

WINTER GATHERING REPORT

Friday, February 27, 2015 and Saturday, February 28, 2015

EVO Hotel
420 Sherbrook Street West

ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 29, 2015



ATTENDANCE

See attached list of participants.

AGENDA

1. Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer with Delbert Sampson
2. Songs of Welcome by the *Buffalo Hat Singers* Drumming Group, with Barbara Diabo, Hoop Dancer
3. Presentation and Adoption of the Agenda, Fall Gathering Report of December 9, 2014 and Terms of Reference
4. Presentation and Nomination of Candidate(s) for the Co-Chair Positions for 2015-2016 and 2015-2017
5. Presentation and Adoption of the Updated Version of the NETWORK Strategic Plan 2012-2017 following the Survey Results
6. Report on the Meetings with the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)* held January 26, February 16, February 23, 2015
7. Update on the NETWORK's Steering Committee and Discussion on its New Mandates
8. Update on the Achievements of the NETWORK'S Working Committees
9. Community Announcements
10. Closing Prayer with Delbert Sampson
11. Closing of the Gathering

1. WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER WITH DELBERT SAMPSON

The Co-Chair, Nakuset, declared the 18th Gathering open at 9:30 a.m. She welcomed the participants and presented the two-day program.

She invited Delbert Samson, Elder from the Shuswap Nation of British Columbia, to give the opening prayer.

2. SONGS OF WELCOME BY THE *BUFFALO HAT SINGERS* DRUMMING GROUP, WITH BARBARA DIABO, HOOP DANCER

Nakuset introduced the members of the *Buffalo Hat Singers* group and the hoop dancer, Barbara Diabo, who gave the opening performance.

3. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, GATHERING REPORT OF DECEMBER 9, 2014 AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Nakuset read the proposed agenda.

Resolution 2015-02-27/01

It was moved by Geneviève Beaudet and seconded by Bérénice Mollen-Dupuis:
THAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA BE ADOPTED.
Adopted by consensus.

Nakuset asked if the report required any changes. No changes were necessary.

Resolution 2015-02-27/02

It was moved by Alana-Dawn Phillips and seconded by Dolorès André:
THAT THE FALL GATHERING REPORT 2014 BE ADOPTED.
Adopted by consensus.

Regarding the Terms of Reference, an amendment was proposed to the nomination procedure for the Co-Chair positions. Ramélia explained the need to clarify that there can only be one candidate from each Working Committee, regardless of the number of representatives that may comprise the committee, in order to respect the balance between the Working Committees.

Resolution 2015-02-27/03

It was moved by Billi-Jo Poirier and seconded by Natasha Isloor:
THAT THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO SECTION 4D OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE RELATING TO THE NOMINATION PROCEDURE FOR THE CO-CHAIR POSITIONS BE ADOPTED.
Adopted by consensus.

4. PRESENTATION AND NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE CO-CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 2015-2016 AND 2015-2017

Ramélia explained the two positions to be filled, one for one year and the other for two years. The two positions must be filled because Sylvain Vollant's term ended prematurely and Nakuset's term has ended. She read the regulations defining the responsibilities related to the position.

The list of eligible candidates is found in the kit. It was noted that some names do not appear on the list; they consist of members who act as Alternates on the Steering Committee. The following names were therefore added: Alana-Dawn Phillips, Social Services Working Committee Alternate, Alexandre Niquado, Youth Working Committee Alternate, and Francine Buckell, AFNQL Co-Representative.

Ramélia received a candidacy letter from Nakuset, which she read. Ramélia invited the members to nominate candidates. The following candidates were nominated: Odile Joannette, Dolorès André, Carrie Martin, Alana-Dawn Phillips and Nakuset.

Ramélia asked the candidates if they accepted their nomination.

Odile: Interested in the one-year term.

Dolorès: Declined.

Carrie: Declined.

Alana-Dawn: Declined.

Nakuset: Interested in the two-year term.

Resolution 2015-02-27/04

It was moved by Alana-Dawn Phillips and seconded by Bérénice Mollen-Dupuis:
THAT ODILE JOANNETTE BE ELECTED AS CO-CHAIR FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR.
Adopted by consensus.

Resolution 2015-02-27/05

It was moved by Odile Joannette and seconded by Billi-Joe Poirier:
THAT NAKUSET BE ELECTED AS CO-CHAIR FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.
Adopted by consensus.

5. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE UPDATED VERSION OF THE NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2017 FOLLOWING THE SURVEY RESULTS

Ramélia explained that the Strategic Plan should have been updated in the spring of 2013. But the Steering Committee had to deal with various issues, which delayed the work related to the update.

Ramélia reminded the participants that in 2014, the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)* was mandated by Aboriginal Affairs of Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to develop a regional strategic plan in the 10 cities in Quebec where a friendship centre is found. The NETWORK requested a financial contribution from the RCAAQ to hire a consultant to update its strategic plan so as to ensure that its priorities are found in the regional strategic plan. To do this, the consultant had to take into account the consultations conducted at the Gathering of December 9, 2014 and the results of the survey of January 2015. The individuals who responded to the survey will be able to enter the draw for a painting donated by 11 Nations.

Ramélia explained that the strategic plan forwarded to the members last week was enhanced, primarily through testimonials from persons who used the various services and programs, a portrait of the Aboriginal people of Montreal, an update of the organizational structure, a description of certain achievements of the Working Committees and Steering Committee since 2012, an update of the priority areas and a critical evaluation plan. Ramélia presented the new priorities that were adopted.

Questions and comments

Geneviève Beaudet requested clarification about the training project *Aboriginal 101*, including for whom it is intended.

Dolorès explained that the Education and Employability Circle noted the need to prepare a document or a training session on Aboriginal culture for non-Aboriginal employers or organizations in order to raise awareness in relation to the persistent myths about Aboriginal people, eliminate discrimination and racism and encourage Aboriginal recruitment. Initially, there were plans to design a course, and the Circle had prepared certain documents and gathered information and resources to be able to offer such a course. But it found that there were many similar initiatives currently underway. For example, the CEGEPs and universities have training programs on Aboriginal people, therefore the Circle chose to put this project aside. In addition, the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ) has also designed tools. The Circle wished to avoid duplication and instead devote its efforts to promoting what already exists. However, at its employment fair, the Circle will invite a guest speaker to talk about the current situation of Aboriginal people.

Resolution 2015-02-27/06

It was moved by Odile Joannette and seconded by Alana-Dawn Phillips :
THAT THE NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2017 BE ADOPTED AS UPDATED.
Adopted by consensus.

6. REPORT ON THE MEETINGS WITH THE REGROUPEMENT DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC (RCAAQ) HELD JANUARY 26, FEBRUARY 16, and FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Nakuset invited Alexandre Germain, Partnerships Advisor for the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)* to present the report on the meetings held on January 26, February 16 and February 23, 2015.

Alexandre Germain described the context that led the federal government to review the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS), launched in 1997, so as to abolish four programs and implement two new ones:

- Community Capacity Support (CCS);
- Urban Partnerships (UPs).

He explained the characteristics and criteria associated to each of the programs as well as the mandate entrusted to the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) and provincial associations (see Gathering Report of December 9, 2014). Initially, the objective set by the federal government was to foster Aboriginal participation in a strong Canadian economy. As it was considered a rather colonialist formulation, negotiations with the government led to placing the emphasis more on the elimination of barriers to Aboriginal participation in the economy. Such an approach may result in a greater diversity of projects being funded than with employment measures. An agreement was concluded between the NAFC and AANDC, under which the provincial associations have the responsibility of managing the agreement. In Quebec, it is therefore the RCAAQ that launches the call for proposals, receives and

analyzes the applications and decides on the ones that are selected. As the RCAAQ felt somewhat uncomfortable about undertaking such a responsibility, it implemented an external evaluation committee so as to be as impartial as possible within the process.

Another new feature introduced by the UAS, is that funds must be granted based on regional planning. Hence, the RCAAQ's mandate to conduct such strategic planning comprised of various community strategic plans. A budget envelop of \$500,000.00 was granted by AANDC to conduct this strategic planning. It was distributed in the proportion of \$70,000.00 for the NETWORK and \$430,000.00 for the *Regroupement*.

In Montreal, the situation proved to be delicate because the selected priorities already resembled projects (ex.: Cabot Square). There was concern that in the context where the RCAAQ would analyze projects, this would be restrictive for organizations wishing to submit proposals. Therefore, the RCAAQ held exploratory meetings with the Steering Committee of the NETWORK on September 3 and November 12, 2014 to examine how to develop a community strategic plan that could be inserted into a regional strategic plan. What emerged from these meetings was the creation of a steering committee composed of well-connected persons in the community so that work already accomplished by the NETWORK and by other organizations would be taken into account.

