

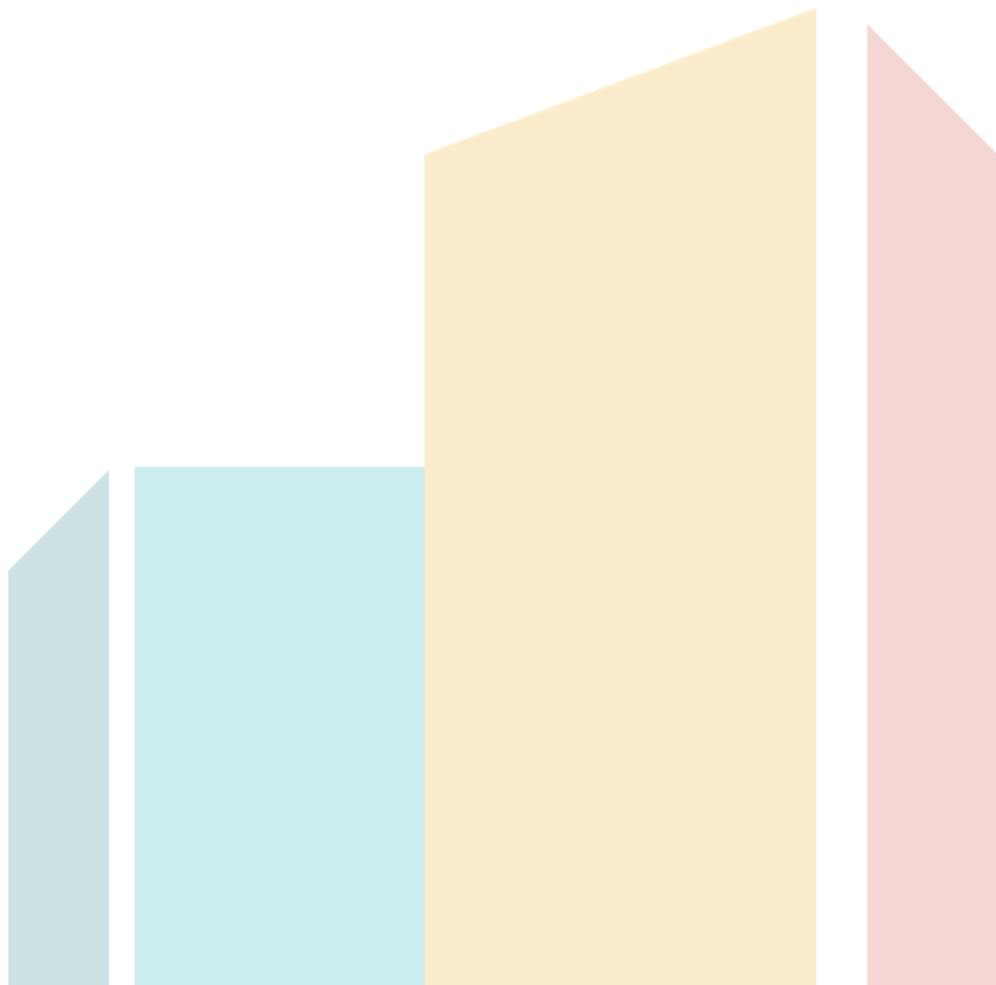


FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Proceedings of the

Partnership Table

July 2020





FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Partnership Table
Meeting Agenda | July 2020

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 // 3:30-5:00pm // via Video Conference

Time	Topic	Leader
3:30pm	Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer	Marjorie Muise
3:35pm	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review & Approval of Agenda• Review & Approval of Minutes• Applications for Membership	Justin Campbell
3:50pm	Transparency & Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website Review & Feedback• Proposal to Publish Minutes Online• Social Media Presence	Justin Campbell
4:10pm	Policy Conference Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Format Options• Launching Committees	Justin Campbell
4:45pm	Other Business	Open Floor
4:55pm	Closing Prayer	Marjorie Muise



FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Partnership Table Minutes for July 8, 2020

Prepared by Justin Campbell

Call to Order

The July meeting of the First Voice Partnership Table was called to order by Justin Campbell at 3:36pm on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. The meeting was held by video conference. Mi'kmaq Elder Marjorie Muise performed the land acknowledgement and offered the opening prayer.

Present

- **Angelica Vincent**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Catharyn Andersen**, Special Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs, Memorial University (R)
- **Cyril Tobin**, Executive Director, NL Housing and Homelessness Network (R)
- **Daphne March**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Dorothy Haché**, Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, Indigenous Services Canada (R)
- **Draco Dunphy**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Jordan Lawrence**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Justin Campbell**, Coalition Coordinator (R)
- **Laura Winters**, Executive Director, St. John's Status of Women Council (R)
- **Maggie Burton**, Councillor at Large, City of St. John's
- **Marjorie Muise**, Mi'kmaq Elder (R)
- **Michael Lannon**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Mollie Butler**, Regional Director, Professional Practice and Indigenous Health, Eastern Health (R)
- **Paula Sheppard**, President and CEO, Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women (R)
- **Stacey Howse**, Director of Programs, First Light (R)

Regrets

- **Carey Majid**, Executive Director, NL Human Rights Commission (R)
- **Charlotte Winters-Fost**, Community Advocate (R)

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- **Ian Froude**, Councillor Ward 4, City of St. John's (R)
- **Wendolyn Schlamp**, Executive Director, YWCA St. John's (R)

Administration

- The minutes for the Partnership Table meeting held on June 4, 2020, were approved without any revisions.
- The Terms of Reference and the Code of Conduct have been updated to reflect the June 4, 2020, adoption of the coalition's new name and brand.

