March 2015: finalization of the community strategic plan to be submitted to AANDC.

The expected composition of the steering committee, to which other persons may be added – it is up to the Montreal area to choose – would include members of the:

- NETWORK (number to be confirmed);
- AFNQL;
- First Nations Human Resources development center of Quebec (FNHRDCQ);
- City of Montreal;
- Native Friendship Centre of Montreal;
- Montreal Native Community Development Centre;
- RCAAQ, present in the 11 processes.

The community strategic plan will be used to determine the funding to be granted based on five or six priorities and according to Aboriginal participation in the economy.

In relation to the programs, the call for proposals for the Urban Partnerships program was launched last Thursday. The guidelines and application forms are available on the RCAAQ's website. The pre-qualification forms must be submitted on December 12, 2014, and the selected applicants will have until December 30, 2014 to submit their proposals.

### **Questions and comments**

The majority of the NETWORK's Working Committees are not incorporated. Is it possible for a Working Committee to submit an application by designating another organization as trustee?

In fact, a Working Committee cannot submit an application. This is why one must work with an organization that will accept to submit an application in a partnership context. Incorporation, which was a requirement for the Community Capacity Support program, is not required for the Urban Partnerships program. However, the applicant must have authorized signatories and audited financial statements and must be an organization, even if it is not constituted under Part III of the Companies Act. The application must fall within one of three components of the program.

- youth;
- innovation;
- social economy.

If a project is presented, must it be carried out by March 31, 2015 and must the allocated funds be spent by then? It is indeed the case. Discussions are currently taking place with AANDC to determine if it will be possible to grant extensions. But it is more prudent to develop projects that can be completed in three months and within a maximum budget of \$100,000.

What is the overall amount allocated to Quebec and is there a breakdown by city?

The envelope is approximately \$1,346,000 (to be specified). As for distribution by city, a percentage has not been set. However, the selection committee is aware that a city like Montreal will generate a larger number of applications.

Concerning next year, are the deadlines already determined or must one wait for the results of the strategic planning for the deadlines to be identified? For next year, the preparation of applications under the Urban Partnerships program could start in February 2015 and a longer time period will be allowed to submit the pre-qualification form.

Does the program include two components? Indeed, out of the \$53 million allocated, an amount of \$43 million went to the National Association of Friendship Centres via the provinces and was divided into two components:

- Community Capacity Support (CCS) - \$1.5 million: allows funding two components:
  - Native friendship centres that have recently lost their core funding;
  - Any other community organization that provides services to all Aboriginals: for Quebec, the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal was selected by a national committee, not as a NFC, but as an organization that provides services in view of improving Aboriginal participation in the economy.
- Projects funded as a result of community planning - \$10 million retained by AANDC to fund its agents: the call for proposals was postponed because the final agreement is not yet signed.

For 2015-2016, may one organization submit more than one proposal? Indeed, it is possible, even for 2014-2015. An organization may submit a proposal for each of the components, up to a maximum of \$100,000 each. But it cannot submit three proposals under a same component. What is the maximum allocated under the CCS? The maximum is approximately \$300,000 while the minimum is \$120,000.

Has a date been set for the call for proposals under the CCS for 2015-2016? The call has already been launched, and the deadline was November 28, 2014. The current phase is focused on the analysis of the letters of intent. The selected organizations have until January 12, 2015<sup>th</sup> to submit their applications because the implementation is scheduled for April 1, 2015. Consequently, organizations that did not submit a proposal will have to wait until year 2016-2017 to do so. Regarding Urban Partnerships, the call for proposals should be taking place in February 2015.

**6. STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE NETWORK'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS UNDER THE URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY (UAS) AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

See the recommendations contained in the kit. Nakuset read them.

***Resolution 2014-12-09/04***

It was moved by Alana-Dawn Phillips and seconded by Elizabeth Fast:  
THAT THE NETWORK PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MONTREAL COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN, ALONG WITH THE RCAAQ, AS PART OF THE RENEWED URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY (UAS).  
Adopted by consensus.

