



Report on the Meeting

Exploring an Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy

Montreal, Quebec
November 5, 2008
Maritime Hotel

Sponsored by:
Department of Indian Affairs

Coordinated by:
Native Women's Shelter of Montreal

Facilitated & Transcribed by:
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The following is a summative transcription of meeting proceedings for Exploring an Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy. Held in Montreal – Maritime Hotel on November 5, 2008.

Meeting officially opened at 9 a.m.

See participants list in last section of report.

MORNING SESSION

Opening Prayer

Mike Standup, Kahnawake

Introduction of Facilitator and Event

General welcome to meeting by Nakuset and introduction of Rheena Diabo – facilitator.

Nakuset provides background on how the meeting came about. A needs assessment was conducted on Urban Aboriginal Needs initiated by Regroupement des Centre d'Amite. The needs assessment identified the need for services and programs for Urban Aboriginals to improve working together. A presentation will follow on this study. Also there was a survey conducted by NWSM that explored the opinions of urban groups to come together. A meeting was held with INAC representatives to discuss their potential assistance in hosting a process to follow up on these two action research projects. The purpose of the meeting would be to assist all those involved with providing services to Urban Aboriginal clients explore potential partnerships and enhance existing ones. INAC provided financial support to cover costs for the use of a meeting room, translation services and meals for this meeting. So the role of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has been as an advocate for this meeting.

Comment by Nakuset:

It is now up to this group to come together to determine what we want to accomplish and our next steps after this meeting.

Agenda Review and Housekeeping

Rheena Diabo presented agenda and outline on activities planned for the day, noted it is a very ambitious agenda. She shared that requests had been made by several participants to make presentations to the participants on key developments in their service areas. She further noted the possibility for presentations by other groups at end of day *with time permitting* would be based on how efficiently time was used to realize meeting goals, so everyone's cooperation was critical.

Guidelines for the workshop were proposed and participants commitment was secured to operate under the guidelines. Projection of break times, reminder of lunch in meeting room with invitation to all participants and facility layout was noted.

Request for cell phones to be turned off, put on silent and take calls outside of meeting room to prevent disruption.

Introduction of all Participants

Go around the room with each participant asked to provide their name, position held and what is the last thing you ever explored?

All participants introduced themselves as requested.

Facilitator's comment: *Based on what has been shared, we observe a richness in the room, created by the experiences of those working in the field for a long time and people in new positions. This will make for a good day.*

Break

Power Point Presentation

Needs Assessment of the Aboriginal People in the Urban Setting of Montreal

By Dianne Ottereyes Reid- Cree organizational representative & Marie-Josée Bonin – Directrice de la Diversité Sociale de la Ville de Montreal 2006- 2007

The presentation focused on the range of issues noted in the report, they are not presented in order of priority.

Importance was often stressed for a place for people to meet, a community center, space for health and social services, lodging, housing, affordable

housing, establishing shelter for native men in Montreal, create location to offer transitional low cost housing, education and training, skills for dealing with life in the city, library for friendship center to house resource material, Needs for healing services, services are disappearing for many reasons, financial, special services; deal with people in a holistic way. Preschool programs have relationships with their community, youth protection, adoption, alcohol abuse, other abuses, discrimination, and help for when move to an urban setting, daily life in Montreal, how to live, resources in Montreal, and a place with all the information for how to guide with all resources in Montreal, website with information, translation services in different languages, languages that are affordable and convey in way that is easily understandable.

As Aboriginal organizations we are expected to live in these two worlds. NFCM in recovery plan looking at relocation to center for community events. Still have workers – street worker helping people.

Diane Comment: *We are looking for partners to help in the recovery of the NFCM.*

The full report can be accessed at: www.rcaaq.info

Power Point Presentation

Survey Results – Conducted by NWSM

By Nakuset

The presentation outlined the key results of consultation. Majority of meeting participants were involved in the survey.

- There is a need for regular contact via meetings and other methods of communication.
- Respondents were willing to involve themselves in join training efforts.
- Some are prepared to cost share.
- Others are able to deliver on training.

Participants can receive a copy of presentation by e-mail: nakuset@gmail.com

Power Point Presentation

Silos and Systems

By Rheena Diabo

Brief outline on the silo effect, how they impact organizations, create barriers and allow clients to fall between the cracks. The presentation listed some of the contributing factors to the creation of Silos.

