



Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network Meeting Summary

June 15, 2009
Montreal, Quebec
Batshaw Youth & Family Services

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Native Women's Shelter

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Sponsored by:
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC)



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BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NETWORK

After an opening prayer by Mike Standup and an introduction to the session's facilitators, Nakuset provided a brief overview of the history of the Network for those who were unaware of how it came to be and what it has accomplished to-date:

- In January 2008, Wanda Gabriel gave a presentation at the Native Women's Shelter's Annual General Meeting on the difficulties facing Aboriginal people living in urban areas. There was such an enthusiastic response to her presentation that the shelter decided to look into this issue further.
- In the summer of 2008, the Shelter conducted a survey of Native organizations in Montreal to better understand their perspectives on the urban Aboriginal reality and how they could work together more effectively to address the needs identified.
- Later that summer, the Shelter met with La Ville de Montreal to discuss the possibility of organizing a larger meeting to share the results of the survey and explore the issues in more depth. La Ville de Montreal was very excited because they had conducted a similar survey with the Native Friendship Centre, but had never had the chance to present the results. The Shelter then contacted the Department of Indian Affairs to discuss funding possibilities for such an event and they agreed to fund it.
- The first Network meeting took place on November 5, 2008 at the Maritime Plaza Hotel. The event was very successful, both in terms of attendance and content. Approximately 65 people attended and they were able to begin identifying issues for the Network to address and how to tackle them.
- The second meeting was half a day and took place on January 13, 2008 and was held in a space donated by the City of Montreal. Although this meeting attracted fewer participants, it was productive in terms of beginning to formalize the terms of reference of the Network.
- The third meeting took place on March 10th, 2008 at Batshaw. At this meeting, sub-committees were formed to address key issues identified by the Network.
- Since that meeting, Network members have been working in these sub-committees to further define their terms of reference and begin work.
- The shelter has taken responsibility for the coordination of the Network thus far, however, the Network has proposed the creation of a full-time Network Coordinator position.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

After reviewing the proposed meeting goals and agenda and taking some time for informal networking, each of the five sub-committees of the Network gave presentations on the progress they have made, with a focus on their terms of reference:

Health

Presenter: Garry Carbonnell (NNAPF)

Other committee members: Carrie Martin, Kerry Tannahill, Pascale C. Annoual, Taline Arslanian, Chantal Robillard, Dianne Reid, Lou Ann Stacey.

Many Aboriginal people living in Montreal have found some level of health assistance through local programs. However, from a global perspective, there are challenges throughout the system. This committee hopes to help Aboriginal organizations and its partners consider how best to resolve the gaps and inequities in services that currently exist. The following is a summary of the committee's terms of reference. See Appendix B for the full document.

Values

Integrity, respect, collaboration, choice, and commitment.

Mandate

To contribute to the development of a new urban framework that ensures the provision of culturally-appropriate and effective health services to Aboriginal people.

Goals and Objectives

To achieve the mandate, the committee will:

- Determine corridors of service;
- Determine which organizations have service points (in health related topics) and see what exists so as not to duplicate or overlap with other services or subcommittees;
- Define health as mental, physical emotional and spiritual (cultural, religious and traditional) health;
- Establish and maintain a database of health services relevant to Aboriginal people primarily in Montreal and surrounding areas;
- Collaborate with other local, regional, national, and international networks and provide the information to the UACS;
- Identify and fill in any gaps and barriers in health services such as language;
- Review urban health and service needs and provide feedback to facilitate quality analyses;
- Provide a detailed list of health concerns and issues for urban Aboriginal people of Montreal, referring to the 2008 “Needs Assessment of the Aboriginal People in the Urban Setting of Montreal”;

- Educate and inform others on health system particularities pertaining to Aboriginal people;
- Establish a fully functional health centre in Montreal specifically for urban Aboriginal people, similar to Wabano centre in Ottawa;
- Ensure members are aware of the history of the Committee, its strengths, challenges, and processes; and,
- Develop recommendations that build on promising practices for First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and mainstream health services intervention and prevention systems, with the long-term goal of preventing and reducing challenges to health services for Aboriginal people in Montreal.

Partners

- Health and service delivery organizations that deal with Aboriginal health in an urban setting.
- Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in local, regional, provincial and national health organizations.
- Partners are responsible to represent their organization and maintain regular communication with the Committee to ensure continuity of pertinent Aboriginal health service information.

Membership

Members of the Committee must be members of the Network.

Roles and Responsibilities

Members will provide input based on their experience and expertise. Members are asked to maintain continuity in representation to the greatest extent possible, and are also asked to make every effort to attend scheduled meetings. Members that miss 3 consecutive meetings will cease to be part of the Committee for a twelve-month period, at which point they may reapply for membership. All members will be responsible for the drafting and maintenance of Committee policies and procedures. MUAHC members are responsible for costs related to travel/accommodation for meetings.

Decision Making

MUAHC will endeavour to develop recommendations by consensus after reviewing and discussing information presented at the meetings or by other means of communication. In a situation of an unresolved conflict, the Committee will commit to finding resolution that meets the best interests of the Aboriginal communities it is serving by taking this issue to the Network for resolution. Meetings can proceed without quorum, yet 75% of all members must be present to pass all decisions.

Social Services

Presenter: Nakuset, Director, Native Women's Shelter of Montreal (NWSM)

Other members- Martin Dube (Mikisew's Creations), Barbara McDonald (Tasiutigiiit Association of Families of Inuit and Native Children), Patricia Eshkibok (S.P.A.Q.), Marcelle Durrum (Native Women's Shelter of Montreal), Cathy Carroll (Batshaw Youth & Family Centres), Anita Metallic (Montreal Children's Hospital), Taline Arslanian (Centre des Femmes de Montréal), Anik Sioui (Centre des Femmes de Montréal), Charlotte Pien (Native Women's Shelter of Montreal), Terri Normandin (Native Women's Shelter of Montreal), Irene Qavavauq (Native Women's Shelter of Montreal), and Guy LaCroix (Ville de Montréal).

The mission statement of the Social Services Committee is to improve the quality of life of urban Aboriginal people in Montreal by addressing social issues and concerns through networking and advocacy. The Committee developed the following terms of reference. (See Appendix C for meeting minutes, which include the terms of reference in more detail):

Authority

Decisions are made by consensus and then recommended to the larger group.

Accountability

Minutes of every meeting will be provided and representatives of the Committee will report back to the larger group and at the Annual General Meetings of the Network.

Time-Frame

The Committee is a permanent body of the Network.

Budget

The Committee will fundraise as needed.

The two meetings that the Committee has held thus far generated many ideas. One of the main goals identified was to work more closely with Batshaw in the following ways:

- Create an Aboriginal committee that works with Batshaw to ensure that Aboriginal children are receiving culturally appropriate services (similar to the 10-year old Multicultural Multi-Racial Committee that focuses on the needs of black children).
- Help attract more Aboriginal consultants to the system.
- Create a 2-day mandatory cultural training for non-Aboriginal parents who want to foster or adopt an Aboriginal child.
- Ensure that the children who are adopted continue to maintain their Indian status or N Number.