***Resolution 2014-12-09/05***

It was moved by Geneviève Pollard and seconded by Alana-Dawn Phillips:  
THAT THE NETWORK MANDATE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE SIX (6) WORKING COMMITTEES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PLAN.  
Adopted by consensus.

**7. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY: COLLECTIVE REFLECTIONS ON THE COURSES OF ACTION TO BE PRIORITIZED**

Nakuset introduced Juniper Belshaw. She explained the procedure for the interactive activity.

She reminded the participants that the NETWORK adopted a strategic plan that includes six priority areas led by Working Committees. However, new priorities have emerged since the adoption of the plan; they are posted on the room walls. A member of each of the Working Committees will stand beside their respective posters to explain the nature of the priorities and to gather feedback and suggestions from the NETWORK members. Also, a seventh poster is available to write down ideas for new priorities that do not appear anywhere else.

A summary of recommendations will subsequently be submitted to the Steering Committee so that it can update the strategic plan.

**8. DESTINATIONS - PRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION**

As new coordinator of the DestiNATIONS project, Marie-Josée Parent gave a presentation on recent developments in the DestiNATIONS project, Carrefour international of Indigenous Arts and Cultures.

She mentioned that the mandate of the organization consists of showcasing the Aboriginal cultures of Quebec, Canada and elsewhere. The design team is also examining Aboriginal identities in terms of the various languages that will be highlighted, since languages influence worldview. It is therefore a question of bringing about a diversity of visions through languages.

She summarized the development structure of the project, initiated by the NETWORK in November 2011. The initial ad hoc committee was transformed into the executive committee and it proceeded with the constitution of a non-profit organization (NPO) under Canadian law in March 2014. A founding meeting is scheduled for March 2015, which will bring together honorary members and elect a management committee.

She returned to the history of the project by explaining the latest steps:

- January 2014: formal support from the Chief of the AFNQL, Ghislain Picard;
- April 2014: confirmation of support from the Mohawk nation;
- June 2014: confirmation of support from the Cree nation;
- October 2014: public support from Mayor Coderre during the press conference for the launching of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City;
- November 2014: support from the Assembly of First Nations of Canada.

Seeking support is a long process that will have to continue once the Centre is created. A meeting is thus scheduled for next week with Makivik and Avataq.

She then presented a slide illustrating a proposal, which is not definitive, for the distribution of spaces within the Centre that will cover 5 843 m<sup>2</sup>. There is talk of a complete complex that will allow cultures and artistic practices to be put forward and also be revitalized. In other words, it is a matter of contributing to the transmission of traditions, and also of supporting emerging artists. A wide variety of activities will be able to be carried out and it is expected that the Centre will also be a major tourist attraction.

Already, four potential partners have expressed interest in moving to the Centre:

- Land InSights;
- Ondinnok ;
- Wapikoni Mobile ; and
- Sacred Fire Productions / 11 Nations.

Market studies have determined that the Centre could attract 379,000 visitors a year, among the Aboriginal public itself, among all origins (21,752), among the general public (180,900), among international tourists (50,000), among the school population (104,197) and among art and culture enthusiasts (23,800).

The design of the Centre will be based on principles of sustainable development and will draw inspiration from two similar organizations of international scope:

- Cree Cultural Institute in Northern Quebec;
- Campbelltown Arts Centre in Australia.

The implementation schedule is as follows:

- January 2015: confirmation of site;
- March 2015: founding meeting;
- Fall 2015: contractual confirmations (environmental studies, FTP and construction project manager - QIM);
- Fall 2015: hiring of an executive director
- 2017: creative and artistic animation of the construction site;
- 2017-2018: opening and International Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Marie-Josée Parent invited the members to share their ideas by dividing into subgroups, each having a particular topic to address by emphasizing what should absolutely be present at DestiNATIONS Centre and what should be avoided at all costs.

