

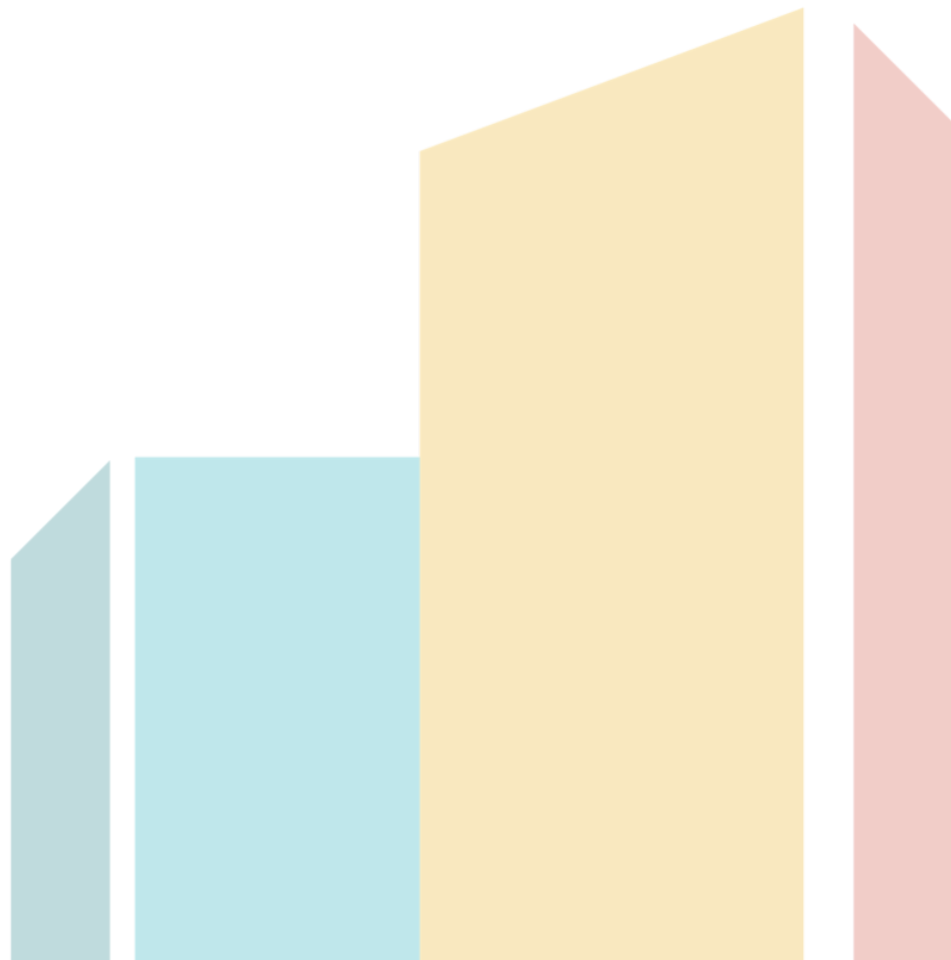


FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Proceedings of the

Partnership Table

June 2023





FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Partnership Table
Meeting Agenda | June 2023

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 // 3:00-4:30pm // Room B1004, Signal Hill Campus

Time	Topic	Leader
3:00pm	Land Acknowledgement & Reflection	Jordan Lawrence
3:05pm	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review & Approval of Agenda• Review & Approval of Minutes	Justin Campbell
3:10pm	RNC Indigenous Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media Report	Justin Campbell
3:20pm	Community Advocate Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Process Overview• Review of Nominations• Appointments	Jordan Lawrence
3:45pm	Roundtable	Open Floor
3:55pm	Closing	



Partnership Table Minutes for June 14, 2023

Prepared by Jordan Lawrence

Call to Order

The June 2023 meeting of the First Voice Partnership Table was called to order by Justin Campbell at 3:16pm on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. The meeting was held in room B1004 at Memorial University Signal Hill Campus with remote participation options. Jordan began the meeting with a land acknowledgement, followed by a moment of reflection.