The Committee drafted the following goals:

Short term:

- Draft a letter of support for Native Para-Judicial Services Court Worker Patricia

Eshkibok so that she may accompany clients to youth court. It is currently not in her mandate to do this, but she does it anyway. The committee feels that she should be paid for this work.

- Invite the outreach workers from the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal to be involved in the homelessness committee in order to identify what kind of outreach services are currently being provided to men so that they can be augmented.
- Make a presentation to the Batshaw Management Committee in the fall to introduce our Committee and the issues we have identified.

Long-term

- Identify the gaps in services that exist for Native men (18 years and older) and address these gaps by establishing a Native men's shelter.
- Start a cultural camp.
- Start a Native group home with one "den mother", an intermediate resource for Aboriginal children which offers a traditional, holistic approach. This would reduce the number of siblings being sent to different foster homes.
- Establish a mentoring program for Aboriginal children.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22nd at 1:00pm at Batshaw.

Arts, Culture & Heritage

Presenters: Devora Neumark (Engrenage Noir Levier), Natasha Robillard, and Eric Pouliot

Other members: Still to be determined

The Committee met three times since the March Network meeting. Approximately 20 people attended each meeting. Some people came to all three meetings, while others came once or twice and wanted to hear more about the direction of the Committee before further committing. The Committee has created a core organizational group within the larger Committee to develop the mandate and terms of reference. This group will meet with the rest of the members in September to work on the objectives and run workshops. The terms of reference are outlined below (See Appendix D for the meeting minutes, which include more detail on the terms of reference and provide a list of people who attended the meetings).

Membership

Because meeting attendance has not been consistent, the exact membership of the Committee still needs to be determined. There are approximately 30 members, representing a wide range of artists, community workers, and cultural workers from Aboriginal communities, many from outside the Network. A final list of members is not ready to be distributed because the membership drive is still in the works. The members are updated on the activities of the Network and all Network documents (survey results, Network meeting reports, etc.) are presented at each

meeting to ensure that they have a strong understanding of the Network as a whole and how the committee fits into the Network's mandate.

Time-frame

The Committee is a permanent body of the Network.

Decision-making

All Committee decisions are made by consensus. Members understand that the larger decisions are made by the Network members and/or its governing body.

Communications

Minutes are bilingual, meaning that there will be a French and English copy of all minutes.

Funding

For now, the Committee will use the space of Engrenage Noir Levier to meet and a section of the Engrenage Noir Levier blog for communications. Future funding still needs to be discussed.

Mandate

The Committee's mandate is to develop itself based on the interests of the artistic Native urban community of Montreal. It aims to gather and promote this community in order to ensure a strong presence within the diversity of cultural communities that exist. Its three main strategic objectives are to:

1. Create a dedicated cultural gathering place for the diffusion and promotion of Aboriginal art, culture and heritage;
2. Explore the question of intellectual property as it relates to material and immaterial goods, including copyrights, protocols, and ethical codes; and,
3. Facilitate social networking with different organizations, centres, groups, and committees.

The Committee has formed 3 working groups to work on each of these objectives.

One point that was emphasized time and time again during committee meetings was the importance of integrating the work of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee with all of the other committees. The Committee wants to find ways of creating projects that emerge from and go back to the other committees.

One of the Committee's biggest questions is what the role of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal should be. What is its mandate relating to the creation of cultural meeting spaces? How might this Committee work with the Friendship Centre on such a project?

Network Development, Communication & Directory

Presenter: Samuel Singer (COCO facilitator)

Members: Brett Pineau (Native Friendship Centre of Montreal), a representative from La Ville de Montréal, a representative from SPVM, and a representative from Centraide.

This committee met during the last Network gathering and decided to put its activities on hold until A) a decision is made about creating a steering committee and hiring a coordinator, B) a new Chair is found (the current Chair stepped down due to other pressing commitments), and C) more Aboriginal representation is achieved on the Committee (only one Aboriginal organization was present at the last meeting). It was also emphasized that the role of the some organizations on the Committee (such as the City of Montreal and the City of Montreal Police Service) is one of support, rather than of direct action. It is important that this Committee continue to function because one of its main tasks is to link all of the other committees together.

The only item that is currently on this Committee's agenda is to put together a directory of community groups providing services to Aboriginal people. It was noted that the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee (Mo Clark) is in the process of creating an extensive list of Aboriginal artists and cultural workers in Montreal that can then be added to the larger directory.

In order to move things forward, a sign-up sheet was distributed to recruit more Aboriginal members to the committee. It was also pointed out that if a steering committee were to be created, it would be that body's responsibility to ensure that this and other committees are functioning well.

Education, Training & Employability

Presenter: Dolorès André (Ressources humaines des Premières Nations de Montréal)

Other members: Nathalie Tellier (La Ville de Montréal), Nathalie Huntley (Service Canada), and Teprine Baldo (Native Friendship Centre of Montreal).

This Committee is quite small in terms of membership at the moment and has seen its membership diminish over time as people have switched jobs, changed committees or taken maternity leave. A main priority that has been identified is recruiting new members that represent Aboriginal organizations, as currently the Committee is predominately made-up of funders. Please let the Committee know if there are any interested parties who want to get involved who work in the fields of education, training or employability. To date, the Committee has only met once and has not yet developed its terms of reference. However, it has drafted its role and mandate. Its mandate is to collect and share information on existing funding programs and their criteria, identify which programs can meet the needs of the group, and help support the creation of projects that match funding

programs.

During the Committee's meeting in April, representatives from La Ville de Montréal gave a presentation about a social reinsertion program for ethno-cultural communities. This program can be adopted to meet the needs of Aboriginal people. It is a six-month long program, with an additional eight weeks of French skill building. The goal of the program is to help youth (18-30 years old) integrate into the work force. This is a project that could start in September 2009 or in Spring 2010. There are already funders who are interested, and the Committee is wondering if there are Aboriginal organizations who are interested in organizing and holding the program. It is a ready-to-go program. It just needs an organization that wants to organize and carry it. The Committee is looking for the approval and support of the Network in order to move forward with this project, but will wait to seek approval until it becomes clearer who the appropriate approving body will be.

Questions & Suggestions for Sub-Committees

During the sub-committee updates, the following questions were raised:

How do we ensure that the members of the Network are in agreement with each committee's terms of reference? Will there be an official adoption process?

It was suggested that if the Network decides to create a Steering Committee, this body could be given the responsibility of adopting the terms of reference for all committees.

The Social Service Committee stated that it would present at the Annual General Meeting. Does this mean that the Network would have Annual General Meetings?

It was suggested that if the Network decides to create a Steering Committee, this body could be given the responsibility of holding Annual General Meetings for the purpose of informing the community of its progress.

There is a lot of potential overlap between the Health Committee and the Social Service Committee. How do we ensure that they don't overlap?