The steering committee met three times. It had a five-month timeframe to complete the work. A number of individuals from the NETWORK's Steering Committee were part of the steering committee. The consultant hired by the RCAAQ presented the first draft of the plan on February 23, 2015. The plan presents a portrait of the Aboriginal community, describes the barriers to participation in the economy, lists the existing programs and identifies priorities for action.

Alexandre Germain presented a slide illustrating the holistic model within which the priorities established in the strategic plan are related to each other. At the heart of these priorities emerges the need to strengthen Aboriginal identity and self-esteem. Other priorities that stem from it are:

- promoting community support, networking and access to information;
- improving access to culturally-safe health care and quality housing;
- developing personal skills;
- developing strategies and trainings to find and keep jobs.

It was mentioned that it is regrettable that the Montreal community did not have the opportunity to comment on the plan. One must remember that the request from AANDC had to be fulfilled within extremely tight deadlines. The steering committee nonetheless accomplished excellent work that will allow various community organizations to have access to funding for different projects. However, the amounts available are not staggering; the overall envelope for Quebec is \$3 million divided between the two programs.

What remains to be accomplished is to obtain the steering committee's approval of the plan that was presented yesterday. Subsequently a synthesis will be copied onto a poster that will be displayed at the Partners Forum organized by the RCAAQ and scheduled to be held on March 11-12, 2015 in Quebec City. Representatives of various departments of the Quebec government will be present.

Questions and comments

Odile mentioned that the committee has until Monday to finalize the recommendations. Regarding the holistic model, it is important that the third circle include the fight against racism and discrimination because it is extremely difficult to fund projects in this area as it is not recognized by the government of Quebec. In Quebec, one speaks of bullying but not of racism or discrimination. In addition, it is important to remember the concept of well-being in the section pertaining to health in order to take into account all the work accomplished in the area of social services. Finally, regarding employment and training initiatives, it is important to raise awareness about the fact that the dominant society and the employers are not ready to recognize Aboriginal people and to appreciate them. It is wrong, in fact, to believe that Aboriginals, at least in the metropolitan area, do not have the professional skills required to fill jobs. Furthermore, it is important to insist on recruitment, integration and retention strategies. It is up to governments and employers to change their ways of operating in order to integrate Aboriginal people. These remarks will be part of the comments that will be conveyed on Monday.

Alexandre Germain explained that the graphical limitations did not allow him to present all the dimensions however he assured the members present that the concerns related to well-being and job retention are included in the model. In fact, they are designated as "strategic pillars".

Alana-Dawn Phillips mentioned that she finds it difficult to link the model to the reality and logistics at the grassroots level, to see how it will actually help individuals and organizations and where it is supposed to lead.

Alexandre Germain admitted that it would have been preferable for the plan to have been approved prior to its presentation to the NETWORK. This is why he chose to present a model instead. If it is what is wished, it is a plan to support the NETWORK as the NETWORK already has its own plan. He did not want to duplicate the NETWORK's work. The manner in which the *Regroupement's* plan will be able to support the NETWORK is by providing guidance to the Evaluation Committee on the projects and organizations that are consistent with the priorities of the program. The priorities described are fairly broad, which allows for funding a wide range of projects. For its part, the NETWORK's plan is based on specific projects.

Alana-Dawn said she understands that it is simply a presentation of the priorities and not of the plan as a whole and that the NETWORK is not invited to provide its opinion. At the last meeting, however, it was mentioned that the six Working Committees of the NETWORK were supposed to be part of the steering committee. Normally, when there is participation in a process, the aspect of reporting must also be included in return so as to be able to determine whether the results accurately correspond to the needs at the grassroots level.

Odile added that the imposed deadlines did not allow producing an actual strategic plan, since it only includes priorities and does not specify the activities to be implemented to achieve them, or the

deadlines, or the bodies responsible for achieving them. This gap was raised with the *Regroupement*, as well as the disappointment about the fact that it is not possible to have the results validated by the communities that delegated the steering committee to engage in the process, in which it devoted a large amount of time. It therefore does not consist of a community plan, but rather of a funding plan for AANDC. She also finds it regrettable that the funding criteria are not based on the priorities of the communities, but on those that stem from a regional plan of which Montreal will count for 1/10.

