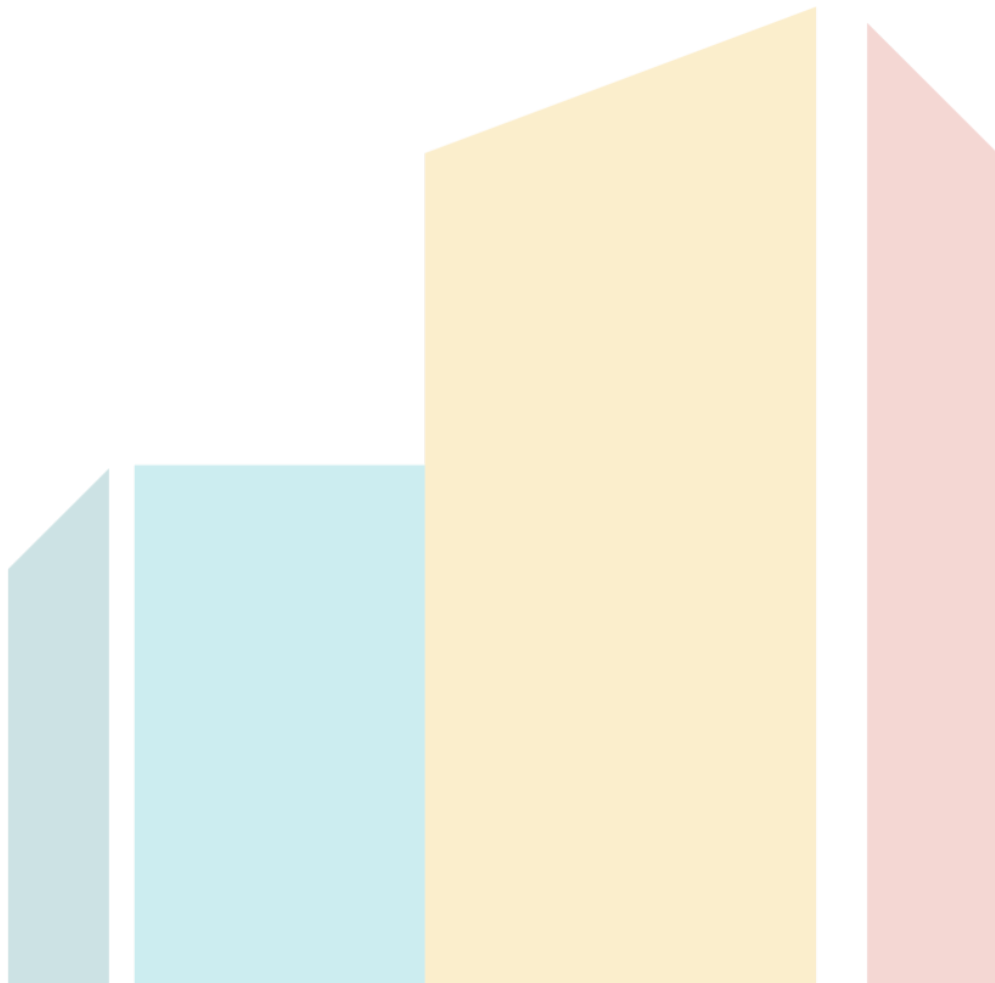




FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Proceedings of the
Partnership Table

June 2021





FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Partnership Table
Meeting Agenda | June 2021

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 // 3:30-5:00pm // via Video Conference

Time	Topic	Leader
3:30pm	Opening Prayer	Ellen Ford
3:35pm	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review & Approval of Agenda• Review & Approval of Minutes	Justin Campbell
3:40pm	Indigenous Advocate Award – UPDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation Date	Justin Campbell
3:50pm	Committee Updates & Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education, Training, and Employment• Health and Wellness• Housing and Homelessness• Infrastructure and Service Delivery• Working Group on Police Oversight	Committee Co-Leads
4:35pm	Other Updates & Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment of Community Advocates	Justin Campbell
4:45pm	Other Business	Open Floor
4:55pm	Closing Prayer	Ellen Ford

Partnership Table Minutes for June 2, 2021

Prepared by Justin Campbell

Call to Order

The June 2021 meeting of the First Voice Partnership Table was called to order by Justin Campbell at 3:38pm on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. The meeting was held via video conference. Inuit Elder Ellen Ford offered the opening prayer.

Present

- **Carey Majid**, Executive Director, NL Human Rights Commission (R)
- **Charlotte Winters-Fost**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Cyril Tobin**, Executive Director, NL Housing and Homelessness Network (R)
- **Daphne March**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Draco Dunphy**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Ellen Ford**, Inuit Elder (R)
- **Jordan Lawrence**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Justin Campbell**, Program Manager, First Voice (R)
- **Laura Winters**, Executive Director, St. John's Status of Women Council (R)
- **Maggie Burton**, Councillor at Large, City of St. John's (R)
- **Michael Lannon**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Mollie Butler**, Regional Director, Professional Practice and Indigenous Health, Eastern Health (R)
- **Pam Griffin**, Manager of Program Delivery, Public Health Agency of Canada (R)
- **Stacey Howse**, Executive Director, First Light (R)
- **Susan Onalik**, Special Member (R)
- **Wendolyn Schlamp**, Executive Director, YWCA St. John's (R)
- **Will Green**, Acting Manager of Intergovernmental Relations, Indigenous Services Canada (R)

Regrets

- **Angelica Vincent**, Community Advocate

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- **Barbara Robinson**, Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Partnerships, Indigenous Services Canada
- **Catharyn Andersen**, Special Advisor to the President on Indigenous Affairs, Memorial University
- **Ian Froude**, Councillor Ward 4, City of St. John's
- **Marjorie Muise**, First Nations Elder
- **Paula Sheppard**, President and CEO, Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Administration

- The meeting agenda was approved.
- The minutes for the Partnership Table meeting held on May 5, 2021, were approved with no revisions. The document will be posted to the First Voice website.