This is a danger with all of the committees and the Network should think about ways of encouraging and facilitating cross-pollination as it moves ahead.

Is the Education, Training & Employability Committee only dealing with adult education or is it also looking at children under 18 and developing programs in schools, with teachers, etc? My organization is a daycare that works with children under 5 years old and I am wondering if our organization could work with this Committee.

There were not a lot of people interested in joining this Committee and those who did join had more of an ability to support employability than education. It could be something that could be done, but it would have to be developed as other members with that expertise join the Committee. New members are welcome and, using their experience, the Committee could help to design programs and projects that address more areas.

The Education, Training & Employability Committee has more funders than Aboriginal organizations and so needs to recruit more members who are not funders so that there are members who can do more than simply provide information and support.

The Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee would like to partner with the Education, Training & Employability Committee to do general outreach and education to the public. You can use the overall list of network members to send a call-out.

BOTANICAL GARDEN SWEAT LODGE UPDATE

Since October 2008, the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has been working with a number of partners (The Botanical Gardens, Le Circle de Promination du UQAM, First Nations Gardens, Musée de la nature, Terres en vue, and KSCS) to establish a sweat lodge in Montreal. Providing healing ceremonies is one of the Shelter's mandates and it has been difficult to do given that no sweat lodge currently exists in or near Montreal. Recently the Botanical Gardens agreed to provide a space. Approximately 5-7 planning meetings have taken place thus far, a steering committee has been created, and a sweat lodge coordinator will soon be hired.

The steering committee is currently in the process of creating floor plans, looking for experienced sweat lodge facilitators, getting approval from the fire marshals, developing procedures for facilitators and guidelines for participants, looking for Aboriginal artists to submit their work to be displayed on each of the 7 panels of the tee-pee that will be placed on the site, and taking the necessary steps to register the sweat lodge as a nonprofit (in order to get proper insurance and be able to create a scholarship).

The sweat lodge will offer ceremonies for free, but affiliated organizations will be responsible for helping to supply wood and grandfathers. The Coordinator will be responsible for day-to-day coordination, fundraising, and sending out a monthly calendar of sweats, indicating who each of the sweats are catered to (women, men, mixed, children, non-Natives, etc.) The sweat lodge won't be accessible to the general public and will be surrounded by a fence to ensure privacy.

The goal is to launch the sweat lodge this August. A suggestion box for name ideas will be circulated during the meeting.

REVIEWING THE FRAMEWORK & IDENTIFYING VALUES

Participants divided into five small groups to review the Network's Framework with the goal of making sure that it is still relevant to the current membership. They were also asked to begin to articulate the values that should inform the Network's work, with the understanding that the suggested changes and values would be further developed at a later date and brought back to the larger group for approval.

Suggested Changes to the Framework

- Expand the parameters of who can be involved to include the entire population (i.e., community members who have a vested interest), rather than just organizations. (2 groups).
- Add "individuals" to the end of the 3rd purpose point.
- Change the term "service providers to Aboriginal people" to "organizations serving".
- Emphasize that the Network is open to the people that its member organizations serve. People who receive services have a lot to contribute as well and the Network is a place where they can voice their opinions and give feedback. Suggested edit: The purpose of the network should be to "afford opportunity for collaboration between service providers and community members." (2 groups)
- Broaden the focus of the Network to improving the "quality of life" of Aboriginal people (which includes, but is not limited to improving services).
- In the case of non-Aboriginal organizations, it should be the Aboriginal staff who are invited to attend Network meetings.
- Change the term "clients" to "Aboriginal people", recognizing that not all Aboriginal people are clients. (2 groups)
- Add a 4th purpose point to the Framework, which is to coordinate sub-committees.
- Expand the Network's geographical mandate to the urban Aboriginal population in Montreal and the surrounding area. (2 groups)
- Change "Urban Aboriginal Network of Montreal" to "Urban Aboriginal Network Strategy". (2 groups)
- In the 2nd purpose point, change "services" to "available services".
- Change "afford" to "provide" in the first sentence of the Purpose statement.

Suggested Values

- Honor and respect the purpose of the Network.
- Recognize and promote the diversity that exists within the Aboriginal community itself so that everyone feels respected and invited to participate in the Network.
- Transparency (3 groups). One group defined transparency as including access, consensus, and representation.
- Collaboration.
- Commitment to the vision of the Network (4 groups). One group emphasized the vision being: improving the quality of life.
- The Network needs to be culturally appropriate in the way that it functions. For

- Teach the culture within the community itself.
- Create consistency between committees.

NATIONAL URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY

John Gordon, National Director of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided Network members with an overview of the national strategy, emphasizing the following points:

- The UAS is a strategy, not simply a program with dollar amounts attached to it. It involves taking a global look at how to best meet the needs of the urban Aboriginal community and brings the power of all of the government programs' resources to bear on the current network of programs and services. How much money a community receives has a lot to do with how big it dreams. For example, a community might identify that it has great programs, but that there is no link between the different programs. The UAS can help address this issue.
- There are currently 13 designated UAS sites across Canada, all of them west of Ontario. The federal money available to these sites is to be used to identify gaps, develop priorities, find solutions to challenges, and fund programs that fill the gaps.
- The Montreal Network is burdening one organization with all of the administration responsibilities of the Network. There has been a lot of discussion about this and the various levels of government feel that a coordinator is very much needed. However, it is the Network members who need to decide if a coordinator is needed and, if so, what that coordinator would do. The various levels of government should not be telling the community what it needs (they've learned from past experience that this top down approach doesn't work), but they need to know what they can do to support the Network. They are really looking at the community for guidance on a coordinator position. Does it need a coordinator? If so, what is that coordinator going to do? What should that coordinator be paid? The different levels of government can then respond to your request- "we agree, we disagree, we think you might want to think this way, etc." We don't have the answers, but we do bring the experiences of 13 cities to the table and so want to be a participant in some of these discussions down the road.
- One of the things that has been helpful with the other 13 Networks, is to have a small group of decision-makers, a governing body, to work with and who can tell the different levels of government what the priorities are that it is hearing from the community. The government is hoping that today, the Network will determine what that governing body will look like, how many seats it will have, and what its role will be. The government can help with this, but it is the community that needs to determine its governance structure based on its own needs, desires, and regional

uniqueness.

- It is up to the membership to decide how many seats the Network's governing body would have and who sits on this body as representatives of the community. On reserves, it is clear who represents the community, but in an urban setting, representation is more difficult to determine. How other communities have dealt with this challenge is to cast out as wide a net as possible and be inclusive as possible when recruiting members and publicizing meetings so that all who want their voices heard can be heard. So in the case of Montreal, a next step after discussing a coordinator and governing body is to hold a wider community meeting to get a more diverse array of voices (recognizing that groups of professional networks are important as well and should continue to be nurtured, as they are in other cities across Canada).
- The government of Canada is committed to working with Montreal to help better the lives of Aboriginal people in Montreal and has engagement from its Provincial and municipal colleagues.