Alexandre Germain said he understands the frustrations expressed and recognizes that the results presented do not constitute a true strategic plan. Despite these limitations, the persons who participated in the process are well-connected with the grassroots level, which ensures some representation of the community. Additionally, the NETWORK already has a plan that fits well with the regional plan.

Dolorès, who was part of the steering committee, expressed her disappointment with the consultation process implemented by the RCAAQ, in which the RCAAQ itself determined the organizations that would be invited to participate. The NETWORK had to fight to be able to sit on the steering committee and ensure that the various Working Committees were represented on it in order to ensure that all the needs of the community would be reflected. Her confidence in the process was shaken. In addition, she finds it unacceptable that the Urban Service Centres of the FNHRDCQ were not able to sit on the committees other than in Montreal, given that the FNHRDCQ is the AFNQL entity responsible for administering employment and training programs. Also, the community-planning methodology varied from one city to the next.

Alexandre Germain said he considers that there has been some misinformation. Indeed, it is only in Montreal that the steering committee has the exclusive responsibility of drafting a plan. In the other cities, the steering committee was primarily an organizing committee for a one-day meeting, and it was during the one-day meeting that the discussions provided material for the development of a community plan. Thus, in Quebec City, the Urban Service Centre was not part of the steering committee, but was indeed invited to the one-day meeting where the work accomplished was equivalent to that accomplished by the steering committee in Montreal. As for Val-d'Or and Sept-Îles, the Urban Service Centres (USCs) had indeed been invited to sit on the steering committee.

Francine Buckell had a different opinion in that regard. In Sept-Îles, the USC had to impose itself, but all the consultations had already been conducted. In Val-d'Or, it was said that there would not be any steering committee, and it was not the *Regroupement* who invited the USC, but rather it was the Carrefour jeunesse who extended the invitation to the USC. As for Quebec City, the USC was not invited to the steering committee but to an activity that was open to all types of organizations. In addition, the manner in which the strategic planning is taking place is not very consistent from one region to another. As Director of the Urban Strategy in the province of Quebec, she has doubts about the results of the process, given the manner in which it was conducted. The USCs have been in place since 1999 and are mandated by the Assembly of Chiefs to manage employment, training, skills development and pre-employability programs, and it is incorrect to state that they were invited to participate in the steering committees. The *Regroupement* is a partner of the FNHRDCQ's table where it has had a seat since the very beginning, and the two organizations are supposed to collaborate, which is not actually the case in the current context.

Dolorès added that the facilitator hired to prepare the Montreal community plan submitted his report only yesterday and it must be approved on Monday, which will force the members of the steering committee to work during the weekend, another frustration she wished to share.

Alexandre Germain said he notes that inter-organizational conflicts are re-emerging, and the planning process did not help in the context. It could have been an opportunity to create closer ties. Successfully working together can lead to a win-win outcome.

Alana thanked the members of the steering committee and said she is confident that they represented the community well. She wished to know the deadline dates for submitting proposals once the process is completed.

For the UPs program, the call for proposals was launched last Friday and the deadline is March 18, 2015. In the case of the CCS program, it has already been completed for 2015-2016. All information on this topic is available on the RCAAQ website. Thus, the plan that has to be approved on Monday will become applicable for year 2016-2017.

7. SONGS WITH THE *BUFFALO HAT SINGERS* DRUMMING GROUP AND ENERGIZING ACTIVITY WITH BARBARA DIABO

The *Buffalo Hat Singers* drumming group gave another performance.

Barbara Diabo invited those in attendance to participate in an energizing activity.

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

Odile Joannette presented the Steering Committee update.

First, the website was updated. It will be online next week.

She presented an overview of the estimated budgets. The applications for year 2015-2016 will be submitted in March 2015. The same expenditure categories are maintained, with the addition of "special events", and the costs remain essentially the same, subject to annual indexation. The total amounts to \$214,000.00, an increase in comparison to \$173,000.00 for the current year. The difference is explained by the fact that the coordination of the Working Committees was extended to 45 weeks, while until now it was limited to 20 weeks.

In terms of revenue sources, as the NETWORK chose not to incorporate, it was not eligible for the Community Capacity Support program. It must therefore submit an application to the National Office in order for it to be considered on the same terms as those related to the funds granted to the RCAAQ.