Present [13] (“R” = Attending Remotely; “A” = Alternate Representative)

- **Amber Lawrence**, Regional Senior Program Officer, Indigenous Services Canada
- **Catharyn Andersen**, Vice-President (Indigenous), Memorial University
- **Charlotte Winters-Fost**, Community Advocate
- **Draco Dunphy**, Indigenous Languages Research Specialist
- **Daphne March**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Jordan Lawrence**, Action Circle Coordinator
- **Justin Campbell**, Program Director
- **Kevin Breen**, City Manager, City of St. John’s (R)
- **Lisa Faye**, Executive Director, St. John's Status of Women Council
- **Marie Gentle**, Executive Director of YWCA St. John’s (R)
- **Natasha Fillmore**, Regional Program Development Advisor, Indigenous Services Canada (R)
- **Pam Griffin**, Manager of Program Delivery, Public Health Agency of Canada
- **Paula Sheppard**, President & CEO, Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Regrets [12]

- **Carey Majid**, Executive Director, NL Human Rights Commission
- **Collette Smith**, Vice President, Clinical Services and Human Resources, Eastern Health
- **Cyril Tobin**, Executive Director, NL Housing and Homelessness Network
- **Ellen Ford**, Inuk Elder
- **Ian Froude**, Councilor Ward 4, City of St. John's

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- **Laura Winters**, Chief Executive Officer, Stella's Circle
- **Lisa Smith**, Community Advocate
- **Maggie Burton**, Councilor at Large, City of St. John's
- **Marjorie Muise**, Mi'kmaw Elder
- **Stacey Howse**, Executive Director, First Light
- **Susan Onalik**, Community Advocate

Administration

- There was agreement to use the Fist-to-Five method for determining consensus on all decision-making going forward. (See supporting document for details.)
- The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.
- The minutes for the May 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.
- Draco Dunphy attended the meeting to participate in the selection of Community Advocates.

Regular Business

1. RNC Indigenous Advisory Committee

- A formal announcement was made on June 6, 2023, that First Voice and the RNC have formed an Indigenous Advisory Committee (RNCIAC) within the police service. The announcement was made at RNC headquarters following a joint media statement earlier that day.
- First Voice has publicly emphasized that the committee is not a substitute for a much more robust civilian-led police oversight board.
- Work is ongoing to build personal relationships with the RNC's senior leadership and to identify representatives from each Indigenous group in the province to participate in RNCIAC.
- There was consensus that further discussion is needed on First Voice's involvement, including selecting one or more representatives to serve on the committee.

2. Community Advocate Nominations

a. Process Overview

- Between April 17 and June 2, 2023, First Voice received a total of twenty-two (22) expressions of interest in response to the call for volunteer Community Advocates. Of these, fourteen (14) personal statements were completed.

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- Of these, fourteen (14) personal statements were completed. From this long-list of pre-qualified applicants, a short-list of screened candidates was compiled based on the selection criteria as outlined in the position description.
- A cohort of six (6) nominees was compiled by First Voice staff based on the screening criteria, relevant process and governance documents, and past precedent. This cohort was recommended to the Partnership Table for consideration and final approval.

b. Review of Candidates

- Each nominee's profile was presented to the Partnership Table for consideration a week prior to the meeting, to ensure members had ample time to review the nominations, and to carry out their own due diligence if necessary.
- The nominees' profiles were read out loud to the Partnership Table members and the fist-to-five method was used to form consensus.

c. Appointments

- Six (6) Community Advocates were approved to join the Partnership Table, with their term beginning on July 1, 2023, and running until June 30, 2025.
- The new Community Advocates are:
 - Brooke Blanchard;
 - Corey Morris;
 - Kelly Simms;
 - Marc Humber;
 - Natasha Drover; and
 - Rutanya Wynes.

