



## SPRING GATHERING REPORT

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Salle polyvalente, Pavillon Sherbrooke  
200 Sherbrooke Street West,  
UQÀM

**ADOPTED ON** \_\_\_\_\_

## AGENDA

1. Opening prayer by Elder Amelia Tekwatonti
2. Words of welcome
3. Address by the NETWORK Co-Chair, Vicky Boldo (with update on the Steering Committee)
4. Adoption of the agenda and of the report of the Gathering held on January 18, 2018
5. Film: "Just Beyond My Front Door", Kanerahtens Bush
6. Announcements by active working committees
7. Strategic orientations 2018-2023

### *BREAK - NETWORKING*

8. Throat singing, Lucina Gordon and Nancy Saunders
9. Community and partners' announcements

### *LUNCH - NETWORKING*

10. Music: Corey Thomas
11. Creating “co-resistors” through Indigenous pedagogy in a time of “ReconciliACTION”, Laurence Lainesse and Vicky Boldo
12. Team-building activity
13. Election: NETWORK Co-Chair
14. Music: Marie-Josée Tremblay
15. Community and partners' announcements
16. Proposal by Wapikoni Mobile, Odile Joannette
17. Song and dance: Buffalo Hat Singers with Barbara Diabo
18. Closing remarks

## **1. Opening prayer by Elder Amelia Tekwatonti**

Dolorès André, a member of the Steering Committee, representing the Working Committee on Education and Employability, declared the Spring Gathering opened at 9:10am. She began by welcoming all participants and thanking them for their attendance. She introduced Amelia Tekwatonti, who led the opening prayer in Mohawk.

## **2. Words of welcome**

Vicky Boldo, Co-Chair of the NETWORK, invited Laurence Lainesse of UQÀM to say a few words. Laurence Lainesse thanked UQÀM for hosting the NETWORK's Gathering and began by recognizing that UQÀM is on unceded Mohawk territory. Dolorès André covered a few housekeeping points about the day (availability of simultaneous interpretation in English and French, presence of a film crew and the form to be completed).

## **3. Address by the NETWORK Co-Chair, Vicky Boldo (with update on the Steering Committee)**

Vicky Boldo invited the members of the NETWORK's Steering Committee to join them at the front of the room; she then introduced them. Nakuset was invited to present an update on the activities of the Justice and Circle of Care Subcommittees.

Nakuset, speaking on behalf of the NETWORK'S Justice Subcommittee, reminded participants that Justice and Circle of Care were subcommittees of the Social Services Committee. She introduced David Crane, outreach worker with the Cabot Square Project, as well as Mélodie Grenier, whom she invited to give an update on the Cabot Square Roundhouse Cafe project.

Mélodie Grenier, who works with L'itinéraire and the Abenaki community group, reported that the cafe was going to be run by three employees 22 hours per week. She gave a brief overview of a new program called "Tapage", which focuses on addiction. She announced that Natacha Kanapé Fontaine would be the cafe's ambassador. She ended by calling on everyone present to come up with ideas for events that would ensure the Roundhouse Cafe could attract plenty of people.

Nakuset then spoke about the circle of care and the work being done with Batshaw on youth protection and developing solutions to the problem of missing youth and youth leaving the youth protection system. A study was being conducted to ensure that the staff at Batshaw homes and centres was properly trained in and sensitized about issues faces by Aboriginal youth. This three-year study had ended and its findings would soon be available. Nakuset announced that the lohahi:io project was seeking to reorganize by bringing in new Big Brothers and Big Sisters to share their experiences with Aboriginal youth.

Tealey Normandin, an outreach worker with the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, reported on a number of points concerning the Homelessness Subcommittee. She announced that a pamphlet was going to be designed following a study on needs and availability of rental housing for homeless Aboriginals. This pamphlet would be aimed at tenants as well as landlords and real

estate agents, and was being funded by the Aboriginal Projects (PPA). She concluded by announcing that a new chair of the Subcommittee had been elected.

Vicky Boldo gave a progress report on the Communications Committee. She announced that the NETWORK currently had a Project Manager: Communications and Mobilisation, and that the mandate of the Committee was to reach out to as many people as possible. She raised the possibility of setting up a new environment committee to work on environmental impact and sustainability.

Vicky Boldo ended by giving a brief update on the work of the Steering Committee. She thanked Percolab and donors for making it possible to organize these gatherings: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the City of Montreal, the Secretariat for Indigenous Affairs. She reminded participants that the NETWORK would be marking its tenth anniversary in the fall of 2018.

#### **4. Adoption of the agenda and of the report of the Gathering held on January 18, 2018**

Vicky Boldo asked participants to review the agenda and the report of the Winter Gathering held on January 18, 2018, and adopt them or suggest amendments.