Odile used PowerPoint to illustrate the distribution of revenues by funder. She explained that the NETWORK had to postpone one of its Gatherings because the funding provided by AANDC was delayed.

She announced the job posting to replace the Coordinator during her maternity leave.

Along other lines, in North Bay there is an urban network with which Odile came into contact in 2009-2010 when the National Caucus of Urban Networks existed. She served as representative of the Montreal NETWORK. The North Bay Network recently developed a strategic plan on which the Montreal NETWORK could base its own plan. On March 31 and April 1, 2015, a caucus will be held that will bring together a number of groups. At her request, Dolorès and Carrie will attend to represent the NETWORK and to describe the manner in which it was formed, the structure it adopted and the partnerships established.

Questions and comments

Carole Chouinard suggested that at the Partners Forum of the RCAAQ, the Montreal representatives should also bring the NETWORK's priorities. In addition, regarding Urban Partnerships, the FNHRDCQ acts as trustee for the NETWORK. However, under the new rules of the program, an organization may not submit more than three proposals; therefore, the Working Committees will no longer be able to count on the FNHRDCQ as it will doubtlessly want to submit proposals itself. She thus invited each Working Committee to find another organization to act as trustee if they wish to submit a proposal. Indeed, we must avoid that there be competition between us. It is not up to the Steering Committee to manage this situation.

Odile confirmed that the FNHRDCQ will no longer be able to sign the agreements in this context. It must be ensured that the work carried out by the Working Committees is not excluded due to the fact that the NETWORK is not a legal entity but is based on an associative model using concerted actions and partnerships. This choice of structure is intended to reduce operating and administrative costs in order to be able to inject as much funding as possible into NETWORK activities. Odile assured the participants that she will bring material produced by the NETWORK to the Forum in order to promote the material.

9. UPDATE ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NETWORK'S WORKING COMMITTEES

❖ SOCIAL SERVICES WORKING COMMITTEE

Nakuset mentioned it is the only committee that has three sub-committees.

- **Circle of care**

Nakuset reported that the Circle has not met for some time. It however received some funding from "leftover funds" and intends to use it to reprint 500 copies of the Cultural Manual of which most will go to Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. When Bill 10 passes, this will be even more important as Batshaw

Youth and Family Centres will be merged with five other organizations that do not necessarily have an adequate understanding of the reality of Aboriginal children placed in foster homes.

The funding also allowed Alana-Dawn to attend an important symposium entitled *Journey to Safety: Creating a Safe Place for Belonging* that was held at the Wabano Centre in Ottawa on February 18 and 19, 2015. Alana-Dawn explained that the symposium focused on family law and the well-being of children. Several presentations described alternative methods for dispute resolution in an Aboriginal context. From the symposium, she learned of new elements to be taken into consideration in interventions with urban youth. For example, Ontario has legislative measures under family law that allow using alternative dispute resolution methods when the well-being of children is involved. Thus, it is possible to solve certain family problems before deciding to remove the children from their home. Such practices exist in Montreal but the practices in Ontario are more advanced. This opens the door to conducting representation work before government bodies in order to be able to have similar legislation.

Another topic discussed was that of Aboriginal cultural safety, with an emphasis on training, which may relate to several Working Committees of the NETWORK. Thus, in Ontario, a training program was designed for non-Aboriginal people which focuses on methods to provide a safe cultural environment for Aboriginal people. The training is partly available online and could be added to what is being done in Montreal in terms of cultural awareness.

- **Justice Sub-Committee**

Rachel Deutsch mentioned that the same funding was used to design a training manual for the *Service de police de la ville de Montréal (SPVM)*. The goal is to sign a collaborative agreement between the SPVM and the NETWORK. Such agreements exist elsewhere in Canada, but not yet in Quebec.

Another portion of the envelope was used to plan three training sessions that should be held in late March 2015 on the topic of cultural safety. All NETWORK members will be invited. Homeless persons or persons at risk of homelessness were paid to design posters.

Rachel was hired to work on the Cabot Square project, replacing Allison Reid. The McConnell Foundation awarded a grant to fund her position for 18 months. The current project aims to go beyond Cabot Square to include Montreal as a whole. It consists of developing a strategy on Aboriginal homelessness. She works with many organizations involved in issues related to justice and homelessness and provides opportunities to take note of the best practices underway in other cities and countries.