Overview given on trauma, traumatic events and Post Traumatic Stress incidence among Aboriginals and their communities. Traumatic Events in First Nations Communities combined with unhealthy change and the disconnection from the land put Urban Aboriginal population at high risk for a variety of stressors, health and social problems. As service providers to this population it is critical to devise strategies that will reduce the silo effect and improve service delivery. This meeting is dedicated to that end.

Participants were then organized into (6) work groups.

Short exercise with 8 volunteers was conducted to provide a visual demonstrating the *importance of communication* between partners in overcoming the barriers created by silos.

Power Point Presentation

Partnerships

By Rheena Diabo

Overview with handout on types of partnerships provided to participants as a reference during the course of their work group dialogues.

Questions posed in the presentation: How then do those who provide services to Urban Aboriginals overcome the silos to ensure services are provided in the most effective way possible and at a quality that is necessary to the clients? Can partnerships play a role? The rest of the day will be devoted to exploring partnerships, how to work together, build on the skills of participants and use the talent in the room to determine where participants feel this process needs to go.

Instructions were provided to groups as well as roles and responsibilities of the facilitator, recorder, timekeeper and presenter; time was given for each table to select who from their group would do each role. Instructions were given for flip chart constructs.

The meeting's morning session concluded with a reminder the meeting would reconvene at 1:30 sharp.

Lunch Break

Native Women's Shelter of Montreal Annual General Assembly and Election

NWSM Annual General Assembly opened, annual report presented. Elections for NWSM board conducted, new board presented. NWSM Annual General Assembly concluded. Majority of participants stayed for the lunch and had the opportunity to observe an Urban Aboriginal organization's annual general assembly.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Meeting reconvened and groups requested to return to their tables and begin to explore questions posted in power point slides. The following lists each question as well as the summaries of the dialogue that were recorded on flip charts and presented to the participants.

Exploration Activity # 1

A) What challenges / needs that you face that might be helped by Urban Aboriginal Network?

- Organizational structure – networking with other organizations
- Terms of reference on how to work together
- Some organizations do not have aboriginal representation
- Language barriers
- Reach out more to clientele that are isolated
- Need to be better well know as a resource
- Marketing – Who are we? Every organization that serves an aboriginal clientele could be a member.
- Lack of communication
- Do not know each others services roles or key people
- Willingness to accept changes
- To have Native care families

- Information to teach people on rights depending on their situations (divorced, signalement, adoption, welfare etc)
- The intervener has to be healthy and healed basic principles and values to input before personality.
- Location of resources
- Resource pamphlets
- Network Committee– one member per organization a) sensibilisation, b) sharing of knowledge, internal link
- Outburst of violence/vandalism
- Loss of children
- News letters
- Resource center
- Treatment Center
- Where/how/when to meet regularly
- Space: physically, large venue–enough
- Structure/protocol, PR communication and input
- Identify organization involved
- Finding services–centralization
- Realistic understanding of available services
- Knowledge of new initiatives
- Personal contact between resources
- Coordination of services – access
- Communication between organizations
- Sharing information
- Issues of privacy and confidentiality
- Challenge to balance need for privacy and the sharing of info
- Service mandates often conflict government Vs Community
- Developing new services but knowing what is already there
- No Education arm connected to the Native Centers
- Linguistic Issues
- Linking education with the community
- Many programs are just ‘projects’–temporary status
- Knowing which services do what and with who

B) If a network were to be established what are some practical things that it could do to help in meeting the challenges and needs you identified?

- List of organizations
- Network website
- Resource guide
- Direct links
- Information – master list of organizations that help native organizations,

- Serve as a brainstorming
- Serve as a brainstorming meeting
- Discuss challenges
- Advocacy
- Screen and assess all potential foster child family – develop native foster families list train and provide info to parents
- Share information
- Guided tour to clientele to native organizations
- Creation of Urban survival guide
- To create a sub-committee to respond specific issues
- To assure funds
- Assess human resources needs
- Share information-newsletters
- Gatherings ongoing
- Support Systems
- Debriefing ongoing
- Awareness of ideas, issues
- Formalize committee and structure
- 1 committed member from each organization/group for liaison
- Service Providers and native based organization bring needs to government or other levels, a second liaison person.
- Network responsible to sensitize and bring awareness to other systems
- Clarifying available resources-inventory
- Council to share information, handle collecting and sharing resources
- On line database/resource list
- E-mail distribution of council meeting minutes
- Committee formation involving different groups
- Common place or directory to direct people to the right services
- Updated info with someone responsible for updating membership
- Website for the umbrella groups to feed information and keep it fresh
- Material available in different formats
- Sub-committees with a focus e.g. culture, education, health, child services

C) What do you see as this network's role and responsibilities?