**1. In your wildest dreams, what would be the role and programming of DestiNATIONS? What roles and activities should DestiNATIONS absolutely have?**

Simon Riverain presented the comments put forth by Group 1. There should not be any limitations or censorship. There should be a national production, from western to eastern Canada, and even towards the south, in the United States. And we must not forget the Métis. This would include outdoor shows and a cinema room. There should be cultural classes and successful learning should be celebrated with diplomas. There should also be an illuminated sign in the sky as well as a sacred fire on a permanent basis. One should also consider facade projections, including 3D perspectives, as well as a garden on the roof. The Centre would offer healthy food, which is important for Aboriginal people, as well as gourmet cuisine prepared by an Aboriginal chef. Regarding jobs, from subcontracting through to the completion of the building, it would be great to favour Aboriginal businesses. Universal accessibility should also be ensured for persons with reduced mobility.

The Centre should also represent a place of retreat and rejuvenation for wellness and health. A section could be used as a residence to accommodate Aboriginals of international origin, for example the Maori and even African people who would come and present their culture. At the entrance, a welcome video would be projected and there would be a permanent art collection.

**2. How do you see the presence of First Nations and Inuit people underlined in the City? Is it satisfactory? If not, how should it change?**

Catherine Joncas presented the comments put forth by Group 2. She mentioned that the Ondinnok theatre company is preparing to celebrate its 30 years of existence in Montreal. The group felt that the presence of Aboriginal people is insufficiently underlined in the city in general. For example, Montreal is misnamed, and it should take back its name in the language of the St-Lawrence Iroquoians. And in many locations, the historical presence of Aboriginal people is forgotten (monuments, names of streets and places). One has the impression that when the Europeans arrived, there was absolutely nobody. Certain institutions have nonetheless always highlighted Aboriginal presence, such as the Stewart and McCord museums,

Another suggestion was to give names to street intersections. For example, the intersection of St-Catherine Street and St-Laurent Boulevard, this would be repeated to systematically give names of Aboriginal figures for the purpose of commemoration. It would consist of a meeting, and would make people reflect on Aboriginal presence.

When the Art•Culture Working Committee initiated this project in 2009-10, the Committee itself had mentioned the importance of increasing the visibility of Aboriginal people in Montreal. In fact, the presence of Aboriginal and Inuit people in Montreal is the focal point of this place.

**3. What public spaces and places do you visit for rejuvenation and why? What are their specific features?**

Odile Joannette presented the comments put forth by Group 3. In summary, natural environments are sought, places where one is in peace. Nature offers an unconditional welcome, without ID cards (such as access to a park), absolute and open to all. Then the

group said that there must be some reflection about the urban aspect. They thus mentioned spaces that are used as transition places that nourish the mind, for example: books in a library, space for the journey in an airport, which stimulate the five senses, but also interactive and positive spaces, which allow experimenting, synergizing.

#### **4. What is your vision of DestiNATIONS? What is your vision for DestiNATIONS?**

Nadine St-Louis presented the comments put forth by Group 4. The preservation and promotion of teachings on Aboriginal culture as well as innovation should be at the heart of DestiNATIONS. This refers to traditional dances, the drum, and an archive centre to preserve Aboriginal knowledge in a centralized area for easy access. Also, the Centre should represent a place where people can meet in an urban context, a place for community socialization and development, a gathering place. It should be able to offer spirituality-related training.

The discussion led the group to see the duality of the project. On one hand, the needs and the realities of Aboriginal people, including families and seniors, must be taken into account. On the other, there is the aspect of promoting economic development and artistic and cultural influence with a tourist dimension. The two aspects should not be amalgamated because the teachings are sacred and there is a cultural protocol to be transmitted to children. Also, families should have access to a healing dimension and a sense of ownership, support and empowerment (*empowerment centre*): how can one empower the youth and make them self-sufficient? It is through healing and empowerment that community development can be achieved in urban areas. Agriculture and horticulture should be present, with an emphasis on medicinal plants, with restricted access, non-accessible to the general public because it is designed with the transmission of knowledge in mind. It would be important to implement a form of cultural protection on our hereditary rights. Training activities could be offered to both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals to democratize and demystify Aboriginal cultures and to raise awareness about their diversity, especially to tourists and school groups. Finally, a section of the Centre could serve to disseminate the unique aspect of our teachings to all visitors; however, it would be appropriate to plan a protected area to ensure the transmission of knowledge to our communities. These two spaces could co-exist.

