



## SPRING GATHERING REPORT

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

EVO Hotel  
420, Sherbrooke West

**APPROVED ON January 18, 2018**



## **AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer by Otsitsaken: ra (Charles Patton) and welcoming words by NETWORK Co-Chair, Nakuset
2. Adoption of the agenda and Gathering report of January 25, 2017
3. Presentation of expenses and revenues 2016/2017
4. Elections of NETWORK Co-Chairs

### *NETWORKING BREAK*

5. Artistic Performance by Odaya
6. Overview of services and programs for the Aboriginal community in Montreal
7. Working Committees' Updates

### *NETWORKING LUNCH*

8. Overview of the NETWORK's structure, future opportunities, and taking inspiration from what exists elsewhere
9. Activity: linking the NETWORK with these opportunities

### *NETWORKING BREAK*

10. Artistic Performance by Ivanie Aubin-Malo and Buffalo Hat Singers
11. Community Announcements, Evaluation Forms and Door Prizes
12. Closing Prayer by Vicky Boldo, Communications Working Committee Representative

**1. Opening Prayer by Otsitsaken: ra (Charles Patton) and welcoming words by NETWORK Co-Chair, Nakuset**

Nakuset, NETWORK Co-Chair, declares the opening of the Gathering at 9:20 am. She begins by thanking all participants for their presence and welcomes them. She reminds that there's coffee available and that lunch will be offered at noon. She announces that simultaneous translation is available. She adds that today some media will be present and that if a person doesn't want to be photographed, to contact Allison Reid, NETWORK Coordinator. She then recommends that those present stay until the end of the day because at 5 pm the Health Center will hold its AGM. She reminds everyone to take a few moments to complete the evaluation form before leaving. Nakuset then invites Charles Patton for the opening prayer.

Charles Patton pronounces the opening prayer.

**2. Adoption of the agenda and Gathering report of January 25, 2017**

Allison Reid, NETWORK Coordinator, reads the agenda. She announces that an amendment to the agenda related to the absence of Odile Joannette has to be made. Presentation of the historical overview of activities and partners will not take place.

<p>It was proposed by Pascale Annoual and seconded by Mikayla Cartwright: TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH MODIFICATION. Adopted.</p>
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Allison Reid then invites the participants to proceed with the adoption of the report of the previous Gathering.

**Questions and comments**

Trina Slapcoff clarifies a point she has in the report. Allison replies that this clarification will be made.

<p>It was proposed by Mikayla Cartwright and seconded by Vicky Boldo: TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE GATHERING OF JANUARY 25, 2017, WITH CLARIFICATION. Adopted.</p>
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### 3. Presentation of expenses and revenues 2016/2017

Allison Reid presents the expenses and revenues for 2016/2017 based on the different financial structures. She then shows the revenues received in March 2017.

#### Questions and comments

Carole Chouinard would like to know how much money from the balance of \$ 65,385 will be used between February 28 and March 31. Allison Reid replies that costs associated to human resources, the gathering, and other activities and operations will be spent.

Alana-Down Phillips would like to know whether the funds received in March 2017 are specifically tied to each project or were awarded to the Steering Committee. She also asks what is planned to do with the remaining \$ 35,000 of the surplus. Allison replies that these amounts are related to each project specifically and that the remaining surplus will be used in 2018 for the NETWORK's human resources and for the development of the future strategic plan.

### 4. Elections of NETWORK Co-Chairs

Allison Reid reads the roles of the Co-Chairs and the eligibility criteria for these two positions. She then invites Vicky Boldo, who had previously communicated her interest in writing, in taking up one of the two Co-Chair positions. Vicky Boldo begins by thanking Allison Reid and Nakuset, and then she speaks to her experience and her involvement in the NETWORK.

Allison invites members to nominate candidates.

It was proposed by Alana-Dawn Phillips and seconded by Catherine Joncas:  
TO APPOINT VICKY BOLDO AS NETWORK CO-CHAIR FOR A TWO-YEAR MANDATE.  
Vicky Boldo accepts the nomination for the 2-year term.