- Voice of aboriginal's people
- Advocacy
- Marketing
- Resource guide
- Coordination amongst all organization
- Develop terms of reference
- Mandate
- Mission

- To challenge each other to clear out our own issues to better help the client (Caring confrontation)
- Coordinate the community organization links and partnership
- Clearly assign organization tasks and roles to avoid overlap
- Make sure that all the people are serviced
- Cultural sensitivity
- Network involves government agencies
- Advisory
- Communicate resources
- Identify spokesperson
- Identify funding or free space
- Liaison/Coordinator between organizations and governmental levels
- Execution/Action plan
- Project development
- Prioritize needs and actions plans
- ID formalize/clarify/Execute protocol of understanding
- Coordination
- Collaboration
- Client-focused/Identification of needs
- Identifying gaps in services
- Nomination of members/representatives
- Share information
- Research–how other countries are organized in developing services
- Open Dialogue
- Compliment services–partnerships
- Collecting data and share with others
- Network exchange
- Identify partnerships
- Organizing of the groups

D) What would be individual member's roles & responsibilities?

- Commitment
- Rotating coordination
- Rotating responsibility
- Chairperson– minute taker, think out of the box more broadly focused
- Shared vision
- Promotion of network and members organization served
- Vehicle of transition
- Commitment, principles before personalities
- Share info and skills and common goal
- Support system
- Embracing diversity
- Distribute information to members/clients
- Tools– card map with resources, information on it
- Web database
- Display of pamphlets
- Volunteer's list
- Update on member's information
- To attend meetings and share information
- Identify our resources to share funding resources.
- Identify needs and priorities of each specific organization and communicate to network
- Open mind to organizations cultural differences and ways of doing, savoir-faire, savoir-etre
- Commitment
- Follow-through
- Appreciation of interconnectedness of social issues/services
- Replacements for absent members
- Being 'part of the solution'
- Change of mentality–'working as a team'
- Provide information on their services
- Their link to the community
- Participate in committee and subcommittee towards common goals
- Develop Solutions
- Develop Projects
- Contribute to an action plan
- List of "to go" people for information and possible speakers

End of presentations. Due to shortage of time, participants agree to five-minute break.

Break

Powerpoint Presentation

Exploring the Next Steps

By Rheena Diabo

Based on what has been presented and explored, how do we move forward? We must carefully examine our involvement and commitment to follow up. Things to consider:

If not this then what?

If not you then who?

If not now then when?

Group Work on flip chart continues.

Exploration Activity # 2

A) Based on the results of the group work done so far is a network a practical and effective strategy to begin to improve on meeting on the needs of Urban Aboriginal Clients; then what should be some of the next steps taken to build on this work? (Prioritize the items in your response in terms of what should come first).

- Go back to our organization to share with colleagues today's outcomes
- All organizations need to get the minutes, etc.
- Start thinking in terms of "sub-committees" along interest lines (homelessness etc.)
- Constitute a bank of resource-persons in the Montreal with various key abilities
- For each organization there is a need to "refocus" on what they do best, so that to be efficient partners (less competition)
- Each organization to start thinking of "training needs" for their staff around their refocused mandate.
- Receive today's minutes
- Review Them
- Set up meeting (Invite/Coordinate)
- Determine who will come to the next meeting
- Develop sub-committee

- Appoint a member from each committee in charge of communication
- 1-Liaison person from each organization present today can serve on the larger Urban Aboriginal Council.
- People present today have the responsibility of sharing the information of today's meeting with other organization members to enhance over representation of existing aboriginal services.
- Once established, the larger Urban Aboriginal Council will divide into sub-councils
- Sub councils will meet more frequently than the larger Aboriginal Council; meetings will provide space to share individual sub-committee's Initiatives.
- Clarify Mandate
- Organigram (visual) according to accountability e.g. subcommittee
- Identify space
- Establish frequency of meeting, reporting of action plan
- Look/find funds and establish budget/costs
- Appoint date for next meeting
- Identify main contact/responsible person of this collective
- Collect information for database of organizations
- Identify Individual from each organization with continued commitment
- Seek out organizations no present
- Hear voices from entire community and all as well as the organizations
- Include external communities, organizations, ideas, examples, cities etc.
- Need concrete proposals
- Identify common issues and goals
- Prioritize issues and goals
- Identify subcommittees
- Establish action plans
- Identify partners and membership
- Identify funding sources for network
- Set up next meeting
- Address Issues and move forward
- Facilities: First Peoples House at McGill University, Botanical Gardens- Auditorium Building of First Nations Garden for subcommittee or committee for Arts and Culture and events, Health Services Canada

B) What would be your individual availability/commitment to participate/support these next steps (i.e. time, facility space, participation)?