John Gordon was asked to respond to the following questions from the floor:

Does the Network need to be incorporated to receive UAS funds? Why would off-reserve Aboriginal organizations have to be incorporated to receive funds when this is not required of on-reserve Aboriginal organizations?

The terms and conditions of the government's funding arrangements would most likely dictate that its money must be distributed to a legal entity. But a network like this can receive the government's money without being incorporated by finding a legally incorporated entity to serve as a fiduciary. Most of the 13 Networks across the country are not incorporated. An organization acts as their fiduciary. However, if the Network is unable to find a legal entity to act as the fiduciary, it would need to incorporate. The money is going to come in a check. The government cannot make the check out to an individual. So unless this organization can find a way to get a bank account without having incorporation documents, this is the situation.

What is the process and criteria to get the funding?

Again, this is not about funding. It is about coming up with a good strategy. Once that is created, the money will follow. It is true that it is hard to dream without knowing how much money you'll receive, but please be assured that there are enough resources attached to the UAS to allow you to dream big. The only criteria is that it is going to help urban Aboriginal people at the end of the day, it's not currently being done or displacing other resources, it's not a duplication of services, and it is being delivered in, what everyone around the table agrees is, the most effective and cost efficient way.

Question: What kind of help can the government provide to this Network?

We have been providing funding to the Network to support these meetings- for facilitation, consultant costs, food, etc. But in the end, we want to support the on-the-ground services to help the people who need the assistance so very much. So we really need a governing body that is going to look at proposals and determine what can be done to better meet the needs of the urban Aboriginal people of Montreal.

Can you clarify what you meant when you said that there were 13 UAS cities west of Ontario?

INAC has 13 designated UAS cities that receive an allocation of X number of resources over five years to achieve results. It has authority for 18 cities, but only got funding for 13. In the preamble to the policy that the strategy works under, it talks about it being a national strategy across Canada, so we are viewing that as authority to work with every city in the country. We have 7 signature departments that have signed on to the UAS terms and conditions that we work with (Service Canada, Human Resource Social Development Canada, Public Safety, Public Health Agency Canada, Heritage Canada, etc.). And so if we received a request from another urban area, we would go to these various colleagues to see if any of them have resources for it. For example, there are cases where we can't fund a project, but we can get money from these other signature departments.

Is the funding project-based, renewable, or do we have to submit a new proposal every few years?

The funding is multi-year. Currently, UAS can only enter into 2-year funding arrangements. It can make 5-year commitments, but the actual funding instrument used is limited to 2 years. Eventually, it will regain its authority to do 5-year funding arrangements. That said, the government does not provide core funding for the long-term. We could fund a core position for 1 year, with the expectation that the organization would find funding from other sources to fund the position after that. Often the projects that UAS funds are experimental in nature, but demonstrate such incredible success and innovation that the province or municipality will end up funding them for the long term. UAS is the most flexible of any government funding instrument out there. There is enough flexibility to meet regional diversities and experiment with new approaches and enough rigor to be accountable to parliament.

In Ottawa, I voiced how unacceptable it is for a big city like Montreal to have one of the largest populations of Aboriginal people on the streets and not have an urban Aboriginal strategy. Montreal should be one of the designated UAS cities. As the President of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, I believe we have the mandate to take a lead in this process, given the role we play in the community and our strategic planning process that will be happening in the fall. The centre has its own challenges because of where it is located, but it also has other Aboriginal organizations in Montreal that it can link with. The issue of coordination is a discussion the Native Friendship Centre had more than a year ago with the regroupements of provincial Friendship centres and the Ville de Montréal, and from

that process came the development of a job description for a coordinator. However, we feel we need to wait until the committees and steering committee define their mandates before finalizing the coordinator position. We all have our own specific mandates as organizations. The question we need to answer is who has the mandate to serve the community as a whole?

The government recently met with the National Association of Friendship Centres and continue to see them as a key player. We don't know exactly what that will look like and are planning to attend their annual meeting in July to discuss it. We want to make sure that we do not duplicate what the Friendship Centres are already doing. The UAS is the glue that connects all the community partners together in order to create a more focused effort. All of you together represent the community. No one organization can do that itself. We will work with the coalition of the willing.

THE ROLE OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL

Carole Chouinard from La Ville de Montréal presented in lieu of her boss, who was absent due to an emergency at the office. She had the following things to share about the City's role in the Network:

- The City is happy and proud to see the progress of the Network. It is committed to improving the quality of life for Native people in the city and in the past has funded some diverse projects, such as festivals and homelessness initiatives. But it has never had the kind of global approach that is emerging from this Network.
- The City is really seeing across Montreal the need for a person to coordinate the whole initiative. This person would not make decisions. Rather, they would simply help the Network respond to the needs of the community and act as a liaison. The City's position is that this person must be a member of the Aboriginal community, and neutral (not linked to a particular organization).
- The City wants to thank Nakuset and the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal for the enormous task they have accomplished in getting the Network up and running. However, it does not feel that it is reasonable to ask an organization with a specific mandate to add coordinating the Network to their task list.

The City does not have the funds to support the position, but have sat down with the provincial and federal governments to advocate for funding. The City is able to house the position in order to help to reduce the cost, which means providing a desk, phone, and computer.

- Since the Network is not yet incorporated, the City would look to an organization to act as a fiduciary for receipt of funds.
- The City does not want to play a lead role in the Network. It wants to leave

Network members in peace to take decisions, but is of course interested in following what is going on.

The following question was posed to Carole, upon finishing her presentation:

Do emails really need to be addressed to the City of Montreal in French? I was told they needed to be in French or they wouldn't be answered. Not everyone in this community speaks French or both official languages.

We receive very few emails in English, but when we do we make sure to answer them and get them translated. That said, our communications department does follow a policy that the working language of the City is French. If you don't get an answer to an email, you should complain, because you are entitled to an answer.

HIRING A COORDINATOR & CREATING A STEERING COMMITTEE

Proposals

Participants worked in four small groups to develop brief proposals in response to the following questions: 1) Does the Network need a coordinator? If so, what should their role be, how should they be selected, and where might they be housed? And 2) Does the Network need a steering committee? If so, how would the members be selected, and what should be the steering committee's role? The following proposals were put forth collectively by the small groups:

- The Network should hire a coordinator (4 groups) and the coordinator position should be:
 - Paid;
 - Full-time;
 - A permanent, 2-5 year contract;
 - Filled using a standard job posting and hiring process;
 - Housed in an Aboriginal organization, not at the City, although the offer was appreciated (2 groups) (1 group felt okay with the coordinator being housed at La Ville de Montréal as a starting point and recognized the importance of having the City involved, but had big questions regarding the benefits to the City, what its expectations would be, and if it would be open to working with the coordinator in English as well as in French);
 - Directly supported by what is currently the "Network Development, Communication and Directory Sub-Committee" (i.e., this group would cease to be a sub-committee and serve as more of a support role); and,
 - Focused on:
 - Networking;
 - Governance;
 - Coordination of the meetings of the Steering Committee and the Network as a whole (3 groups);
 - Linking the work of the various committees;

- Centralizing the documents and materials from all of the committees;
 - Reporting to funders and key partners (2 groups);
 - Fundraising;
 - Coordinating volunteers; and,
 - Communication and publicity.
- The person hired for the coordinator position should be:
 - Aboriginal (2 groups);
 - Knowledgeable about the urban Aboriginal setting;
 - Bilingual (3 groups);
 - Neutral (2 groups); and,
 - Good at coordination.