Updates & Reports

1. Standing Committees

- *Education, Training, and Employment*
 - The Committee has moved to monthly meetings in order continue building momentum in terms of refining objectives in its three thematic areas of (1) professional training and development; (2) curriculum development and deployment; and (3) employment equity.
 - Objectives based on the community feedback received as part of the Decolonize YYT conference have been entered into a spreadsheet. Committee members are in the process of ranking these objectives and working to better define those that are deemed to be higher priority.
 - Gord Hawkins has joined First Light as the new Employment Coordinator. He will be joining the Committee at its next meeting.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: Tuesday, June 29, 2021, from 10am to 11am.

- *Health and Wellness*
 - The Committee has moved to monthly meetings.

- Formal Terms of Reference for the Committee have been drafted and circulated to Committee members for review, input, and approval.
- The expectation is that Committee members will review the draft objectives from the Decolonize YYT conference on their own time in order to make the Committee's meetings run more efficiently.
- Brian Harvey, Director of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation with the provincial government, has joined the Committee as a Contributor.
- The Committee will discuss the City of St. John's Healthy City Strategy, and how its objectives can be tied to and informed by the Community Action Plan, at its next meeting.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: Monday, June 14, 2021, from 1pm to 2pm.

- *Housing and Homelessness*

- Two new members have joined the Committee since its last meeting: Daphne March as a Community Advocate; and Doug Pawson, Executive Director of End Homelessness St. John's, as a Contributor.
- The Committee has been using its meeting time to review and further develop the draft objectives from the Decolonize YYT conference as a group.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: Monday, June 14, 2021, from 10am to 11am.

- *Infrastructure and Service Delivery*

- A shared Google Doc has been created listing the draft objectives from the Decolonize YYT conference. Committee members have been reviewing those objectives in between meetings, and then convening to discuss and prioritize them.
- A list of potential Contributors has been drafted based on those who participated in the original Stakeholders' Roundtable in 2019-20 as well as those who attended the Decolonize YYT conference. Invitations will go out once the next meeting has been scheduled.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: TBD.

2. Working Group on Police Oversight

- An informal background paper has been produced and circulated to members of the Working Group. The paper provides context to civilian oversight of policing in Newfoundland and Labrador compared to other Canadian jurisdictions. The content of the paper will feed into the process of identifying specific proposals to share with the public and will become the foundation for the more formal Discussion Paper, which is set to be released by the end of the summer.
- The Working Group's Co-Chairs, Catherine Fagan and Caitlin Urquhart, have sent a letter about the project to the Premier, with copies to the Ministers of Justice and Public Safety, Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Women and Gender Equality. The Minister of Justice and Public Safety has responded and a meeting with him is in the process of being scheduled.
- A media release announcing the project will be circulated tomorrow, June 3, 2021. It will coincide with the second anniversary of the release of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Regular Business

1. Indigenous Advocate Award 2021

- Because of competing priorities as well as more urgent and immediate matters, First Light has been unable to assemble a Nominations and Selection Committee to determine the winner of the Indigenous Advocate Award for 2021. Although the Partnership Table had previously decided at its February 2021 meeting to present the award on National Indigenous Peoples Day, this timeline is no longer feasible.
- It was proposed that the award could instead be presented later in the year as part of the Spirit Song Festival in November 2021. With COVID-19 restrictions expected to begin easing, an advantage of holding the award ceremony later in the year is that it may be possible to hold a community feast to honour the recipient.
- **IT WAS DECIDED THAT** the presentation of the Indigenous Advocate Award for 2021 will now to take place alongside the Spirit Song Festival in November 2021. First Light will assemble a committee in the fall to collect nominations and select the recipient.

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2. Community Advocate Recruitment

- The call for additional volunteer Community Advocates was posted on the First Voice and First Light websites on May 31, 2021. A stronger promotional push on social media is planned to begin next week. The deadline to apply is July 5, 2021.
- Members of the Partnership Table are encouraged to share the posting widely in order to help ensure a diverse pool of candidates.

Other Business

- First Light has issued a **public statement on the discovery of a mass grave** containing the remains of 215 children at the site of the former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia. The statement identifies community supports that are available to those who may be affected by the news, and it urges local, provincial, and federal leaders to move forward on the Calls to Action and the Calls for Justice.
- **National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD)** will take place on June 21, 2021. First Light has planned a weeklong schedule of events, both online and in person. Advance registration is required for all events. The annual sunrise ceremony will take place at Cavell Park, followed by an open house at the new headquarters at 40 Quidi Vidi Road. Members of the media and the public will be able to view plans for the new building.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Commission's **Community Justice Connect Program** will be operational by mid-June. With some support provided by First Light, the program will train roughly 20 volunteer facilitators in restorative justice techniques. The vast majority of facilitators are Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC). Because of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, training will be delivered online via Zoom.
- Indigenous Services Canada will soon be issuing its fourth round of calls for proposals for the **Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)**. The national fund has allocated \$150 million to support urban Indigenous communities dealing with COVID-19. Will Green will be coordinating the intake of proposals for the Atlantic Region.
- The St. John's Status of Women Council is launching a **harm-reduction Managed Alcohol Program** to support women and non-binary people who are struggling with alcohol use. The two-year pilot project will engage a researcher to develop open-source policies and procedures that will be available to the community. A Community Oversight Committee,

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bringing together community organizations and service providers, will be established to lead the project.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Justin Campbell at 4:59pm following the closing prayer offered by Inuit Elder Ellen Ford. The next meeting of the Partnership Table will take place via video conference on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.