Carrie Martin, seconded by Pascale Annoual, proposes Mikayla Cartwright. Mikayla Cartwright feels honored by their confidence, but declines the offer.

Pascale Annoual seconded by Alana-Dawn Phillips, proposes Francine Buckell. Francine Buckell thanks them, but declines the offer.

It was proposed by Nakuset and seconded by Alexander Nequado:  
TO APPOINT MARIE-JOSÉE PARENT AS NETWORK CO-CHAIR FOR A ONE-YEAR MANDATE.  
Marie-Josée Parent accepts the appointment for the 1 year term.

Adopted by acclamation, Vicky Boldo is elected to serve as Co-Chair (2 years) and Marie-Josée Parent is elected as Co-Chair (1 year).

Marie-Josée Parent declares that she feels honored to represent the NETWORK and its members.

### **5. Artistic Performance by Odaya**

Nahka Bertrand and Dayna Danger perform three songs on birth, water and the traveler.

### **6. Overview of services and programs for the Aboriginal community in Montreal**

Mikayla Cartwright announces that the NETWORK was asked to present the various programs and initiatives available in Montreal for Aboriginal people. She presents a tool developed by the NETWORK entitled "Aboriginal Reference Guide in Montreal". This guide responds to a transversal NETWORK priority to inform Aboriginal people about all services available in Montreal. She recalls that this guide is available in English and French. Although dedicated to newcomers to the city, it is a practical tool for all, as it lists all Aboriginal organizations in Montreal. A new edition is carried out every year given the speed with which new organizations and services are developing. This guide includes information on employability-related services, financial services, and access to government bodies, housing and school registration of a child and summarizes the documents necessary to access the different programs. This is a very handy guide.

### **7. Working Committees' Updates**

Allison Reid invites the various NETWORK Working Committees' Representatives to summarize their recent and upcoming projects and achievements.

Youth Working Committee: Nahka Bertrand announces that, due to a lack of funding, there hasn't been much progress in the Youth Working Committee. However, the committee is still working on the development of an interactive map listing all the resources available for young newcomers to Montreal. She also announces that a grant application has been submitted and that it appears to be on track.

Education and Employability Circle: Mikayla Cartwright begins by reminding the three transversal priorities of this circle:

1. Ensure the creation and development of tools, activities and initiatives to address the needs of communities in regards to employability, training and education. The reference guide presented above was developed directly in response to this priority.
2. Promote access to employment, training and education for Indigenous youth. The MAMU! directly flows from this priority. This job fair creates a lot of connections between job seekers and potential employers. In addition, Mikayla Cartwright invites people who have succeeded in obtaining positions through this job fair to showcase themselves to better quantify the impact and have success stories.

3. Develop initiatives to improve communication between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. Mikayla Cartwright announces that a new tool is coming to respond to this transversal priority, which will take the form of awareness training in several forums.

In addition, Mikayla Cartwright announces that the circle is looking for new members.

ART●CULTURE Working Committee:

1. **Member Organizations:** Marie-Josée Parent presents a list of the various member organizations and their representatives. She reports that the committee's mandate is to create a round table and to refer the different projects to the member organizations according to their capacity and common interests to carry them out. She reminds that the members of this committee can't be individuals, only representatives of organizations.
2. **Aboriginal Programming in the 375th:** This year is the year of celebration of the 375th anniversary of Montreal and that with the member organizations, a great number of activities are planned (ART●CULTURE evenings with the *Cercle des Premières Nations UQAM*, the *Rendez-vous des Arts Métissés* by Sacred Fires Productions, the First Peoples' Festival, a large urban design exhibition by Native Montreal, Wapikoni Mobile will travel the streets of the city to disseminate Aboriginal achievements). It is thanks to the negotiation with the City of Montreal led by the NETWORK and Chief Ghislain Picard, AFNQL, that the content of these activities will not need the endorsement of a non-native external jury.