#### **5. What do you not want for DestiNATIONS?**

Comments put forth by Group 5. The first point raised was about accessibility. It is hoped that a lack of resources will not hinder accessibility. One might consider collecting donations to foster access to everyone. The group is opposed to anything that would give a commercial style to the Centre. There should be *no made in China*.

Another point raised is related to the reflections of Group 2, regarding the name. It should not be a Francophone name, even if it might represent several First Nations. One must remember that we are on Mohawk territory.

Marie-Josée mentioned that the question of the name is indeed part of the reflections. She said that the purpose of the exercise was to allow the members of the NETWORK to appropriate the place and to participate in its design.

## 9. NETWORK WORKING COMMITTEES PRESENTATION

### Health Working Committee

Pascale Annoual mentioned the photo exhibition held in the entrance hall. It is the result of a collaborative effort between the Committee and the photographer, Giuseppe Pascale, whose aim is to highlight the inspiration provided by certain active urban Aboriginal persons And to highlight the important work that is being done in the city and that urban Aboriginal people do have a place in the city and we are not all disconnected nor do we feel that we don't have a place here or that we don't fit in.

The Working Committee worked with university research teams, more specifically:

- The District 3 program of Concordia University, which calls on multidisciplinary participation to address various issues in a transversal approach. In terms of concrete results, a mobile application will be designed to translate terminology related to different health problems into various Aboriginal languages. Inuktitut was selected first. The project expects to integrate other languages and to further develop the content so that it will also be useful to workers in the health field.
- Regarding the *Université de Montréal*, a group of students from the Department of Pharmacology contacted the Committee to find out about the studies conducted and the needs of the community in order to examine possibilities of collaboration. They are currently assisting the Committee to improve the proposal for a health centre The Committee is also collaborating in a research project on oral health under the supervision of Dr. Bassim Danish, which includes an important cultural component, particularly because oral health affects several other aspects of health.
- Regarding cultural safety, a training program will be developed in collaboration with the *CSSS de la Montagne* for doctors, nurses and any other persons who come into contact with service users of Aboriginal origin.

Other projects that are very difficult to fund remain ongoing, namely the sweat lodge at the Botanical Garden. The Health Committee had been mandated to keep the project active. Finally, this year, the Botanical Garden agreed to make the project operational on an annual basis. All that is missing in response to the decision is core funding to hire a person as coordinator. It is an exceptional project. Only two cities have a sweat lodge.

Certain collaborations are underway, including the "Health Village". Some hospitals are being closed, and there is an opportunity to collaborate with other organizations that they themselves are seeking premises to be able to offer health services and social services. Within the "Health Village", each organization will maintain its full autonomy while contributing and benefiting from pooled resources.

The Committee was also asked to take on several duties relating to representation among partners in the field of healthcare, including the *Agence de la santé et des services sociaux*. Proposals were submitted to the Agence; they were well-received and are currently in their second review. Nonetheless, caution must be exercised in order to preserve our autonomy while respecting a mutual exchange-based approach. For example, we wish to adopt a more comprehensive definition of health that would include a bio-psycho-social dimension: physical health, mental health, emotional health and spiritual health.

### Education and Employability Circle

Dolorès André and Paige Isaac, Co-Representatives of the Circle, presented the latest accomplishments:

It was mentioned that it is important to underline the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the MAMU Fair held in March 2014 which was the largest to date. It took place at the Science complex of UQAM. It attracted more than 200 visitors and 42 exhibitors (employers, training centres, educational institutions and local Aboriginal organizations). As a result, five visitors obtained a permanent job. The Fair also gave rise to increased networking. The next edition is scheduled for March 18, 2015; a larger space will have to be found in order to accommodate an increasing number of attendees. A new project manager was hired: Mikayla Cartright. Thanks were extended to Quebec Native Women who assisted in the recruitment of the project manager. In addition, the fee of \$100 charged to the exhibitors helped to self-fund the Fair.

The inventory of the employment guidebook is almost depleted and the book must also be updated. An invitation was made to the organizations in attendance to contact the Circle if they wish to be listed or if they wish to update the information that already appears in the guide.