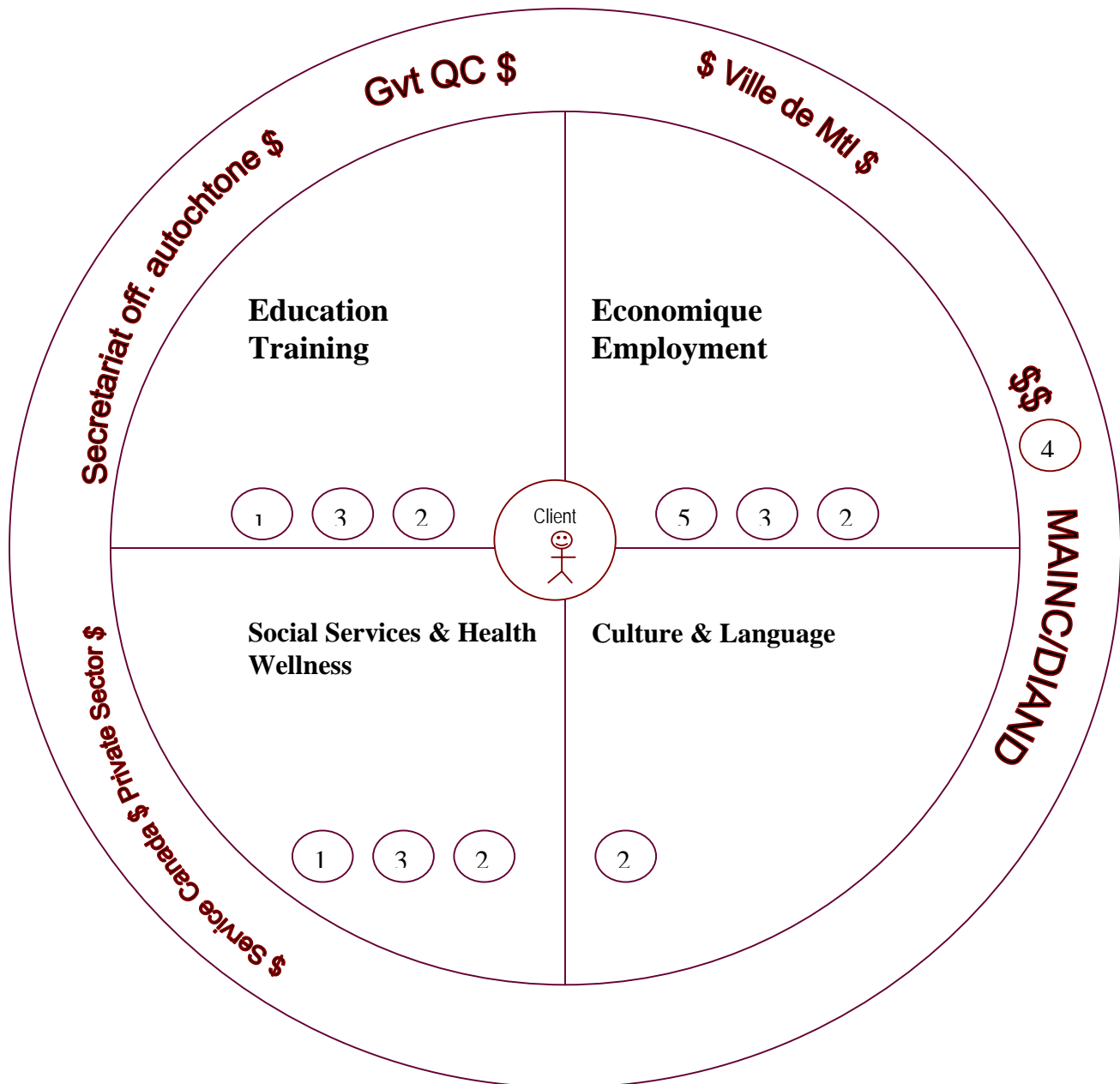
Name	Availability/Commitment
Chantal Latour	Coordinate questions and information for the government of Quebec (finances)
Charles Mathieu Brunette	Provide free space for up to 250 people (theatre style), Support a committee on arts and culture (Minute taker, communications, coordinator)
Nakuset	Help set up quarterly meetings, help organize committees, coordination
Pascal Robitaille	Quarterly meetings, writing minutes, translation skills
Salwa Majouji	Not sure must ask Boss
Gary Carbonnell	Tons of availability, terms of reference
Melanie Walsh	Not sure, will get back to us
Rachel Richer	Interested in sharing ideas with larger committee/interested in working to accomplish goals of appointed sub-committees. Available 1 per-2 months
Simon Cote	Available to offer time and ideas as needed
Travis O'Brien	Time/responses/potential funding
John Quineros	Committed to exploring possibility of establishing sub-committee at Batshaw-Can start by sending agency-wide e-mail to see interest
Carole Brazeau	Available Space, Ready, willing and able to commitment of time- 450-632-0088 ext.226 or cbrazeau@hotmail.com T
Taline Arslanian	(Women's Centre of Montreal) available space, time interested to be part of committees
Pascale C. Annoual	Workshops, training
Martin Dube	Web designs etc.
France Robertson	Promotion
Brett Pineau	Facilitate, space
Julie Martel	Support projects
Carol Choinard	Support projects
Charlotte Pien	Support
Sedalia Fazio	Spiritual guidance