Catherine Joncas explains that Ondinnok chose not to submit a project to the City of Montreal in order to preserve all their freedom of speech and organization. With the help of Montreal's *Accès Culture* network, Ondinnok will offer a larger Aboriginal Art Spring than previous editions by going to four additional points. On the other hand, Catherine Joncas presents the project "*5 minutes pour que je te dise*" to which 9 theaters in Montreal and 11 Aboriginal artists participated. This is an event called "*Levé de Rideau*", which provides Aboriginal artists with 5 minutes to express themselves before each performance.

3. **DestiNATIONS Project:** Marie-Josée Parent resumes speaking to announce that the DestiNATIONS project is progressing very well, that its association with *Tourisme Autochtone Québec* has been very beneficial. A place has been designated to open this cultural center which can't be unveiled yet. An official announcement is expected in 2017 and the site is scheduled to open in late 2018, early 2019.
4. **National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2017:** On this day, Marie Josée Parent announces that a musical show will be organized by APTN across Canada, bringing together eight major cities according to their time zones. This show will be co-organized in Montreal with the ART●CULTURE Working Committee and APTN and will feature activities of member organizations.

Health Working Committee: Pascale Annoual begins by presenting her functions as Alternate to the Health Working Committee which is also part of the newly incorporated Montreal Aboriginal Health Center. She announces that this committee has been divided into three subcommittees:

1. **Cultural Safety Training Subcommittee:** She announces that they are the first to publish a review of all Aboriginal health articles. The purpose of the sub-committee is to create training and a guide for the delivery of an adapted care service. This guide is directed to medical staff so that all officers in direct contact with an Aboriginal client have been sensitized to Aboriginal history, culture and traditions. A Coordinator position for this subcommittee has been approved in February and the development of the Cultural Health Guide began in January.
2. **Health Center Project Subcommittee:** Pascale Annoual reports that the Health Center was incorporated last year. A petition for public consultation to find a place to open this center was carried out. More than 4,000 signatures were collected, 90% of which were from non-Aboriginal citizens, demonstrating the involvement of Montreal residents. These results have been forwarded to Mayor Denis Coderre since his participation in the last NETWORK Winter Gathering where he had manifested his interest to this cause. However, there yet hasn't been a response from the City of Montreal. The subcommittee has agreed to publicize itself in order to raise money, but it is still difficult. Pascale Annoual goes on to say that the subcommittee is looking for members.
3. **Sweat lodge Subcommittee:** Pascale Annoual reminds that the sweat lodge is operational since 2012, which closes during the winter period and reopens in May. She reports that the sweat lodge is underutilized and that more users are needed so that the elder Sedelia can continue to promote and transmit her knowledge and care in this environment.

Social Services Working Committee: Nakuset reviews the various projects and achievements of the three subcommittees working on homelessness, justice and the circle of care. These projects continue to advance to better serve the Aboriginal population of Montreal.

1. **Circle of Care Subcommittee:** Nakuset reports that the research project on coaching and guidance for Aboriginal children and families continues. She announces that the lohahi:io mentoring Project would be resumed with a new Coordinator through funds recently acquired by the SAA.
2. **Justice Subcommittee:** Nakuset reports that the Montreal Police Service Outreach and Training Project was completed for two years and a guide was created. In addition, the First Peoples Justice Center of Montreal is continuing its efforts to improve its services. She announces that the MMIW project for missing or murdered Aboriginal women had received funding from Justice Canada and the City of Montreal.
3. **Homelessness Subcommittee:** Nakuset takes over the projects supported, focusing on helping to find housing for urban Aboriginal people. She continues with the announcement of the renewal of the Cabot Square project and its activities for the upcoming year.



Communications Working Committee: Vicky Boldo looks back on her recent years and involvement with the NETWORK and other organizations. She announces that for the time being she was the only person sitting on the committee and invites the members to join her in helping her complete the various communications committee projects. She reports that funding was received to temporarily hire a communications officer to complete work including the drafting of a communications plan for the NETWORK. She also expresses the need to revise the role of this committee to best support all NETWORK Working Committees.

## 8. Overview of the NETWORK's structure, future opportunities, and taking inspiration from what exists elsewhere

Allison Reid reads the vision and mandate of the NETWORK. She then presents briefly the structure of the NETWORK and its future opportunities such as the drafting of the next Strategic Plan, its 10th anniversary in 2018, and the launching of the "Metropolis of Reconciliation" project by the City of Montreal. She adds that the NETWORK is continuously nourished by the reflections and information provided by members at Gatherings and activities and warmly thanks the participants for their dedication.