Many events occurred during the year regarding education and employment that affect the Aboriginal people of Montreal. The Vocational Training Centre for Aboriginals in Construction Trades closed its doors in June 2014. Since it closed, individuals must again register on the regular list and wait a year or two before obtaining a place in a training program. It is hoped that the Centre will re-open because it was an important organization that provided quality services to Aboriginal people.

Another matter of concern is the increase in fees in the daycare centres which may have a negative impact on Aboriginal students who need daycare for their children, but also on parents who are employed.

The Circle also continues to support the Ka Mamukanit project, the socio-professional integration project for Aboriginals in Montreal. It is in the process of submitting funding applications in order to be able to start a new cohort in spring 2015.

In closing, the Circle would like to access the Urban Partnerships program and submit an application for the MAMU Aboriginal Fair and for Ka Mamukanit. The member organizations of the NETWORK will be approached to provide letters of support.

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

Nakuset reminded the participants that the Social Services Committee has three subcommittees: Circle of Care, Justice and Homelessness.

- **Circle of care**

Elizabeth Fast, researcher at the *École nationale d'administration publique*, reported that the Subcommittee has two priorities.

The first consists of offering richer cultural programming for Aboriginal children placed in foster care, and for the community in general, and to increase the number of homes, in collaboration with Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. Last year, 12 children were placed in the context of a crisis intervention during the holidays.

As part of this priority, the Circle supports the iohahi :o cultural mentoring program intended for children placed in foster care. The program ran during the summer but has been interrupted for the moment while awaiting funds. The Circle is also considering the possibility of offering a cultural summer camp to children in the summer of 2015.

The second priority involves the deepening of collaborations with Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and with Aboriginal organizations in Montreal. Many initiatives were undertaken in 2013 for this purpose. Thus, Batshaw established an Aboriginal team that provided training to members of various Batshaw Youth and Family Centres' services in order to help them better understand the needs of Aboriginal youth and families. The Circle supports the "My Family, My Community" project which aims to prevent the placement of children into care by working more closely with families. The members of the Subcommittee also wish to participate in a holistic training session on the well-being of children to be offered by the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa in February 2015. The Subcommittee collaborated with Batshaw Youth and Family Centres so as to be better able to identify Aboriginal children who need services. And the Subcommittee intends to undertake a research project that would extend over a three-year period and would deal with the means implemented by Batshaw Youth and Family Centres to improve its services to Aboriginal children and families.

Nakuset added that the Subcommittee continues to recruit families that are able to welcome children who have to be placed into care. Its members thus participate in various powwows, at Land InSights, and always with representatives of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. A considerable number of children are placed into care and it would be preferable that they find Aboriginal families so as to reduce the stress suffered by these children. An announcement was made to recruit a family that could accommodate four children.

- **Homelessness**

Tealey Normandin, Outreach Worker at the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, stated that several changes occurred over the past year. In January 2014, the possibility of merging with the Justice Subcommittee was considered as the two Subcommittees had several projects in common. A meeting in this regard was held in March 2014 during which the members reviewed the directions and accomplishments. This led to the preparation of an action plan for 2014-2016. Allison Reid played an important role through the support she provided to the Subcommittee, especially in its reflections and in the preparation of the action plan.

It primarily aims to increase the awareness of the public, police and service providers about the reality of homelessness. Regarding relations with the *Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM)*, the Subcommittee would like to be able to provide training by involving Elders and Peacekeepers. Police officers are indeed on the street, but the Aboriginal social workers are in daily contact with the homeless. The Subcommittee would like to have the legitimacy of the Aboriginal workers recognized in the same way as other workers.

- **Justice**

Rachel Deutsch, Addictions Worker at the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, reported that the Subcommittee held only one meeting during the year. However, she had two announcements to make. First, the Cabot Square project was renewed for another year and the opening hours of the "open door" initiative will be extended. In addition, two street outreach workers will be assigned to the Cabot Square project, one from the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and the other from the YMCA.

Secondly, Quebec Native Women is developing a series of training workshops on the reality of Aboriginal women for the *Barreau du Québec*. Workshops could be offered two or three times per year, and the project may span several years.

It follows that the Subcommittee wants to continue working with the surrounding community in the spirit of implementing an approach that is based on the restoration of justice under which users returning to the

Square would be called on to engage in a type of collective responsibility. Training will begin in January 2015 for the project coordinator and workers.