SDRHPNM	Possible funding
Jean O'Bomsawin	Writing skills, tours of Montreal organizations
France Robertson	Once/month, meeting space about 25 people, workshops: Aboriginal , trauma, drug and alcohol issues
Alana Phillips	3-4 times per year, big space only at night, documents, identifying other resources, for children
Mike Standup	Very available, always
Ville de Montreal	Facilities, support, resources, possible funding (shared), projects
Police Montreal	3-4 times/year, spaces available, conference rooms etc., projects
Natalie Huntley	Info sessions on programs and services
Diane Reid	Facilitator drafting terms of reference
Donna Pee Smith	Support for proposal writing

General Comments from flip chart on this activity:

- Committee will decide logistics and commitment of time, space and willingness
- Committed to following-through on improving services to clients
- Based on discussions in one group the following diagram notes possible approaches to establishing subcommittees based on the availability, commitments and interests of participants. The blue table provides a legend to link resources to areas of focus.

Subcommittees Proposed



Availability & Commitments & Interests

1. Centres de Femmes – FAQ
2. Vistal Vision
3. Foyer Femme autochtone de MTL
4. Mainc/DIAND
5. FNHRDSM

Closing

Conducted by Mike Standup

Special Presentations by Participants

Sedalia Fazio and Charles–Mathieu Brunelle

Announcement on the use of land within the Montreal Botanical Garden. A special section has been set aside specifically for Sweats in the Garden in a location selected by committee members. The selected area will be fenced off for privacy and protection. Members of the committee were noted and anyone who has questions invited to contact them.

Anike Sioui– Women’s Services in Montreal

Wants to work with other organizations, network, outlined types of services they currently are providing.

Alana Phillips, Rising Sun Day Care Facility

Announcement and update, there is a delay in the opening of the facility till March 2009. There is a list of 80 children waiting to start using the services.

Julie – Montreal Police Department

Asking if people want to participate in the making of a video on Native People. Contact her in the event you are interested or know of people who maybe interested in participating.

CONCLUSION

Based on what is contained in the report and our observations during the group work conducted, it is the conclusion of the consulting team, there is common:

1. Agreement that a network would help to improve services to Urban Aboriginals.
2. Recognition that silos do exist and a network would help to remove some of the barriers created by these silos
3. Opinion that not all potential partners were present at the meeting so there needs to be an effort to engage them and expand the present contact list to include these potential partners and continue to invite them to follow up activities
4. Need to come together on a regular basis to:
 - share information
 - identify common issues shared by service providers of Urban Aboriginals
 - collaborate on addressing these issues (strategies & action plans)
 - explore how this work can be accomplished through subcommittees

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the above and based on our community development experience, it is our recommendation that

A) Any follow up should include:

1. A mechanism to formally establish an Urban Aboriginal Network as this presents the most practical vehicle for partnerships given the diversity of the partners and the varying levels of commitment at this time. The network has the potential to eventually develop into something more substantive as needs change.
2. Developing clearly defined terms of reference for this network that will assist workshop participants securing support from their respective organizations to participate in this network and its development.

B) To sustain momentum and maintain participation levels,

1. Follow up meetings should occur no later than mid January 2009.
2. Report should go out before the 2008 holidays (December) and include the invitation to attend the follow up session with the proposed agenda

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Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Meeting
Hotel Maritime Plaza
November 5, 2008

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