She then presents the structures of organizations, boards, committees and initiatives in Vancouver and Calgary to inspire and inform members and participants about what is being done elsewhere.

<b>Vancouver</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <i>Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council:</i> This council is an assembly of 25 Aboriginal organizations that aims to provide a unified voice through regular council meetings and roundtables on priority areas.</li><li>b) <i>Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee:</i> This committee is established by Vancouver's municipal regulation. It is responsible for coordinating Aboriginal consultations and facilitating collaborative decision-making on municipal issues.</li></ul>
<b>Calgary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <i>Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative:</i> This initiative brings together stakeholders, the community and organizations together with all government bodies for forums on specific areas (health, education, employment, justice, housing, services, and human rights).</li><li>b) <i>Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee:</i> This committee provides recommendations to City Council on Aboriginal issues in Calgary. It is responsible for reporting to the Standing Policy Committee on community and protective services.</li></ul>

Allison Reid continues with the presentation of the *Conseil des Montréalaises*, which is a consultative body of the City of Montreal, from which the NETWORK could also draw inspiration. This council gathers the voices of Montreal women to contribute to the

development and implementation of an egalitarian policy. This council acts independently and on its own initiative as well as on request.

### **9. Activity: linking the NETWORK with these opportunities**

Allison Reid, facilitator of this reflection activity, invites all participants to sit randomly around four tables. The first activity of reflection concerns the mandate of the NETWORK and its position in the project "Metropolis of Reconciliation". Each of the tables has twenty minutes to work on these questions and one representative per table will summarize the points raised by his / her work team.

Here are the two questions on which the work tables will focus during this first reflection activity:

1. Is our mandate clear? Should it be reduced or expanded? How?
2. What is the role of the NETWORK in public policy that affects the Aboriginal community in Montreal? (For example: consider the role of the NETWORK in relation to the "Metropolis of Reconciliation" project that was presented by Mayor Denis Coderre during the Winter Gathering).

#### First Work Table – Nicholas Wendell:

1. The first team asked a lot about the representation and specific needs of Aboriginal people with disabilities or mental disabilities within the NETWORK. They suggest sensitizing each NETWORK committee to this issue and the need to develop tools adapted to situations, such as sign language. The issue of integrating Indigenous people with disabilities into the labor market was also discussed.
2. They suggest that before embarking on a campaign with the municipality, it would be important to define what "reconciliation" means within Aboriginal organizations and communities.

#### Second Work Table – Mikayla Cartwright:

1. Concerning the first question, the second table fully agrees with the four areas of the mandate, but raises a few points concerning the preamble:
  - a) They suggest changing "organizational structure" to "consultation structure".
  - b) They questioned how to make the mandate more accessible to people so that they feel more involved and identify. They propose to replace the word "Aboriginal" with "First Nations, Inuit and Métis".
  - c) They would like the preamble to be reformulated to better reflect the values of the community and gathering promoted by the NETWORK and its partners.
2. The team suggests that the NETWORK be the reference consultation structure to which the City of Montreal addresses issues related to Aboriginal communities. The NETWORK should therefore have representatives in all parts of the City of Montreal.

Third Work Table – Véronique Picard:

1. The third team finds that the four points of the mandate are clear, but there is a need for prioritization:
  - a) They suggest including the second point of the mandate in the first.
  - b) They suggest prioritizing items 3 and 4 of the Terms of Reference. They also identify the need for better consultation between committees to avoid working in duplicate situations.
  - c) They suggest that points 3 and 4 become only one point since they are intimately linked.
  
2. As with the previous table, the team identified the need for the NETWORK to act as a reference consulting organization for the City of Montreal. Because a large number of organizations are part of the NETWORK and are involved in a wide variety of fields, the NETWORK has a wide range of perspectives, perspectives and expertise.