Motion by Jani Greffe Bélanger, seconded by Mélodie Grenier: THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED. Carried.
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Motion by Anaïs Janin, seconded by Maya Cousineau-Mollen: THAT THE REPORT OF THE GATHERING HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2018 BE ADOPTED. Carried.
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#### **5. Film: "Just Beyond My Front Door", Kanerahtens Bush**

Kanerahtens Bush's film was shown to the audience.

#### **6. Announcements by active working committees**

Dolorès André began by presenting the work of the Education and Employability Circle. She announced the departure of Co-Chair Mikayla Cartwright and explained the need to fill the vacancy. She reported that a great many meetings had taken place to produce the strategic plan with help of Percolab and that the MAMU! job fair was taking place during the first week of October 2018. The Committee was working to publish fact sheets aimed at sensitizing employers and promoting the hiring of Aboriginal employees. She invited participants to submit suggestions concerning MAMU! and reminded them that meetings about the job fair were held on the first Tuesday of every month.

Pascale Annoual gave an update on the work of the Health Committee. She reported that the Montreal Urban Aboriginal HEALTH Centre (MUAHC) had been incorporated two years earlier. At the Annual General Meeting held in January, Trina Slapcoff had taken on the job of Executive

Secretary, and the partners had met in March 2018 to work on creating an action plan for the MUAHC. Pascale described the work that had been done to maintain a sweat lodge in Montreal and explained that the main obstacle at the present time was a lack of funds. She highlighted one of the Health Committee's major achievements: finalizing one of the first programs in Quebec that provides training on cultural safety to health care organizations and providers.

## **7. Strategic orientations 2018-2023**

Vicky Boldo invited Elizabeth Hunt of Percolab to report on the work done to draw up the guidelines for the NETWORK's new strategic plan.

Elizabeth Hunt briefly reviewed all the tools that Percolab had developed and applied to gather the information that served as the basis for the most recent draft, which had been printed and posted in the meeting room. She invited all participants to read the posters and submit final amendments, suggestions and ideas. She then called on Talia Natowcappo to perform a "slam" on Aboriginal identity based on the information gathered.

## **8. Throat singing, Lucina Gordon and Nancy Saunders**

Lucina Gordon and Nancy Saunders performed 3 throat songs for the benefit of the assembled participants.

## **9. Community and partners' announcements**

### **a) DestiNATIONS**

John Moyal, Director of the DestiNATIONS legacy project, gave a quick update on the project. He announced that Tourisme Québec had confirmed its support for the DestiNATIONS project and that the provincial, federal and municipal governments were still being lobbied for funds.

Mélanie Lumsden reminded participants of upcoming meetings on current projects:

- An open house afternoon at MTLab to discuss current projects.
- A meeting on May 24, 2018 at UQÀM to give the community the latest information about the DestiNATIONS legacy project.

Mélanie Lumsden added that details about these two events would be published in the NETWORK's newsletter.

### **b) Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec**

Sharon Hunter gave a brief overview of the Commission, its role and the public services covered by the inquiry. She then invited all participants who wished to ask more questions or wanted to provide testimony to meet with her team.

### **c) City of Montreal: Reconciliation Strategy**

Aurélié Arnaud took the floor to update participants about the reconciliation strategy that the City of Montreal wanted to develop. She explained that, in January 2018, the City had appointed Marie-Ève Bordeleau to the position of Commissioner for Relations with Indigenous Peoples.

She gave a description of Ms. Bordeleau and showed a video of the Commissioner, who had not been able to attend the Gathering.

d) 2018 Gathering Spirits Pow-wow

Kahwannahawi Raye introduced herself and described her initiative to take up the torch following the cancellation of the Montreal Pow-wow. She thanked Alan Harrington for the help and support he had given her undertaking and read the speech she had given at McGill.

Following the speech, Philippe Meilleur, Executive Director of Native Montreal, announced that his organization would commit to sponsoring Kahwannahawi Raye's initiative to put on a 2018 Pow-wow.

Dolorès André thanked Kahwannahawi Raye and suggested that she apply to the summer student program of the FNHRDCQ (First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec) to sponsor the salary of a summer student.

Vicky Boldo then thanked all participants and invited Elder Amelia Tekwatonti to recite a prayer to bless the food for the coming meal.

**10. Music: Corey Thomas**

Corey Thomas performed several jazz standards and original compositions.

**11. Creating "co-resistors" through Indigenous pedagogy in a time of "ReconciliACTION", Laurence Lainesse and Vicky Boldo**

Vicky Boldo introduced Laurence Lainesse, a student at UQÀM whom she had co-supervised during her studies toward a BA in social work with Aboriginals. She outlined the work they had done together and the various project that Laurence Lainesse had directed.