### ART•CULTURE Working Committee

André Dudemaine reported that the Committee was relatively inactive lately, a rather false assertion, since it was, for all practical purposes, absorbed in the DestiNATIONS implementation committee which drained almost all its energy, while other files were neglected, including representation within the Steering Committee. A meeting was recently held to discuss the future of the Committee and its purpose, which helped to identify several gaps in relation to files that should be pursued. For example, there is the reality of young artists who arrive from their communities to seek development opportunities in Montreal. Very often, they return to their communities because they find it too difficult to adapt to the urban environment. The Committee concluded that it has a responsibility of bringing together the members of the artistic community to be able to provide better support. In fact, if Montreal is to become a cultural metropolis of the XXI<sup>st</sup> century, one should perhaps start by making it an Aboriginal cultural metropolis. And it is important that Aboriginal artists can benefit from the facilities that are found here, hence the Committee's duty of solidarity.

He mentioned that with the support of the Steering Committee and pressure from various cultural organizations, it was possible to obtain a special program from the *Conseil des Arts et Lettres du Québec* for First Nations. However, in the last competition, there was a mix-up about the dates. The Committee then said that if it was not there to support, but also to admonish the decision-makers, there could be setbacks or difficulties. For example, the *Société de développement des entreprises culturelles du Québec*, the *SODEQ*, decided that the Montreal First Peoples Festival is not a true film and video festival. But the festival is recognized by Telefilm Canada and by all the other film festivals of Montreal and also at the international level by the ImagineNATIVE festivals in San Francisco and New York. *SODEQ* said that there would not be any budget reductions, but this is false because the programs are being reviewed in view of reducing the budgets. It is an example of where the ART•CULTURE Committee would have a role to play in collaboration with the Steering Committee. However, the Committee members are very busy with the administrative aspect associated to the submission of proposals. For example, Aboriginal Spring that will be held at the Frontenac Cultural Centre as well as the First Nations Garden and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Peoples Festival uses a lot of energy.

The fact that DestiNATIONS will have its own board of directors as of March 2015 will allow the Committee to resume its full role in the life of the NETWORK. An invitation was extended to those who wish to join the Committee.

### Youth Working Committee

Bérénice Mollen-Dupuis stated that the Youth Committee was re-established in October 2013. In the past year, the Committee worked on a huge project, that of producing an interactive map of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal resources in Montreal, in collaboration with Équitas, as part of the "Young Women, Young Leaders" project. The map was launched last week at the Centre for Sustainable Development. The map will be posted online in January 2015 and it is hoped that it will become a mobile application by March 2015. The project had the following objectives:

- promote the adaptation of young Aboriginal women of Montreal;
- encourage their participation in Montreal life;
- gather together the resources available to young Aboriginal women of Montreal;
- create an interactive online and downloadable tool.

The business with which the Committee dealt is called "Poudre Noir".

## **Communications Working Committee**

Odile Joannette presented the Communications Working Committee's report. The Committee is seeking to recruit new members. The Communications Officer's position is currently open and the deadline for applying is December 12, 2105.

The website must also be updated and Ramélia devoted a considerable amount of time to this in the past year.

## **10. NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Odile, who acts as Treasurer, presented the Steering Committee's report.

To begin, she presented the financial report for 2013-2014. The funding for the seasonal Gatherings comes from the UAS. Delays on the part of the UAS explain why the NETWORK had to postpone its Gatherings. A two-day Gathering should be held in March 2015.

Odile continued by presenting the 2013-2014 financial statements that show a surplus of \$8,000 carried over to the following year. She mentioned that the financial objective of the NETWORK is to ensure the coordination, hold the community Gatherings three times a year and support the Working Committees. This latter aspect has always been extremely difficult to fund. It is usually at the end of the financial year that it is possible to provide funding to the Working Committees. This is currently the case, as an amount of \$7,750 was made available for the advancement of the prioritized activities of the Committees.

Of the \$10 million allocated by AANDC to the Community Capacity Support program, Quebec received \$500,000 which allowed funding of two projects: the regional and community strategic planning, conducted by the RCAAQ, and the NETWORK which received \$70,000, the amount usually requested to ensure its operation.