The Network should establish a Steering Committee, which should be responsible for:

- Developing a job description for the coordinator position;
 - Publicizing the job posting;
 - Hiring the coordinator (3 groups);
 - Deciding where the coordinator should be housed;
 - Supervising the coordinator (it would be the Chair or head of the committee who would do this) (4 groups);
 - Drafting a mandate for itself to be presented and approved at the next Network meeting;
 - Drafting a set of by-laws that would be presented and approved at the next Network meeting that would outline governance procedures, such as how many people and who has the right to vote from each organization; and,
 - Widely publicizing the election of Steering Committee members in the Aboriginal community at large.
- The Steering Committee should be made up of:
 - 1-2 members elected by and representing each of the 5 sub-committees (3 groups); and,
 - Mostly Aboriginal individuals and representatives of Aboriginal organizations (3 groups), with a strong Inuit representation.

Decisions

Once participants gained more clarity on the possible roles of the coordinator and Steering Committee, a formal vote was taken:

- Should the Network hire a coordinator? **Yes (unanimous)**
- Should the Network create a Steering Committee? **Yes (unanimous)**

CREATING AN INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE

John Gordon from UAS said that the government would like to see things begin to move forward and so suggested that the Network strike an interim steering committee to ensure that the decisions made today are implemented.

Participants voted “yes” (**unanimous**) that the Network create a temporary Interim Steering Committee charged with the following tasks over the summer and into the fall and made up of 1-2 members of each sub-committee and from the community-at-large:

1. Develop a proposal for the permanent Steering Committee's mandate and composition to be presented and approved at the next Network meeting.
2. Widely publicize the next Network meeting so as many community members as possible come and take part in the decision-making process.
3. Develop, in collaboration with the different levels of government, a job posting for a coordinator, to be presented and approved at the next Network meeting.

The following individuals were nominated to the temporary Interim Steering Committee:

- 1) Health: Garry Carbonnell and Carrie Martin
- 2) Social Services: Nakuset and Barbara McDonald Simon
- 3) Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Devora Neumark
- 4) Education, Training and Employability: Delores André and Donna Lemay
- 5) Network Development, Communication & Directory: Odile Joannette and Dianne Ottereyes Reid
- 6) Community-at-large: Alana Phillips

Comments:

- Based on UAS’ experience with other communities, John Gordon emphasized the importance of presenting the proposal for the Steering Committee mandate and by-laws to the larger community for feedback before approving it as a Network. He also suggested that three additional seats be added to the Steering Committee: one for each level of government. The purpose of these seats is not to influence the direction of the committee, but to allow the various levels of government to share their perspectives (ex. Flag initiatives that they know won’t get funding or those that might have greater possibility of getting funding).
- Having members of the community-at-large who are not on a sub-committee sit on the Steering Committee might be problematic because they would not have as much of a sense of what is going on compared to those who are on a sub-committee.
- John Gordon mentioned that in other cities, there are often 5-7 domain names or sub-committees, with other seats open to the public, and that seems to work well.
- Sub-committees should nominate substitutes to ensure a smooth functioning of the

Steering Committee.

- Carrie Martin will help organize the first meeting of the Interim Steering Committee.

VARIA & CLOSING

Next Meeting

It was agreed by a vote of hands that the next meeting of the Network would be scheduled at the end of September 2009.

Announcements

The Batshaw Pow-wow is on June 21' 2009, 11:00am to 5:00pm, free admission and free parking.

Participants should confirm their contact information with Kerry Tannahill in order to be correctly identified in the Network's membership list.

The Rising Sun Childcare Centre has spaces for parents or guardians of Aboriginal children from 18 months to 5 years old.

Workshop evaluations

Evaluation sheets were distributed, the results of which will help inform the planning of future meetings.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer by Mike Standup.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Participant List

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	E-MAIL
Dolores André	Ressources humaines des Premières Nations de Montréal	(514) 283-0901	dandre@cdrhpnq.qc.ca
Pascale C. Annoual	Association of Art Therapists of Quebec	(514) 747-2787	pca@sympatico.ca
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Mance Bacon	Ville de Montréal	(514) 280-3727	mancebacon@ville.montreal.qc.ca
Teprine Baldo	Native Friendship Centre of Montreal	(514) 522-3168	teprine76@yahoo.ca
Angie Bélanger	Centraide	(514) 288-1261 poste 207	belangerdangeline@centraide-mtl.org
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Hugh Brodie	CBC Community Advisory Group	(514) 597-5813	hugh.brodie@cbc.ca
Charles-Mathieu Brunelle	Museums Nature de Montréal	(514) 872-1450	cm.brunelle@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Margaret Butler	McGill School of Social Work: Nunavik Nunatsiavut Project		
Garry Carbonnell	NNAPF	(418) 572-3397	gcarbonnell@nnapf.org
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Sarah Cox	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Inuit Relations Secreteriat	(819) 934-6457	coxs@ainc-inac.gc.ca
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Alain Diallo	SPVM #12	(514) 280-0412	

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Dana-Marie Williams	Cree Health Board	(514) 861-2352	wysotegirl@gmail.com

Appendix B: Health Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

Montreal Urban Aboriginal Health Committee Terms of Reference DRAFT

Approved on:

Background

The Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy (UACS) resulted from the collaboration of Aboriginal people and organizations seeking solutions to the existing gaps in services available to Aboriginal People in Montreal and surrounding areas. Gaps in services were made evident by The “Needs Assessment of the Aboriginal People in the Urban Setting of Montreal” conducted by Organizational Development Services as requested by Regroupement des centres d’amitié autochtones du Quebec.

The Montreal Urban Aboriginal Health Committee (MUAHC) was formed as a subcommittee of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy (UACS).

Many Aboriginal people have found some level of health assistance through local programs, however, from an overall systems perspective, challenges appear to be throughout. The UACS, of which the MUAHC is a key component, represents a timely and important opportunity for Aboriginal organizations and their partners to consider how best to resolve some of the gaps and inequalities.

Vision & Mission

TBD

Values

Integrity: the outcomes of the MUAHC will be morally sound within the context of Aboriginal views of gaps in health and health program services.

Respect: traditional Indigenous knowledge and western knowledge shall be respected as relevant and appropriate to urban Aboriginal people.

Collaboration: consultation and communication with health officials and organizations must be consistent and balanced with the work of the MUAHC so as to facilitate collaborative implementation of an improved urban Aboriginal health system.