Announcements

1. Mental Health and Addictions

- The provincial Department of Health and Community Services has established a Provincial Indigenous Working Group for COVID-19. It will work to identify areas for action related to mental health and addictions.
- Health services under the provincial Corrections facilities are being transferred into Eastern Health. The transfer will be completed by April 2021.
- It was agreed that these initiatives should be explored in greater detail at the Health and Wellness Committee once it has been constituted.

2. Memorial University Strategic Framework for Indigenization

- Memorial University is conducting consultations on a draft Strategic Framework for Indigenization, which was released four weeks ago. The document is available at https://www.mun.ca/aboriginal_affairs/Draft_Framework_Indigenization.pdf.
- Feedback is welcome from all members of the community and may be submitted directly to Memorial University by email at sfi@mun.ca. The consultation period will conclude on July 23, 2020.
- First Light is in the process of developing feedback on the document and has offered to integrate any additional points that members of the Partnership Table may want to have included. Feedback may be relayed to First Light before the end of the day on Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

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Updates & Reports

1. First Voice Website Launch

- The coalition's new website went live at www.firstvoicenl.ca on June 16, 2020. It will be used as a hub for all public coalition documents and as a means to facilitate deeper collaboration between members.
- Any and all suggestions for improving the website are welcome.

2. Indigenous Advocate Award

- Charlotte Winters-Fost was announced as the inaugural recipient of the Indigenous Advocate Award on June 18, 2020. Charlotte had been selected as the recipient by the Nominations and Selection Committee on March 10, 2020.
- A one-hour Facebook Live event followed the announcement later that same day. A recording is available on First Light's Facebook page ([@FirstLightNL](https://www.facebook.com/FirstLightNL)) and had been viewed more than 1500 times in the two-week period following the award announcement.

Regular Business

1. Application for Membership: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

- Pam Griffin has submitted an application on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to join First Voice as a Partner. Pam previously participated in the Stakeholders' Roundtable and contributed to the Terms of Reference Working Group.
- **IT WAS DECIDED BY CONSENSUS to admit the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) as the coalition's ninth supporting Partner. PHAC was nominated by First Light and confirmed by the rest of the Partnership Table.**

2. Publishing Meeting Minutes

- Publishing meeting minutes would help to establish a public record for all decisions taken by First Voice while also ensuring that the group's deliberations are fully transparent to the St. John's urban Indigenous community.
- It was agreed that the coalition's stated values of Collaboration and Self-Determination favour publishing meeting minutes.
- It was agreed that meeting minutes should not be shared publicly until all participants have had an opportunity to review and approve them.

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- **IT WAS DECIDED BY CONSENSUS THAT** all approved meeting minutes will be published on the First Voice website.

3. Social Media Presence

- Establishing a social media presence would help to keep the St. John's urban Indigenous community better informed of First Voice activities. It may also help make the coalition more visible and accessible to youth.
- It was suggested that creating new social media channels, such as on Twitter and Instagram, could be used to amplify local Indigenous voices and perspectives.
 - For example, regular "takeovers" could be organized in collaboration with Community Advocates and/or members of the broader Indigenous community. This would have the added benefit of reducing the administrative work involved with producing up-to-date content.
- **IT WAS DECIDED BY CONSENSUS THAT** a Working Group will be struck in order to draft a high-level policy document to guide all social media use.

4. Policy Conference

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, First Voice had been working to host a policy conference with the aim of developing a collaborative Community Action Plan. The conference would have brought together government officials, anti-racism practitioners, members of the Indigenous community, and students, staff, and faculty at Memorial University. However, the original vision for the conference is no longer feasible under current public health guidelines.
- Many organizations are adopting virtual formats as an alternative to in-person gatherings.
 - Potential advantages include the possibility of engaging a larger group of speakers and participants than would otherwise have been possible.
 - Potential disadvantages include tighter time constraints. Some experts advise that online sessions be limited to no longer than 3 hours in order to ensure effective engagement with participants.
- It was suggested that a virtual event could include music (live or pre-recorded) to help keep participants interested and engaged.
- **IT WAS DECIDED BY CONSENSUS THAT** the coalition will move forward with the policy conference using a virtual format. The event will take place in the late fall or early winter.

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- The coalition will engage someone with expertise in delivering virtual events in order to help design an effective format and/or to facilitate effective virtual engagement with stakeholders.
- **IT WAS DECIDED BY CONSENSUS THAT** the four Standing Committees will be constituted with a view to informing the content of the policy conference.
 - Each Committee will be tasked with identifying broad action areas tied to specific Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Other Business

- No other business was raised.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Justin Campbell at 4:56pm following the closing prayer offered by Mi'kmaq Elder Marjorie Muise. The next meeting of the Partnership Table will take place via video conference on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.