

1st Annual General Meeting of the Montreal Indigenous Community Network.



Date: September 25, 2019
Location: Kin Coworking, Montreal.
Time 5:30pm - 8:30pm
Quorum Established: Yes

Full Members in attendance: Maya Cousineau, Heather Iglorliorte, Nahka Bertrand, Dusty Plen, Rachel Deutsch (FPJCM), Amanda Roy, Shazie Phillips, Odile Joannette, Betsy Etidloie, Stephen Puskas, Wayne Robinson, Carlee Loft, Sarah Paul, Danika St-Laurent, Kateri Aubin Dubois, Anna-Aude Caouette, Amelia Tekwatonti McGregor

Associate Members in attendance: Guy Lacroix (Ville de Montreal), Anaïs Janin, Marc Perreault, Catherine Gerbelli, Jani Greffe Belanger (Exeko), Mathieu Boivin, Stéphane Guimont Marceau, Marie-eve drouin-Gagne, Penelope Roussel (Éducaloi), Raphaëlle Ainsley-Vincent, Emily Yee (COCO), Kira Page (COCO), Erika Massoud (CRE), Brijlal Chaudhari (CRE), Dona Nham (CRE), Leah Gardner (Éducaloi), Louise Lachapelle (Collectif Mamu Minu-Tutamutau)

Full-members NETWORK staff in attendance: Dakota Swiftwolfe, Leilani Shaw, Jacynthe DeRocker, Emeral Poppe, Brooke Wahsonttiostha Deer, Stephanie Héroux, Kortanie Raye

Associate members NETWORK staff in attendance: Alexandre Huard, Allison Reid

Chair of the assembly:	Diana Lombardi
Chair of the evening:	Maya Cousineau Mollen
Elder:	Amelia Tekwatonti
Minute takers :	Alexandre Huard Emeral Poppe

1. Opening prayer by elder Amelia Tekwatonti

2. Performance by Nina Sigalowitz

3. Opening and welcoming by Maya Cousineau Mollen

- a. Maya introduces Stéphanie and Leilani, who introduce the team of staff at the NETWORK.
- b. The chair of the evening asks if everyone accepts her as chair of the evening with Emeral Poppe and Alexandre Huard as minute takers and Diana Lombardi as chair of the assembly.

The members approved by consensus the appointments of the chair of the evening, the chair of the assembly, and the minutes takers.

- c. Maya introduces Diana Lombardi to chair the assembly.

4. Adoption of the AGM agenda by the members:

Diana reviews the agenda and invites members to add/remove or change the order of proposals to be covered for the AGM.

The agenda is adopted by consensus.

5. Presentation, discussions and proposals relating to the By-Laws.

The chair of the assembly goes through the By-Laws and invites NETWORK members in attendance at the AGM to offer their comments and suggest changes if appropriate. The chair of

the assembly presents each section of the By-Laws in order.

Bylaw Term/Article	Definition
<p>Term: Indigenous organization</p>	<p>Original Definition:</p> <p>“an organization that is founded by an Indigenous person or persons/groups or that is led by indigenous people where there is a majority of Indigenous people, with an indigenous Board of Directors, whose employees are mostly Indigenous. Exceptions would be groups that are experiencing growth and structural change.”</p> <p>Discussion and comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was asked whether this definition should be made clearer. ● The chair of the assembly asks the audience to reflect on the following and members agree that there is a need to clarify the definition. ● A request was made to indicate where the details related to this definition can be found. ● It was suggested that a link be provided to a website, a reference point where the definition of an indigenous group is more explicit. <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section. The members approves this sections with the following changes :</p> <p><i>“An organization (including service providers, grassroots groups, companies, businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations) that meets all of the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>the organization was founded by an Indigenous person or group</i> ● <i>the organization is staffed by Indigenous people (more than 50% of employees are Indigenous); This criteria does not apply to organizations that have fewer than five employees</i> ● <i>more than 50% of the organization’s members and clients are Indigenous (if applicable)</i> ● <i>the organization is governed by indigenous people; more than 50% of the decision-makers must be Indigenous (i.e. board of directors, steering committee, directors, or other decision-making positions).</i> <p><i>This shall be evaluated by the NETWORK upon membership registration. In extenuating circumstances like organizational</i></p>