Another file to which she is dedicated consists of the *Restore* project which is supported by the Ville-Marie borough, with the collaboration of *Open Door* and *Exeko* who are working to promote restoration practices. Cabot Square will re-open next summer and the aim of the project is to transform the space so that any person visiting the Square will feel welcome. The goal is to succeed in changing the modes of co-existence. In addition, the Borough is willing to fund cultural activities in the Square. The hope is to hire an Inuk person to facilitate the organization of activities. The gazebo in the Square will be used as an office for two street outreach workers and as a café managed by *Itinérance*, a partner of the project; the project should allow hiring four homeless persons to work in the café.

For its part, the Justice Sub-Committee should be meeting next week to revive the Justpeace project, which aims to open an Aboriginal legal service in Montreal.

Quebec Native Women has undertaken a series of training workshops on Aboriginal women for law societies.

In closing, she said she plans to compile the strategy-related elements that are already available into one document in view of developing a comprehensive strategy.

Nakuset added that an important step to be undertaken consists of raising awareness among the neighbouring population of Westmont in order to improve relations with Aboriginal people. The Sub-Committee will try to organize meetings as of April 2015 with the police and organization representatives.

- **Homelessness Sub-Committee**

Tealey Normandin added that the homelessness sub-committee has considered merging with the Justice Sub-Committee as many of their initiatives overlap. The sub-committee has been working on their action plan which focuses on the development of a cultural safety manual, coordinated by Anik Sioui. Beginning in March 2015 there will be training provided to service providers to raise awareness of Aboriginal issues.

❖ HEALTH WORKING COMMITTEE

Jacques Leroux presented the Health Committee update. He presented a short video on Anishnawbe Health Toronto, similar to the one that the Committee wishes to implement in Montreal.

Among the Committee's activities, he mentioned the sweat lodge located at the Botanical Garden, which is in operation. To participate, one can contact Carrie Martin or Sedalia Fazio. However, participants must be insured. The Committee is working to provide the sweat lodge with an insurance policy.

The Committee worked extensively on the concept of cultural safety training in partnership with the CLSC Metro and the training will be delivered to all CLSC staff. Eventually the Committee would like to extend the training to other clinics, hospitals nurses, dentists, doctors, social workers, and will provide information about what is meant by care in a context of cultural diversity, but especially in relation to Aboriginal people.

A formal proposal for a health centre was submitted to the *Agence de santé et de services sociaux (ASSS)*, but due to the restructuring of the health sector, they will not be able to fund the project; the ASSS will no longer be in operation as of April 1, 2015. The Committee was advised to approach Health Canada to find new partners and to obtain grants.

❖ EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY CIRCLE (ECC)

Dolorès stated that Paige was not able to be present today. She reported that the Circle holds a meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. It is pursuing its work on the planning of the MAMU (Innu word meaning “together”) Employment Fair.

Recently, the Committee has been concentrating on updating the Montreal Aboriginal Reference Guide which is in high demand. The new version should be ready for distribution at the MAMU Fair. Dolorès invited the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations that offer services to Aboriginal people and wish to be mentioned in the Guide to forward their contact information to her this week.

She mentioned that the Committee brings together various Aboriginal student associations and the ECC. It is more difficult to reach service providers in education. In order to discuss the needs of students and the resources available, the Committee plans to hold a day of strategic planning in the second week of March 2015. The ECC would like to convey solutions emerging from the strategic planning meeting to the First Nations Education Council, the *Institut Tshakapesh* and any other organization involved in the world of education as well as at the MAMU Fair.

The socio-professional integration project, “Ka Mamukanit”, is currently in the process of submitting proposals to various funders. Recently, the content of the project was revised. Due to a lack of funding, the Ka Mamukanit Centre had to close its doors. The ECC hopes to revive the project because potential clients are waiting to register for the next cohort, which, if funded, could begin in May 2015. So far, the ECC has received favourable feedback from funders, which makes the Committee optimistic.

Dolorès mentioned that the previous day, she participated in the activities of “I See Mtl” at City Hall. The MAMU project had been submitted and was selected as an innovative project, among 180 selected projects. This allowed the members of the Committee to meet the Mayor and to talk to him about the various projects of the NETWORK, and he expressed interest in visiting the Aboriginal Employment Fair. The “I See Mtl” organization has established solution-sharing groups of which the Committee and other Montreal Aboriginal organizations are members. It is an interesting showcase for the various Aboriginal projects.