Choice: the work of the MUAHC shall nurture choice towards a system that honours inherent strengths while identifying the best available evidence and informed practices.

Commitment: all members commit to following the vision and mission of the

MUAHC as well as participate to the maximum of their capability in all decision making and action.

Mandate

To contribute to the development of a new urban framework that ensures the provision of culturally-appropriate and effective health services to Aboriginal people.

Goals and Objectives

To achieve the mandate, the MUAHC will:

- Determine corridors of services;
- Determine what organizations have service points (in health related topics) and see what exists so as not to duplicate or overlap with other services or subcommittees;
- Define health as mental, physical emotional and spiritual (cultural, religious and traditional) health;
- Establish and maintain a database of health services relevant to Aboriginal people primarily in Montreal and surrounding areas;
- Collaborate with other local, regional, national, and international networks and provide the information to the UACS;
- Identify and fill in any gaps and barriers in health services such as language barriers, discrimination, accessibility (transportation and financial), etc;
- Review urban health and service needs and provide feedback to facilitate quality analyses;
- Provide a detailed list of health concerns and issues for urban Aboriginal people of Montreal, referring to the 2008 “Needs Assessment of the Aboriginal People in the Urban Setting of Montreal” (www.rcaaq.info);
- Educate and inform others on health system particularities pertaining to Aboriginal people;
- Establish a fully functional health centre in Montreal specifically for urban Aboriginal people, similar to Wabano centre in Ottawa; www.wabano.com;
- Ensure members are aware of the history of the MUAHC, its strengths, challenges, and processes;
- Develop recommendations that build on promising practices for First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and mainstream health services intervention and prevention systems, with the long-term goal of preventing and reducing challenges to health services for Aboriginal people in Montreal;

Partners

Partners for this process should be:

- Health and service delivery organizations that deal with Aboriginal health in an urban setting.
- Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations in local, regional, provincial and national health organizations.

Partners are responsible to represent their organization and maintain regular communication with the MUAHC to ensure continuity of pertinent Aboriginal health service information in an urban setting.

Membership

Members of the MUAHC must be members of the Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy. Only committee members will be present at meetings unless a guest speaker or resource person is consensually agreed upon by the MUAHC committee members or recommended by the UACS.

Roles and Responsibilities

Members:

Members will provide advice based on their experience and expertise. Members are asked to maintain continuity in representation to the greatest extent possible, and are also asked to make every effort to attend scheduled meetings. Members that miss 3 consecutive meetings will cease to be part of the MUAHC for a twelve month period, at which point they may reapply for membership.

All members will be responsible for the drafting and maintenance of MUAHC policies and procedures.

Committee Coordinator:

The coordinator will be responsible for all items listed under operations.

Operations

1. MUAHC

- It will include: coordination of meetings of the MUAHC, compilation of background materials, drafting of MUAHC agendas, drafting of the MUAHC meeting summaries, and follow up on action items.
- MUAHC members are responsible for providing the MUAC with background materials in support of specific agenda items on a timely basis in advance of the meeting.
- The MUAHC is a time-limited body. (time frames etc. need to be decided on)

2. Meetings

- The frequency of meetings will be determined by the MUAHC. If possible, draft agendas and background documents will be circulated electronically to members in advance of meetings.
- MUAHC members are responsible for costs related to travel/accommodation for meetings.
- Meeting summaries will be submitted to the UACS for reference as well as an update of the committee's operations.

Decision Making

MUAHC will endeavour to develop recommendations by consensus after

reviewing and discussing information presented at the meetings or by other means of communication. In a situation of an unresolved conflict, the committee will commit to finding resolution that meets the best interests of the Aboriginal communities we are serving by taking this issue to the UACS for resolution.

Quorum

Meetings can proceed without quorum yet 75% of all members must be present to pass all decisions.

Appendix C: Social Services Sub-Committee meeting minutes

**Minutes of the May 5th 2009
Social Services Committee**

Exploring and Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy

Members present:

Nakuset: Native women's shelter of Montreal

Martin Dube

Barbara Mc Donald: Tasiutigiiit Association of Families of Inuit and Native Children

Patricia Eshkibok: The Native Para-Judicial Services of Québec,

Marcelle Durrum: Therapist-Native Women's Shelter of Montreal

Cathy Carroll: Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

Taline Arslanian: Women's centre of Montreal

Facilitator: Nakuset

Minute taker: Taline Arslanian

Mission statement

Improve the quality of life of urban aboriginal people of Montreal by addressing social issues and concerns through networking and advocacy.

Authority:-Decisions are made in consensus and afterwards are recommended to the bigger group (The Urban Aboriginal Committee)

Accountability: providing the minutes of every meeting and reporting back to the bigger group. Eventually have a General Assembly.

Social services committee is a **permanent** one.

Budget: Fundraising as needed

There was a discussion whether the committee should be divided into two different sub committees where one will concentrate on homelessness problems and another one on more youth protection issues. The subcommittees will meet once a month and the Social Services Committee every two months. Due to many absences at the meeting we did not make a final decision regarding the creation of subcommittees.

Social services committee meetings will be held at Pascale C. Annoual's office or at Batshaw, depending at the size of group.

Following the March 10th, 2009 Urban Aboriginal strategy meeting Nakuset met with the Federal interlocutors (Department of the Indian affairs) who are funding this project. They were very impressed by the work done at The Urban Aboriginal

Community Strategy meetings. They are thinking to hire more than one person to coordinate this project. All 3 levels of the government are working together on this project, the federal (Department of the Indian affairs), the provincial (The Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones) and the municipal (Ville Montreal). At the next Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy meeting which will be held sometimes in mid June at the Batshaw Youth and Family Centre there will be a presentation from the Federal interlocutors. It will be a full day meeting.

Prior to the Native women's shelter of Montreal, Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec had a similar idea, to create an Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy however they never came through with it. They also had the idea to hire someone to coordinate this project. The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal judges that it's too early to hire a coordinator at this point. Ville de Montreal prefers the coordinator to work from their office but others think that the coordinator should work from a native organization; perhaps Pascale C. Annoual's office can be used. It's a decision that the bigger group has to make including creating a job description. It might be possible to take a look at the job description created the NFCM as a reference.

Next Social Services Committee meeting will be held on
June 2nd 2009 at 1pm
At Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
6 Werendale

Note if you are coming by car there will more available parking places around 12:30.

Here are some of the ideas that the group came up with:-

- Create a committee on Batshaw
- Have aboriginal consultants to consult about the placement of the child
- Non native families who want to adopt a native child should follow a two day training prior getting the child. They should get familiar with the native resources that could be useful for their foster children. For example an Ojibway adoptee was raised in Jewish home but once a month met with an elder.
- Make sure the child retains her Indian status.
- Try to involve the biological extended family in the child's life.
- Have access to the medical history of the child

Cathy who works for the mixed bank program at Batshaw stated that 33% of the children who are being placed are Inuit. They don't have many cases with Mohawks because they work closely with the Kahnawake social services. Cree communities are very organized as well there is usually a family in the community where the child can be placed.