She thanked the financial partners, namely the City of Montreal, which houses the NETWORK, the *Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA)*, whose support allowed the NETWORK to survive while waiting for the UAS funding, the AFNQL via the FNHRDCQ and MAMU.

She announced that at the next Gathering possibly in March 2015, there will have to be an election for the Co-Chair position.

## **11. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DestiNATIONS**

Odile, as chair of DestiNATIONS, mentioned that the project had received significant support in 2012, not only from the cultural community of Montreal, but also from the Quebec government, which helped to carry out tremendous work with government officials who had received clear instructions from the Prime Minister to move the file forward. Since the change of government, relations are tenser and less fluid. It is important to exercise diplomacy in order to revitalize dialogue and to have it recognized that the project belongs to Quebec as a whole and not only to the City of Montreal. It is hoped that the project of seeing the birth of a cultural embassy of international stature will be confirmed as a transversal priority, which would open new doors.

**Resolution 2014-12-09/06**

It was moved by Pascale Annoual and seconded by Nadine St-Louis:  
TO REAFFIRM THE STATUS GRANTED TO THE PROJECT TO CREATE AN ABORIGINAL CULTURAL EMBASSY OF INTERNATIONAL STATURE IN MONTREAL AS A TRANSVERSAL PRIORITY FOR THE ENTIRE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY AND FOR THE NETWORK,  
Adopted by consensus.

 **Round Dance at Eaton Centre**

Gustavo Zamara, replacing Widia Larivière and Melissa Mollen Dupuis, announced that a round dance will be held the next day at the Eaton Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 6:00 p.m. to mark the second anniversary of Idle No More.

Next Monday, Cree youth who walked to oppose the exploitation of uranium on their territory will be welcomed in Montreal. The event is announced on Facebook.

Odile thanked Gustavo for organizing the photo exhibition held in the entrance hall.

 **Urban Agriculture**

A participant mentioned that she would like urban agriculture to be recognized as a priority for the NETWORK. She would like to see a project implemented that would be a source of income for the youth while providing healthy food. She would like the idea to be taken up by the room in a proposal.

André Dudemaine suggested asking the Working Committee concerned to look into this promising proposition and to analyze the means to implement it, rather than immediately making it a priority. It will be up to the Working Committee to bring the project to the Steering Committee for further discussion.

 **Art and Culture Evenings**

Melissa announced that art and culture evenings are held at the Montreal Native Community Development Centre on Monday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The information is also provided on Facebook under Native Montreal.

Sylvain thanked the persons who made announcements as well as the volunteers who helped organize the day: Gabrielle, Alma, Carrie, Pascale, Sara, Diana and Marie-Josée. He gave them each a gift as a mark of appreciation. Finally, he thanked the participants for their attendance.

**12. CLOSING PRAYER WITH DELBERT SAMPSON**

Delbert Sampson gave the closing prayer.

**13. CLOSING OF THE GATHERING**

The Gathering ended at 4:00 p.m.



Appendix

#	Name	First name	Organization
1	Achneepineskum	Norman	Buffalo Hat Singers
2	André	Dolorès	Urban Service Centre of Montreal
3	Angus	Kathleen	Correctional Services Canada
4	Annoual	Pascale	Arts, racines & therapies
5	Assaf	Linda	Université de Montréal
6	Barde	Joel	The Nation
7	Bélanger	Diane	Individual member
8	Belshaw	Juniper	Facilitator
9	Blais	Carmen	Armée du salut
10	Blanchette	Jonathan	Université de Montréal
11	Boileau	Alana	Quebec Native Women
12	Boldo	Vicky	McGill Reproductive Center
13	Bourdon	Suzanne	Individual member
14	Bourque	Lynn	Rising Sun Daycare
15	Brazeau	Carole	National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence
16	Campeau	Audrey	Wapikoni mobile