To return to the topic of the MAMU Fair, the initiative received funding from AANDC, the RCAAQ under UPS, and Quebev Native Women, to hire a project officer; this position was filled by Michaela Cartwright.

Michaela emphasized that this year marks the 5th edition of the MAMU Fair; an event which continues to grow as an increasing number of employers are taking part. She mentioned the need for volunteers for the event.

Geneviève Collard thanked the partners who are part of the Committee and announced that the Fair will include the launch the FNHRDCQ's new website.

❖ ART•CULTURE WORKING COMMITTEE

Marie-Josée presented the Art•Culture's report. Given that DestiNATIONS consists of the most important project of the Committee, it was decided that the links and coordination between the 2 committees will be maintained, though they are different.

The founding meeting of DestiNATIONS was scheduled for March 2015 but was postponed due to a lack of funding. It will be an opportunity to review all the activities related to the project and to introduce the key stakeholders.

A new aspect in the file concerns talks with private foundations.

In addition, the AFNQL's hotel project is progressing and the two projects are evolving in parallel and will likely be developed in the same location. This provides new perspectives for DestiNATIONS, which was faced with constraints in the downtown area, being limited to four floors.

The Committee will be holding a meeting next week and new representatives will be appointed to serve on the NETWORK's Steering Committee. Also, the Committee decided to open its membership to the members, and a survey was circulated after the holidays to determine the priorities the Committee should have aside from those related to the DestiNATIONS project.

❖ YOUTH WORKING COMMITTEE

Bérénice Mollen-Dupuis and Nahka Bertrand presented the Youth Committee's work.

The interactive map that the Youth Committee developed with *Poudre noire* has been completed. It was supposed to be launched in January 2015, but the Committee decided to wait until March 21, 2015 as the date coincides with the Aboriginal Youth Forum. The Youth Forum will be held at the Montreal Science Centre, jointly organized by the Montreal Native Community Development Centre and Quebec Native Women. The Committee also wanted to produce a mobile telephone application, but it proved to be unrealistic at the budgetary level. However, the funding made available through the NETWORK allowed for the enhancement of the mobile platform to make it more user-friendly and similar to an application.

On March 23, 2015, the map project will be presented on the *Montréalités* show. Once the project has been completed, the Youth Committee will undertake other projects.

❖ **COMMUNICATIONS WORKING COMMITTEE**

The NETWORK's new website has finally been completed and will be online as of next month. A brief presentation was provided to the participants.

The Committee also worked on developing a new communications plan for the NETWORK.

10. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **Guild of Crafts**

Anaïs Janin works for the Guild of Crafts, a non-profit organization founded in 1906. Since yesterday, an exhibition showcasing the work of Inuit women artists has been opened to the public. A performance will take place during the "White Night" from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Guilde des métiers d'arts.

❖ **Montreal Native Community Development Centre**

Bérénice Mollen Dupuis announced that an Aboriginal Youth Forum will be held at the Montreal Science Centre on March 21, 2015. The Forum will be open to all Aboriginal youth in the Montreal area. It is hoped that organizations that work directly or indirectly with Aboriginal youth will participate and there will be booths at their disposal free-of-charge. The term "Aboriginal youth" refers to the age group between 14 and 35 years of age. Quebec Native Women is a partner of the event.

❖ **Trickster Montréal**

Mélanie Lamsden, project officer for Exeko, an organization working in social innovation, presented the Trickster program that focuses on circus, theatre and storytelling and involves professional artists who work with Aboriginal youth to design the staging of a play. A show was given at the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal on February 2, 2015, which allowed the youth to present their work in progress. The continuation of the project remains to be defined. Nonetheless, Aboriginal families and singles mothers are called on to refer youth between 8 and 16 years of age, even 6 or 7 years of age, wishing to participate in the second phase of the project, registrations are open.

11. CLOSING PRAYER WITH DELBERT SAMPSON

Elder, Delbert Sampson, gave the closing prayer.

12. CLOSING OF THE GATHERING

The Gathering closed at 3:30 p.m.

FESTIVE GATHERING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2015

Family activities were held on the second day of the Gathering. Children had the opportunity to listen to Aboriginal stories and participate in the hoop dance, craft activities, painting, and an Aboriginal cooking workshop.