Cathy will follow two parts training on attachment with native children in Winnipeg. She will give the training back to the workers at Batshaw.

- Give informative presentation to the native community on how to be a foster family.

- Margaret Butler organizes 6 times a year cultural activities for Inuit children growing up in non native families. Organize something similar for First Nation children.
- Get information from Sarah Cox works for the Inuit child centre at Gatineau
- Native adoptee should get support
- MCMR culturally more appropriate services.
- Most of urban aboriginals who grow up in non native foster homes they go through identity crisis, alcohol and drugs abuse, have anger issues, involved in criminal activity. Sometimes they deal with these issues for the first time in jail. We should take preventive measures and learn from the past. Emphasize on cultural activities/ceremonies i.e.: sweat lodge.
- Learn more on Inuit culture. Find Inuit role models. Even when we find them we loose them because the community is small you can't keep your anonymity.
- Early intervention should be done with the children before becoming adolescent .Have programs like art therapy.
- Workers don't have enough references of cultural consultants. Usually this is done at the orientation stage where it's already too late. A cultural consultant should be involved at the signalement stage. The reality is that parents usually say no to cultural consultation and you need to take parents permission.

Usually they are good mothers but are stuck in a vicious lifestyle with no support. Often binge drink but don't acknowledge they have a problem

- Find people who speak the language of the mother.
- Cultural meeting where people
- DYP's focus is on children not the mothers. They should support and intervene with the mother.
- Recruit native families who want to foster or adopt native children
- Have a group home for native children where they learn about their culture. However research shows that growing up in group homes is not very healthy.
- Have a mentoring program ,an equivalent for Big Brothers Big Sisters or black Star
- Organize a cultural camp.
- Do a presentation at BMC sometimes in November.

Many of the committee members were not aware that there is an aboriginal support worker at Batshaw. Her name is Denis David.

Write a letter of support to The Native Para-Judicial Services of Québec in order for courtworkers to do accompaniment not only for criminal cases but as well at the youth courts.

We see more and more children with mix cultural background ex the mother is native the father is from another minority. Which culture the child should follow?

At the next Social Services meeting:

- prioritize the ideas
- Strategize on how we will achieve them
- Determine how we will report to the larger group and who will do it.
- Work on the terms of reference

Appendix D: Art, Culture and Heritage Sub-Committee meeting minutes

Report on the first meeting of The Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community's *Art, Culture and Heritage Committee*

DATE: April 22, 2009

LOCATION: Engrenage Noir LEVIER (an independent art organization) 4521 St-Jacques, Montreal

PRESENT*: Jules-Hubert Beaulieu, Myriam St-Denis, Annie Hickey and her four-year old daughter, Lisa Gagné, Ryan Rice, Véronique Thusky, Joséphine Bacon, Gustavo Zamora, Sylvie Paré, Johanne Chagnon, Suzy Pilon, André Nadon and Louis Perron from the CIEM workshops, Devora Neumark and Dolorès Contré Migwans.

* A list of attendee's emails is attached at the end of this report: please see ANNEX A.

Most people arrived between 5:30 and 6:00 PM and began socializing over beverages and snacks. Soon after, everyone made a dinner plate and took a seat in the circle of chairs that had been prepared for the meeting that began with welcoming remarks by Johanne Chagnon and Devora Neumark (Co-Directors of Engrenage Noir LEVIER).

In order to facilitate communication and address the needs particularly of the unilingual attendees, simultaneous interpretation was offered by Dolorès and Devora. Each person could therefore speak in either English or French depending on their comfort level and no one in the group was left out. This attention to bilingualism was also evident in the invitation and agenda that was sent out in advance in both French and English. NOTE: Some of the support documents (that were sent around via email and made available in print form during the meeting) are still only accessible in one of the two languages depending on the origin of the document. The list of available support documents is attached at the end of this report: please see ANNEX B.

To begin with we started with a check in as a way of getting a sense of the group pulse: each person present was asked to present themselves and state what needs, dreams, visions, and ideas they had as artists for the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Network and the Art, Culture and Heritage Committee. NOTE: It was announced at the beginning of the sharing circle that for the moment the committee is not able to offer any actual services. Until such time that conditions are in place to be able to offer services, the committee is intended to serve as a networking tool.

The list of needs, dreams, visions and ideas articulated during the sharing circle is attached at the end of this document: please see ANNEX C. As is evident in the list, some of the needs and projects are possible through grassroots implication without any special budgetary allotment; others clearly would require a stable supportive structure and long-term subsidies to enable sustainable project development.

There was general consensus around the idea of opening an Urban Aboriginal Art, Culture and Heritage Centre that would become the focal point for exhibitions, performances, and workshops where the arts, languages, ceremonies and traditions would be taught and transmitted to future generations. The expressed vision expressed for this centre is that it would a holistic hub of activity.

In the meantime, until such a centre can be opened, Engrenage Noir LEVIER, (one of the Network partners), will make available its space at 4521 St-Jacques for meetings and other activities generated by Committee members.

Ryan Rice proposed that it would be desirable, and also likely possible even at this early stage, to make a request to the CAC to fund the organization and hosting of a two or three conference focused on Aboriginal art, culture and heritage. Practical workshops could be offered as well as round-table discussions dealing with relevant issues (such as the tension between contemporary and traditional practices). The future of the Urban Aboriginal Art, Culture and Heritage Network could also be discussed. Committee members would coordinate this conference in partnership with other organizations such as First Nations Circle of the University of Québec in Montréal, Land InSights, Engrenage Noir LEVIER, etc.

Certain artists (including Joséphine Bacon) explained that in back in 1994, the Montreal Native Friendship Centre convened a meeting about the place of indigenous culture organized by the (since dissolved) Groupe des Femmes Autochtones de Montréal. Unfortunately this discussion did not lead to any concrete measures despite the wishes of all who took part. Nonetheless, as everyone pointed out, taking advantage of the momentum that seems to be building at this time – and that the artists who were present during the meeting want to contribute to – means also to acknowledge past individual and collective initiatives.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

It was agreed that Gustavo Zamora, coordinator of the First Nations Circle of the University of Québec in Montréal, would be dealing with all necessary correspondence – that is the exchange of information and notifications of events. Until further notice Dolorès and Devora will prepare the messages for distribution. In order to facilitate conversation amongst the members of the committee and between the committee and the public at large, a section of the Engrenage Noir LEVIER blog could be apportioned to the committee: Myriam St-Denis has offered to coordinate this blog and keep it up-to-date. Details concerning this possibility will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Because the functioning of this Committee is based on egalitarian values, members will be encouraged to share the responsibilities of getting things done and acting in leadership roles.

In the meantime, one of the tasks that need to be addressed by everyone is finding an original

name for the Committee in an indigenous language along with a symbol or logo that could accompany it.