3. Corte-Real Statue

- First Voice has been asked by CBC to comment on the Corte-Real statue situated across from Confederation Building.
- Members expressed diverse opinions on the issue. It represents violence to many Indigenous people while the general population is unaware of who Corte-Real is, why there is a statue of him, and how the monument is problematic.
- Views ranged from: (a) taking the statue down and replacing it with something that celebrates Indigenous history; (b) leaving it as a learning opportunity; (c) relocating it to a museum or other similar venue; and (d) recontextualizing it to tell a fuller account of the associated history.

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- Members recognized that colonial statues being removed is now a global trend. It was agreed that the public not understanding why the statues are problematic is the issue that needs addressing.
- Consensus was formed that First Voice would issue a statement in response to CBC inquiries explaining how the statue is inherently problematic.
- It was agreed that further discussion is required in order to arrive at a general position on how best to address the problematic nature of colonial monuments.

Updates & Reports

There were no committee updates or reports.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Justin Campbell at 4:45pm. No Elder was available for the closing prayer.

Fist to Five Voting and Consensus

Fist to Five is quality voting. It has the elements of consensus built in and can prepare groups to transition into consensus if they wish. Most people are accustomed to the simplicity of "yes" and "no" voting rather than the complex and more community-oriented consensus method of decision making. Fist to Five introduces the element of the quality of the "yes." A fist is a "no" and any number of fingers is a "yes," with an indication of how good a "yes" it is. This moves a group away from quantity voting to quality voting, which is considerably more informative. Fist to Five can also be used during consensus decision making as a way to check the "sense of the group," or to check the quality of the consensus.

Fist to Five is accomplished by raising hands as in voting, with the number of fingers raised that indicates level of agreement.

- **A fist** means, "I vote NO." or in consensus it means, "I object and will block consensus (usually on moral grounds)."

- **1 finger** means, "I'll just barely go along." or, "I don't like this but it's not quite a no." or, "I think there is lots more work to do on this proposal." In consensus this indicates standing aside, or not being in agreement but not blocking the consensus.

- **2 fingers** means "I don't much like this but I'll go along."

- **3 fingers** means, "I'm in the middle somewhere. Like some of it, but not all."

- **4 fingers** means, "This is fine."

- **5 fingers** means, "I like this a lot, I think it's the best possible decision."

Fist to Five Process:

1. When a proposal has been brought before a group, it has been well discussed and refined as needed, a vote for passage is taken.

2. People raise their hands with the number of fingers that indicate their degree of agreement with the proposal. Hands are held VERY high and the room is scanned by all. That way everyone is checking the sense of the room and not individual opinions.

3. The vote can stand as taken, with all fists and fingers counted, the majority winning. Or, people with fists and one finger can be asked to speak to their objections and offer possible solutions to overcome their objections. This is attempted, and then a second and final vote is taken, which is the final vote.

4. It is often wise to check early in the proposal dialogue, as sometimes a group is actually ready for consensus or a vote earlier than expected and a lot of time can be saved. An early check might find all 4 and 5 fingers except for two 1's, meaning the proposal would be voted in, or in the case of consensus, no one would block consensus and only two people have needs to be met. Only those people then speak and their objections addressed which saves a lot of time.

5. A low quality vote (lots of 1s, 2s and 3s) tells you the decision is probably a stop gap measure and will need to be watched closely or revisited soon. It is generally wise to attach a date for review to a decision that is low in quality. Some groups find it saves time in the end to not accept a vote that is affirmative but primarily 1s and 2s as the proposal is generally troublesome and comes up again anyway.

6. If it is obvious that the vote is wildly split, with no real majority, despite a winning "yes," the group knows it has more work to do, and that the decision may not endure. They can expect more controversy and know a plan must be made to address the polarized views.

7. When Fist to Five has been used for a while, a transition to consensus, if desired, is quite easy.