	<p><i>restructuring, growth, or other, exceptions to the criteria above can be made.”</i></p>
<p>Term: Indigenous person</p>	<p>Original Definition:</p> <p>"can clearly identify the name of the Indigenous territory from which they originate, as well as the group, the relationship they have with that community, and the Indigenous nation or community that belongs to that territory".</p> <p>Discussion/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A participant mentioned that colonialism has taken this information about territories away from many Indigenous people and asked either to redefine or adjust the definition, as the person may not know the exact territory, but has a relationship with a territory. ● Another participant responded to the last comment that the definition specifically mentions the territory of origin. ● There was a problem in an Indigenous organization in defining who is a member. Are we talking about all Indigenous people or just the indigenous people of "North America"? ● The NETWORK staff share that they with the board originally thought of using Turtle Island, but it is not a way to connect to the territory for all Indigenous people. We didn't want to use Canada or Quebec, because we didn't want to use the concept of borders to define an Indigenous person's identity. ● It was clarified that to be a member of the NETWORK, one must be an Indigenous person living in Montreal. This clause seems to be appropriate for all participants to define who can be considered a full member, i.e., Indigenous people residing in Montreal. ● It is proposed that an exception be added for survivors of the sixties scoop, residential schools and the contemporary child welfare system. ● A participant proposed to add a section that recognizes this challenge for Indigenous families. This section would recognize that Indigenous people have been victims of disconnection and targets of systemic violence by the system. ● It is also proposed to mention that these identities are considered on a case-by-case basis, according to the history and individual background of the people.

	<p>General consensus was reached to approve this section with the following modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Edits to the text: “Indigenous Individual’ means an individual belonging to an Indigenous group, nation, or community. Indigeneity implies a relationship to both territory and people; this means that an individual can clearly identify the name of the Indigenous territory that they are from, the relationship that they hold to that community, as well as the Indigenous group, nation, or community that belongs to that territory. The group, nation, or community recognizes and accepts that individual as belonging to their community.</i> <p><i>The NETWORK recognizes that many families and communities have been separated and/or displaced as a result of both historical and ongoing acts of settler-colonial violence. Thus, exceptions to the above criteria may be made on a case-by-case basis.”</i></p> <p>The staff work on this definition and propose changes at the 2020 AGM.</p>
<p>By-laws: Interpretation</p>	<p>General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification.</p>
<p>By-laws: Name</p>	<p>Discussions and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal name cannot be changed. <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification.</p>
<p>By-laws: Mandate</p>	<p>Discussions and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mandate has not changed since 2008 . <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification</p>
<p>By-laws: Head office</p>	<p>General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification.</p>
<p>Membership: Article 6.a.</p>	<p>Original Description :</p> <p>“Any Indigenous person from what is now known as Canada who agrees with and supports the mandate, goals, and activities of the NETWORK</p>

	<p>may be eligible for membership in accordance with the policies of the NETWORK.</p> <p>A full member is entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all meetings of members and each such member shall be entitled to one (1) vote at such meetings.</p> <p>Full members are entitled to attend any workshops, training, and access culturally relevant support offered by the NETWORK to support their meaningful and full participation within the organization.”</p> <p>Discussion and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It was asked if the use of the word “organization” is too broad.● The answer is yes and it should be specified that we are talking about Non-profit Organizations (NPO’s).● There was a request to define what an “<i>Indigenous organization</i>” is and to provide a reference. We should refer to the definition at the beginning. <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section with the following changes:</p> <p>“Any Indigenous individual living, working, or studying in the greater Montreal area, permanently or temporarily who agrees with and supports the mandate, goals, and activities of the NETWORK may be eligible for membership. The term of membership shall be annual, subject to renewal in accordance with the policies and procedures of the NETWORK.</p> <p>Any Indigenous organization (refer to previous definition of ‘Indigenous Organization’ under 1. Definitions on page 2), (including service providers, grassroots groups, companies, businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations) operating in the greater Montreal area, who agree with and support the mandate, goals, and activities of the NETWORK may be eligible for Full membership. The term of membership shall be annual, subject to renewal in accordance with the policies and procedures of the NETWORK.</p> <p>A full member is entitled to receive notice of, attend, and vote at all meetings of members and each such member shall be entitled to one (1) vote at such meetings.</p>
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	<p>In accordance with the policies and procedures of the NETWORK, organizational members must delegate a representative to vote on their behalf, and if a person is representing an organization and is also themselves a community member, they are only entitled to (1) vote.”</p>
<p>Membership: Article 6. b</p>	<p>Discussion and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A member asks if a non-Indigenous association that works with Indigenous people is an associate member? Answer: the Staff respond that the bylaws indicate that they would be an associate member. <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification.</p>
<p>Membership: Article 6.a and 6.b</p>	<p>Discussion and comments :</p> <p>"Governments" and "government agency" are used alternately. We should use a single term so as not to create discontinuity.</p> <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section with modification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That the term “Governmental Agencies” be used in both article 6.a and 6.b.
<p>Membership: Article 6.f</p>	<p>Discussion and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We ask if there is an ethic/policy to know what is "inappropriate behaviour" (code of conduct)? ● The NETWORK will create a code of conduct policy, and while there are draft policies, the board has not yet been put together to approve such policies. For example, there are documents that talk about the context of working in a working committee on topics such as "what it means to have a good relationship and good behaviour" or "what does respectable behaviour mean" or "what is open communication"? ● It was asked whether there should not be a section that more specifically defines those inappropriate behaviours that warrant removal (a code of conduct) in the by-laws. ● Staff says that the NETWORK’s incorporated organization is still young, that this policy work needs to be drafted, which is the mandate of the board. Once approved by the board, a code of