Dolorès Contré Migwans proposed the term *mnopi* which in her Native language means 'in the good place, at the good moment, with the right people.' However, Véronique Thusky, countered this term in Algonquin means 'beautiful water' and that the term for what Dolorès was describing is rather *meiachogoc(h)*. Jules-Hubert Beaulieu suggested that the idea of water associated with the source and the current has a certain ring to it. In short: the exploration needs to be continued and a decision taken by the group.

The meeting finished around 8:15 PM, with a last go-around to hear everyone's feedback about how the evening went. The majority expressed their satisfaction with this first gathering.

The next planned Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th beginning at 5:30 PM at the Engrenage Noir LEVIER space (4521 St-Jacques).

An invitation will be sent to everyone who was present. As it has been decided to continue widening the network and solidify the core of the Committee this information should be circulated widely amongst everyone's contact lists.

Prior to the next meeting of the Committee an agenda will be sent around via email so that people can prepare in advance for the discussion at the next meeting. Note that the discussions of the Committee will be reported in brief to the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Network at the upcoming June meeting.

Taking into account that which was already stated in the Urban Aboriginal Needs Assessment (to develop a Communal direction and a sense of belonging amongst Urban Natives) as manifest in:

1. One or more gathering places and socialization spaces within with Aboriginal individuals could interact with each other, establish personal contacts, and create inter-nation alliances;
2. Build a support network for the groups, families and individuals in order to create bonds between people and to develop projects together;
3. To develop community centers offering a variety of services to organize, promote and diffuse cultural events; support the transmission of artistic practice; learn and hone new creative skills; and offer courses in indigenous languages local to this region; etc.;
4. To develop a sense of unique pride as an Urban Aboriginal contributing to the diversity of Montreal's multicultural landscape.

HOW CAN THIS COMMITTEE SERVE YOU?

SPECIFIC NEEDS

VISIONS

Developing connections between Natives and	Possible collaborations for creative projects,
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non-Natives. Exploring the possibilities for exchange.	workshops, etc.
Networking for the completion of specific projects.	A project that aims to counter the persistent prejudices: To coordinate and facilitate a project in the schools to offer workshops and presentations about Native cultures and beliefs to school age children.
To hear the needs of individual Native artists and sense what the group wants.	Fulfill my wish to get to know more about Aboriginal art, culture and heritage and collaborate with Native artists and organizations.
Collective need: to continue to be stimulated, to create a synergy, and take action. Personal need: places for exchange about and sharing of our artistic practices.	There is already a program in place at the First Nations Garden of the Montreal Botanical that aims to stimulate creativity amongst Aboriginal artists, to promote the work of these artists, encourage skills development and offer adequate training for all the stages of the creative process.
A place to gather and take part in workshops, attend and participate in performances, etc. Networking and information exchange (e.g. about intellectual property, copyright, royalties on Indigenous culture and knowledge).	Collective ownership: Ethics protocols to protect the cultural appropriation of ancestral knowledge (e.g. the history of plants and trees containing medicinal properties).
How to help and be helped by the other artists. How to feel useful in the Committee and the Network.	Work on concrete actions and see actual results.
Communication strategies to better understand our selves and others (e.g. the importance of French/English translation). Acknowledgement of the importance of Montreal as an intercultural and international hub for the exchange of ideas and actions amongst Aboriginal artists and activists and between Aboriginal artists and activists and non-Native communities.	Meeting places and spaces for the diffusion of cultural production. Training and transmission of ancestral knowledge (e.g. the development of media skills and tools to foster communication). NOTE: This also concerns the Employment, Training and Education Committee of the Urban Aboriginal Network.
To offer an opportunity to young indigenous artists to benefit from the experience of older and more practiced cultural workers involved in the Committee and Network (e.g. Centre de l'image et de l'Estampe de Mirabel (CIEM) offers formation in arts printmaking training for the Mohawk youth (16 to 30 years) of Kanesatake.	To create a connection between the Committee and the CIEM in order to encourage the youth to further implicate themselves and improve their understanding and use of the indigenous aesthetics and formal tropes and to participate in the development of new visual and cultural vocabularies (which could be done for example in a course about indigenous art practices).
In 1996, Ryan Rice (director of the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to informing the public about the role of Aboriginal art curators in	In Montreal, Native curators cannot find outlets or opportunities for their work and consequently must therefore settle in cities where the promotion of Aboriginal art is already

<p>protecting, fostering and extending Aboriginal arts and culture in North America and around the world) tried to create a collective visual arts exhibition with Montreal Native artists but due to lack of participation, the project had to become national instead of local. The Canada Council for the Arts now has a funding support program for exhibition curators.</p>	<p>entrenched.</p> <p>Vision: An exhibition space that also has room for workshops and the creation of partnerships with other Aboriginal exhibition spaces and organizations in Canada and around the world.</p>
<p>To ensure a constancy of efforts and initiatives. To maintain a stability in long term and sustainable projects.</p>	<p>To create a structure which supports each other with a solid core. An autonomous groups with good management of human and financial resources.</p>
<p>There is a problem related to the lack of reception of Inuit people in Montreal. Information is not readily available about community resources and the transmission of culture and language within the Montreal Urban community.</p>	<p>Daycare for Native/Inuit children.</p> <p>Weekend Inuit language immersion classes for children (and others) and other workshops and cultural activities.</p>
<p>Aboriginal cultural identity development and the visibility of Aboriginal culture.</p>	<p>Developing a market for Aboriginal arts and traditional crafts. The production and diffusion of art and craft products.</p>
<p>The need for mentorship and guidance for emerging Aboriginal artists. Experienced Aboriginal artists and Elders to train and support up-and-coming practitioners and share with them their knowledge and know how (e.g. the cultural programs of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa).</p>	<p>Integration of Aboriginal spirituality in the training and transmission of art, culture and heritage (e.g. a holistic approach, 'therapeutic arts' and a relationship with the body through the arts to counter the trauma of sexual abuse. Conferences and workshops about the realities of Aboriginal experience; healing through art.</p> <p>Access to material, techniques and equipment.</p>
<p>Personally and on behalf of Engrenage Noir LEVIER to be of service to the Committee and the Network and participate actively in support of healthy interdependence including the healing of relationships (intra-personal, inter-personal, between humans and other species, between people and places/environments, etc.) through intercultural artistic development and exchanges and interdisciplinary critical dialogue.</p> <p>To support the Committee and Urban Aboriginal Network to meet their goals and objectives.</p>	<p>The vision should correspond to what the members of the committee think are necessary and vital activities, intentions and goals. I could also imagine a series of regularly scheduled meetings (performances, workshops, dialogue circles) over an extended period of time as necessary to develop local/international networks engaged with crafting critical vocabularies, art appreciation skills, and interdisciplinary dialogue about healthy and diverse ecosystems, resource sharing, and intercultural development, etc.</p>
<p>For the coordinator: The need for support in how to orient the committee, share responsibilities, tasks, and skills.</p>	<p>To install a Circle of Unity with a code of ethics aligned to the values of the Sacred Wheel.</p>

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Other names can be added to!