#	Name	First name	Organization
17	Caron	Marlène	City of Montreal
18	Caron	Mireille	Innutelecom
19	Chamichian	Ramelia	NETWORK
20	Charland	Justin	Buffalo Hat Singers
21	Cheezo	Fred	Buffalo Hat Singers
22	Chhon	Phany	Université de Montréal
23	Chiasson	Stephanie	NETWORK Communications Committee
24	Chouinard	Carole	City of Montreal
25	Collard	Geneviève	Urban Service Centre of Montreal
26	Constantin	Louise	Centre St-Pierre
27	Cornez	Sylvie	Makivik Corporation
28	Desrosiers	Jocelyne	Individual member
29	Deutch	Rachel	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
30	Diabo	Barbara	Hoops dancer
31	Dudemaine	André	ART-CULTURE Committee
32	Drugge	Jeffrey	Health Canada

<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
33	El-Azadi	Amine	Individual member
34	Especa	Chloe	Université de Montréal
35	Fast	Elizabeth	Ecole nationale d'administration publique
36	Ferreira	Jessica	Université de Montréal
37	Forbes	Garnett	Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
38	Gagnon	Emma-Denise	Buffalo Hat Singers
39	Germain	Alexandre	RCAAQ
40	Gershuny	Sandy	World Foundation for Prosperity and Autonomy
41	Giard	Suzanne	Individual member
42	Girard	Amélie	Ondinnok Productions
43	Gosselin	Cindy	Statistics Canada
44	Goupil Landry	Mélissa	Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse
45	Haller-Venne	Frédéric	Université de Montréal
46	Hamer	Felicity	Individual member
47	Henderson	Caley	Individual member
48	Henderson	Chantel	Individual member

#	Name	First name	Organization
49	Isaac	Paige	Employability and Education Circle
50	Jeannotte	Adeline	Individual member
51	Jeannotte	Manon	Individual member
52	Jeady-McCormack	Marly	Individual member
53	Joannette	Diane	FNHRDCQ
54	Joannette	Odile	FNHRDCQ
55	Joncas	Catherine	Ondinnok Productions
56	Klein	Hope	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
57	Kwok	Crystal	Université de Montréal
58	Lacroix	Guy	City of Montreal
59	Langlais	Catherine	Aboriginal Affairs and North Development Canada
60	Lanthier	Lyne	Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec
61	Leclerc	Marie-Claude	Aboriginal Affairs and North Development Canada
62	Lee	Tina	Rising Sun Daycare
63	Lepage	Julie	Individual member
64	Lépine	Julien	Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones

<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
65	Lord	Audrey	Individual member
66	Martin	Carrie	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
67	Meilleur	Philippe	Montreal Native Community Development Center
68	Michel	Virginie	Wapikoni mobile
69	Mollen Dupuis	Bérénice	Montreal Native Community Development Center
70	Mollen Dupuis	Mélissa	Montreal Native Community Development Center
71		Nakuset	NETWORK Co-Chair
72	Normandin	Tealey	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
73	O'Breham	Audrey	Individual member
74	Ouellet	Georges	Individual member
75	Pacheco	Monica	Individual member
76	Parent	Marie-Josée	DestiNATIONS
77	Pascale	Giuseppe	Individual member
78	Pénicaud	Sidonie	McGill University
79	Phillips	Alana-Dawn	Rising Sun Daycare
80	Pilon	Marc-André	Université de Montréal

#	Name	First name	Organization
81	Raymond	Normand	Buffalo Hat Singers
82	Reid	Christopher	Urban Service Centre of Montreal
83	Richardson	Catherine	Individual member
84	Riverin	Simon	Montreal Native Community Development Center
85	Rixhon	Anne	Individual member
86	Samoisette	Gilles	Innutelecom
87	Sampson	Delbert	Elder
88	Samson	Valérie	Université de Montréal
89	Sioui	Anik	Innutelecom
90	Sirois	Tanya	RCAAQ
91	St-Laurent	Danielle	Correctional Services Canada
92	St-Louis	Nadine	11 Nations
93	Stevenson	Jean	Individual member
94	Tardif	Marc-André	Wampum
95	Vollant	Sylvain	NETWORK Co-Chair
96	Voyer	Élise	Equitas

#	Name	First name	Organization
97	Zadeh	Kamal	Photographer
98	Zamora Jiménez	Gustavo	Cercle des Premières Nations de l'UQAM