Fourth Work Table – Trina Slapcoff:

1. The fourth team expresses that the mandate has some redundancies and remains somewhat vague in regards to the decision-making structure. There is a great deal of concern about the role of the mandate and the need to clarify it for the committees and partner organizations. They also imagined the possibility for partner organizations and various committees to carry out a reflection activity to avoid duplication of research and development work.

Allison Reid thanks all the participants for their involvement and their ideas before inviting them to randomly place themselves around five tables to discuss the second activity of reflection. This will focus on the NETWORK's different areas of intervention. Each of the tables has fifteen minutes to work on these questions and one representative per table will summarize the points raised by its work team.

Here are the two points on which the work tables will focus during this second reflection activity:

1. Are there priority areas that are not addressed by the Work Committees?
2. For each new area identified, identify priorities, possible solutions, issues and / or key players.

First Work Table – Véronique Picard:

The first table identified several areas that could lead to the creation of new Working Committees or to include them in existing ones. However, they did not have time to reflect on

the prioritization of these: the environment, economic development, dependence (in all its forms) and nutrition.

Second Work Table – Moe Clark:

The team focused on health and social services. They suggest separating the notions of justice and homelessness and wonder what exactly the circle of care means.

They raised the need for a health center where Aboriginal people can identify themselves, facilitate access to appropriate care in keeping with their traditions and cultures. In addition, the presence of Indigenous people with mental disabilities or impairments should be better managed. They identified the need to sensitize all health workers to Aboriginal culture and tradition in the same way that the NETWORK does with the SPVM.

They suggest that all committees become aware of the role of health in their projects and activities.

Third Work Table – Réjean Chauvette:

The team suggests prioritizing the visibility of Aboriginal communities:

- Renaming streets and parks with the surnames of the great Aboriginal leaders.
- By creating a museum dedicated to the history, culture and traditions of each Aboriginal community in Montreal.
- By inserting more French into the news network such as the APTN.

Third Work Table – Mikayla Cartwright adds: The team also suggests adding nutrition, urban agriculture and would like to see the NETWORK more involved in the school curriculum.

In addition, they suggest looking into the male issue and supporting young Aboriginal men in the same way that the Aboriginal women's position is represented and supported.

Fourth Work Table – Louise Watson:

The fourth table fully agrees with putting health as a number one priority. However, they feel the need to implement holistic care in relation to the concepts of integration, intersectoral and intercultural.

They suggest bringing together health and social services under one committee.

They suggest that publicly sharing the reports of each Working Committee is beneficial even though they understand that the Communications Working Committee currently has only one person and that it is a lot of work.

They then express the possibility of reducing the number of committees to increase the number of workers.

The youth committee is also to be prioritized according to this work table.

Fifth Work Table – Mélanie Lumsden:

The fifth team raises the low representation of Inuit within the NETWORK. She wonders how to involve more Inuit and how to work together.

She expresses the need for greater representation of Aboriginal people with disabilities within the NETWORK.

The team proposes to create an advisory committee that would work closely with the City of Montreal on the "Metropolis of Reconciliation" project. They believe that this advisory committee should include members of the nations present in Montreal today. This committee would work on the NETWORK's positions on reconciliation.

**10. Artistic Performance by Ivanie Aubin-Malo and Buffalo Hat Singers**

Allison Reid invites Ivanie Aubin-Mali and the Buffalo Hat Singers to take their places on the stage. Ivanie Aubin-Mali tells us about her journey through traditional dancing and the different movements according to the origins and adaptation of the latter through history. Together with the Buffalo Hat Singers, they perform five songs and three traditional dances.

**11. Community Announcements, Evaluation Forms and Door Prizes**

Allison Reid invites members and participants to speak for community announcements.

Michelle Fayette, Service Canada Liaison Officer, lists the various services offered by Service Canada. She invites members to call upon Service Canada to travel free of charge within their organizational structure or community to inform them about the various services they provide. These include support for youth in the search for employment and internships abroad and in Canada, services for seniors and specific services for Aboriginal people.

Moe Clark announces that on Friday, April 7, 2017 an organized performance called Transmission, will be bringing together a large number of Aboriginal artists at the *Maison de la Culture* in Ahuntsic-Cartierville.