	<p>conduct or code of ethics policy will be shared with the members and made public.</p> <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification.</p>
<p>Membership Meetings: Article 7.a</p>	<p>Discussion and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It must be changed that the NETWORK must hold AGMs every 6 months following the fiscal year, as the laws require that the AGM be held within 4 months of the fiscal year. <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section with the following modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “AGMs shall be held within 4 months of the fiscal year”.
<p>Board of Directors: Article 8.a</p>	<p>Original description : "seats on the Board of Directors must be filled by Indigenous people who are full members of the NETWORK".</p> <p>Discussions and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A question was raised as to whether a non-indigenous person from an association that is a full member of the NETWORK could sit on the Board of Directors. ● It was proposed that a specification be added stating that organizations cannot be represented on the Board. ● It is said that in 8.a, the word Indigenous people is used, but in the definitions in Article 1, it is said that a person can be equivalent to a corporation. Therefore, we should change in this section the word "person" to "individual". In English as well. ● It was suggested that other Indigenous and non-Indigenous people organizations be encouraged to pay their members who are members of the Board to encourage this kind of understanding. But not to represent the interests of the organization on the Board. <p>General consensus was reached to approve this section with the following changes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “The board shall consist of seven (7) seats and among this number, a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected. Board seats shall be filled by Indigenous individuals who are Full Members of the NETWORK.

	Organizations that are Full Members cannot be represented on the board.”
Bylaw: Board Meetings	General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification.
By laws: Conflict of Interest	General consensus was reached to approve this section without modification.

6. Adoption of By-Laws

Discussions and comments :

- It was asked if documents such as conflict of interest and life code are included in the by-laws and it was said that they are not by-laws but policies and procedures which are the responsibility of the board. These documents will be made public once created.

Motion to adopt bylaws with all the modifications approved (above) by general consensus.

First: Maya Cousineau Mollen

Second: Heather Igloliorte

The by-laws are adopted with all the aforementioned modifications that were approved section by section by general consensus.

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2019-2020 fiscal year

Discussion and comments :

- Staff of the NETWORK presents three auditors : MNP, BDO et Amstutz Inc. Amstutz was the recommended choice.
- Since the NETWORK is a newly incorporated organization, it would be best to be well accompanied for the first year and ask whether or not Amstutz will also give financial advice.
- COCo, an organization that previously hired Amstutz, said that this accountant provided feedback on their internal system and presented the numbers of the fiscal year at their AGM

Motion to appoint Amstutz to audit the NETWORK’s finances for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

First: Dakota Swiftwolfe

Second: Odile Joannette

The appointment of Amstutz Inc. as auditor for the NETWORK's 2019-2020 fiscal year is adopted.

8. Nomination of the Board of Directors

Discussion and comments: All nominated candidates for the board of directors present their candidacy. For those who are not present, staff read their biographies. The candidates are:

- Heather Igloliorte - Inuk - *Founding board member of the NETWORK (board member since August 2019)*
- Wina Sioui - Huronne-Wendat and member of the Anishnaabe First Nation of Abitibiwinni (Pikogan). *Founding board member of the NETWORK (since April 2019)*
- Tealey Ka'senni:saks Normandin - Mohawk - *Founding board member of the NETWORK (since April 2019)*
- Odile Joannette Innu of Pessamit that grew up with an Anishnaabe kokum from Témiscamingue - Co-founder of the NETWORK in 2008
- Philippe Sioui Durand - Member of the Huronne-Wendat nation
- Elizabeth Fast - Métis and mennonite

The following candidates are elected by the majority vote of members present at the AGM to the NETWORK's board of directors : Heather Igloliorte, Wina Sioui, Tealey Ka'senni:saks Normandin, Odile Joannette, Philippe Sioui Durand, and Elizabeth Fast.

9. Closing of the AGM

Maya Cousineau Mollen offers some closing words as the NETWORK's board of director outgoing president.

Elder Amelia offers a closing prayer .

8:35pm: The 2019 Annual General Meeting was adjourned.