Laurence Lainesse introduced herself and explained her point of view about the role that social work could play in advancing the issues involved in reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples. She added that she felt honoured to attend the gathering, and went on to share her experiences at Concordia's Aboriginal Student Resource Center and working with Vicky Boldo and attending various meetings. She ended by giving a reading of a text she had written, titled "Growing as a white flower".

**12. Team-building activity**

Allison Reid, the NETWORK's coordinator, invited everyone to join in a team-building activity. She briefly explained the various rules of the activity, which was designed to help participants to understand the connection between sharing information and getting to know one another better, and to help them move forward together.

**13. Election: NETWORK Co-Chair**

Aurélie Arnaud led the discussion on the election to fill the position of NETWORK Co-Chair. She briefly reviewed the mandate and duties of the position, the details of the election process and who could run for election.

Tealey Normandin asked for the floor to make a recommendation as a result of the strategic orientations developed through the work of Percolab.

Motion by Tealey Normandin, seconded by Odile Joannette and Vicky Boldo:  
THAT ELIGIBILITY TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF CO-CHAIR BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE ANY MEMBER OF THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY.  
Alana-Dawn Phillips blocked the motion.

Aurélie Arnaud reminded participants that the current terms of reference made it possible for this kind of proposal to be adopted during a general gathering, but Alana-Dawn Phillips expressed a reservation to take into account members of the NETWORK not present at the gathering. She proposed that the recommendation be adopted but not take effect immediately; she suggested that it be sent to members 10 days before the next gathering and take effect at the time it was approved at the next gathering. This proposal was followed by a discussion among several members of the NETWORK, and two motions were finally submitted to the floor.

Motion by Alana-Dawn Philips, seconded by Nakuset:  
THAT THE PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE NEXT GATHERING AND THAT IT BE VOTED ON OFFICIALLY AND INCORPORATED INTO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AT THE GATHERING.  
Carried unanimously.

Motion by Nakuset, seconded by Tealey Normandin:  
THAT THE ELECTION TO FILL THE POSITION OF NETWORK CO-CHAIR BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE NEXT GATHERING OF THE NETWORK.  
Carried unanimously.

On the recommendation of a member, the Coordinator proposed that a gathering be convened in June 2018 to deal only with the election. Geneviève Sioui recommended that it be held after 5pm.

#### **14. Music: Marie-Josée Tremblay**

Marie-Josée Tremblay performed three songs, accompanying herself on the guitar.

#### **15. Community and partners' announcements**

##### a) Service Canada

Michèle Payette reviewed various items of information concerning Service Canada and the free services available to Aboriginal communities. She invited anyone with questions to come and talk about them with her.

##### b) Wolf Pack Street Patrol

Alan Harrington thanked David Crane for having led this initiative and presented him with a Wolf Pack Street Patrol T-shirt. He then reviewed the project, the purpose of which was to conduct night patrols to ensure the safety of urban Aboriginals and to increase awareness among the SPVM (Montreal Police Service). He reported that, for the time being, patrols were held three times a week and that he would like to extend them to seven times a week as well as setting up a Native women's patrol as well. He reminded participants of the need for volunteers to continue expanding the scope of the project.

c) Youth reconciliation initiative

Erika Massoud and Dakota presented the youth reconciliation initiative project aimed at putting young people centre-stage in the process of reconciliation with the First Nations. They announced that they were looking for new volunteers to support their project and that a new space had been opened in Montreal for their youth reconciliation initiative.

d) Rising Sun Childcare Centre

Alana-Dawn Philips, Executive Director of the Rising Sun Childcare Centre, announced that her organization would be celebrating its tenth anniversary the following year and the Centre was looking to expand by enlarging the garden used to cultivate plants native to North America. She called for a volunteer to help execute this initiative to revive indigenous ancestral plants.

## **16. Proposal by Wapikoni Mobile, Odile Joannette**

Odile Joannette, Executive Director of Wapikoni Mobile, briefly recapitulated the history of Wapikoni Mobile and its work to promote youth empowerment through cultural projects, art films and documentaries. She then showed a short video by Wapikoni Mobile and reviewed the organization's achievements. She announced that Wapikoni Mobile would be marking its 15th anniversary the following year and called on everyone to work together and suggest ideas and projects highlighting indigenous languages, which were going to be the focus of the celebrations. Odile Joannette concluded by announcing that the Wapikoni Mobile project was donating its first mobile vehicle to the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Health Centre to help it move to its new premises, the location of which remained to be determined.

## **17. Song and dance: Buffalo Hat Singers with Barbara Diabo**

The Buffalo Hat Singers and Barbara Diabo performed several songs and dances to mark the end of the gathering.

## **18. Closing remarks**

Vicky Boldo reminded participants to complete the evaluation form and called on Allison Reid to draw the door prizes.

Dolorès thanked all participants at the gathering and closed the meeting at 4:15pm.