Allison Reid then goes on to remind participants to hand their completed evaluation form to Pascale Annoual. Then follows a random draw among the participants during which the NETWORK offers different door prizes.

**12. Closing Prayer by Vicky Boldo, Communications Working Committee Representative**

Allison Reid invites Vicky Boldo to close the Spring Gathering with a prayer. Vicky Boldo thanks all the participants, members and organizers of this Gathering and closes with an acknowledgment song in Cree.

Attendance List – March 28, 2017

No.	Name	First name	Organization
1	Annoual	Pascale	Comité Santé RÉSEAU
2	Coiffey	Jean Pierre	Amnistie internationale Montréal
3	Giard	Suzanne	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
4	St-Pierre	Marilyne	NWSM, Batshaw, Concordia University
5	Achneepineskum	Norman	Buffalo Hats Singers
6	Arnaud	Aurelie	Ville de Montréal
7	Aubin-Malo	Ivanie	
8	Awashish	Terry	
9	Beaulieu	Jules-Hubert	
10	Benoit	Karoline	Radio-Canada
11	Bergeron	Annie	Femmes autochtones du Québec
12	Bertrand	Nahka	Odaya
13	Boldo	Vicky	Comité Communications, RESEAU
14	Bonspiel	Sheila	Nu Spa, Beauty & Wellness
15	Bonspille	Patsy	
16	Boucher-Curotte	Orenda	Dawson College
17	Bourque	Lynn	Rising Sun Childcare Centre
18	Breton	Marie-Josée	AANC

19	Brochu	Sophie	
20	Buckell	Francine	CDHRPNQ
21	Cartwright	Mikayla	CSU-CDHRPNQ
22	Cash	Ted	
23	Chauvette	Réjean	
24	Cheema	Cam	
25	Chouinard	Carole	Ville de Montréal
26	Clark	Moe	
27	Crane	David	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
28	Danger	Dayna	Odaya
29	Deutsch	Rachel	Centre de justice des Premiers Peuples de Montréal
30	Diaz	Pedro	Buffalo Hats Singers
31	Dumont	Louise	
32	Fayette	Michelle	Service Canada
33	Gagnon	Emma-Denise	Buffalo Hats Singers
34	Gershuny	Sandy	
35	Gosselin	Cindy	Statistics Canada
36	Henderson	Chantel	Native Women's Shelter of Montréal
37	Isaac	Paige	First Peoples' House
38	Jarvis	Brandon	YMCA-Dialogue
39	Joncas	Catherine	Ondinnok
40	Langlais	Catherine	AANC
41	Larivière	Widia	Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse
42	Lopez	Marlihan	RQCALACS
43	Lumsden	Mélanie	DestiNATIONS
44	Madill	Lachlan	
45	Martell	Reuben	
46	Martin	Carrie	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
47	Medrano	Samuel	Buffalo Hats Singers
48	Michele	Harvey	
49	Mille	Charlène	
50	Murray	Erin	Frontier College
51	Nakuset		Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
52	Nequado	Alexandre	Comité jeunesse, RESEAU
53	Nicholas	Wendall	Wabanaki Council on Disability
54	Normandin	Tealey	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
55	O'Braham	Audrey	
56	Parent	Marie-Josée	DestiNATIONS
57	Patton	Charles	
58	Payette	Michèle	Service Canada
59	Peters	Cedar-Eve	Cedar Eve Creations
60	Phillips	Alana-Dawn	Rising Sun Childcare Centre
61	Picard	Véronique	Femmes Autochtones Québec - Quebec

			Native Women
62	Ramze Rezaee	Jasmine	Montreal Aboriginal Health Centre
63	Raymond	Norman	Buffalo Hats Singers
64	Reid	Allison	RÉSEAU
65	Ruffin	Emilie	
66	Segalowitz	Nina	Centre des Femmes de Montréal
67	Slapcoff	Trina	Concordia University Graduate Student
68	Slapcoff	Marcy	
69	Slawecki	Krystyna	Frontier College
70	St-Clair	Keo	
71	Trepanier	Rebecca	
72	Watson	Louise	