Several artisan booths were set up on the second day to showcase and sell the products of Aboriginal artisans.

List of presence – February 27, 2015

No .	Nom Name	Prénom First name	Organization
1	Achneepineskum	Norman	Buffalo Hat Singers
2	André	Dolorès	Urban service centre of Montreal at the FNHRDCQ
3	Annoual	Pascale	Arts, Racines & Therapies
4	Armstrong	Timothy	Individual Member
5	Beaudet	Geneviève	Individual Member
6	Belleau	Anne-Marie	Maison Nivard-de Saint-Dizier
7	Bellefleur	Emili	APTN
8	Benoit	Karoline	NETWORK
9	Berscheid	Chad	Individual Member
10	Bertrand	Nahka	Individual Member
11	Bourdon	Suzanne	Individual Member
12	Bordeleau	Mélanie	Individual Member
13	Brazeau	Jennifer	Quebec Native Women
14	Buckell	Francine	First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec
15	Campeau	Audrey	Wapikoni mobile

No .	Nom Name	Prénom First name	Organization
16	Cartwright	Mikayla	NETWORK
17	Cash	Ted	Individual Member
18	Castelo	Madelaine	Individual Member
19	Chamichian	Ramélia	NETWORK
20	Charland	Justin	Buffalo Hat Singers
21	Cheema	Surkhraj	Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
22	Cheezo	Fred	Buffalo Hat Singers
23	Chouinard	Carole	City of Montreal
24	Coiffey	Jean-Pierre	Individual Member
25	Constantin	Louise	Centre St-Pierre
26	Collard	Geneviève	Urban service centre of Montreal at the FNHRDCQ
27	Deutsch	Rachel	NETWORK
28	Diabo	Barbara	Hoop dancer
29	Forbes	Garnett	Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
30	Gagnon	Emma	Buffalo Hat Singers
31	Germain	Alexandre	RCAAQ
32	Giard	Suzanne	Individual Member

No .	Nom Name	Prénom First name	Organization
33	Goupil-Landry	Mélissa	Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse
34	Groussin	Basile	Individual Member
35	Henderson	Chantel	Individual Member
36	Heutte	Jacques	Innutelecom
37	Isloor	Natasha	Statistics Canada
38	Janin	Anais	Individual Member
39	Jenkins	Lesley	Individual Member
40	Joannette	Odile	First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec
41	Lacroix	Guy	City of Montreal
42	Lafrénière	Andrée	Individual Member
43	Langlais	Catherine	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
44	Laou	Sarah	Individual Member
45	Lee-Louis	Kimberly	Individual Member
46	Leroux	Jacques	NETWORK
47	Levac	Marie-Claude	Canada Revenue Agency
48	Lord	Audrey	Individual Member

No .	Nom Name	Prénom First name	Organization
49	Lumsden	Mélanie	Exeko
50	Machado	Cynthia	Individual Member
51	Madill	Lachlan	Individual Member
52	Martin	Carrie	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
53	Meilleur	Philippe	Native Community Development Centre of Montreal
54	Michel	Virginie	Wapikoni mobile
55	Mollen-Dupuis	Bérénice	Native Community Development Centre of Montreal
56	Mollen-Dupuis	Mélissa	Native Community Development Centre of Montreal
57		Nakuset	NETWORK Co-Chair
58	Normandin	Tealey	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
59	O'Bomsawin	Jean-François	APTN
60	O'Breham	Audrey	Individual Member
61	Oscar	Schenley	Individual Member
62	Parent	Marie-Josée	DestiNATIONS
63	Perreault	Marc	Individual Member
64	Phillips	Alana-Dawn	Rising Sun Daycare
65	Picard	Kim	Innutelecom

No .	Nom Name	Prénom First name	Organization
66	Poirier	Billi-Jo	Dawson College
67	Pouliot	Eric	Individual Member
68	Rosado	Ashanti	Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
69	Roy	Mélanie	Individual Member
70	Salas	Isabel	Individual Member
71	Sampson	Delbert	Elder
72	Samoisette	Gilles	Innutelecom
73	Segalowitz	Nina	Individual Member
74	Simon	Marie-Laure	Centre Wampum
75	Sioui	Anik	Innutelecom
76	Slawecki	Krystyna	Collège Frontière
77	Smith	Ruth	Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
78	St-Amour	Louise	Statistics Canada
79	Vachon	Jean-François	Individual Member