

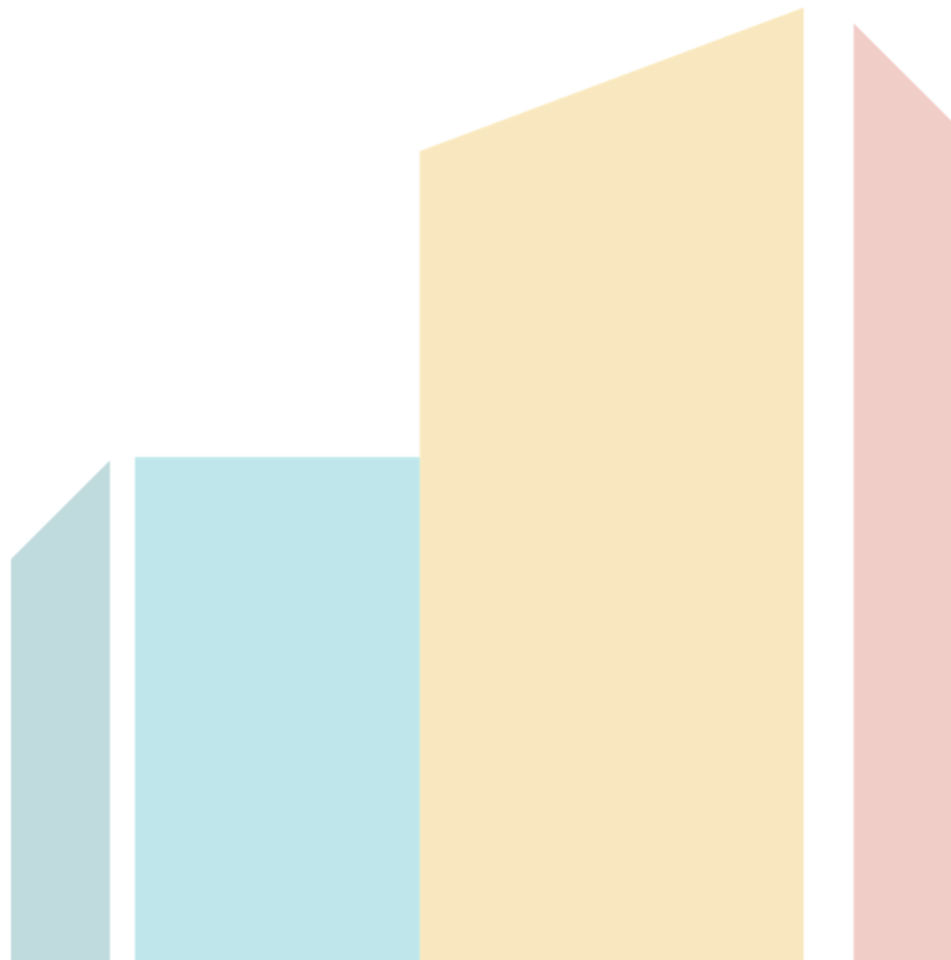


FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Proceedings of the

Partnership Table

August 2023





FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Partnership Table
Meeting Agenda | August 2023

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 // 3:00-4:30pm // Room B1004, Signal Hill Campus

Time	Topic	Leader
3:00pm	Opening Prayer	Marjorie Muise
3:05pm	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review & Approval of Agenda• Review & Approval of Minutes	Justin Campbell
3:15pm	Proposed SIRT-NL MOU	Justin Campbell
3:35pm	Justice Action Circle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmed Members• First Meeting: September 14, 2023• Co-Chair Appointments<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Community Advocate○ Organizational Partner	Jordan Lawrence
4:10pm	Education Priorities	Marc Humber
4:25pm	Closing Prayer	Ellen Ford



FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Partnership Table Minutes for August 16, 2023

Prepared by Jordan Lawrence

Call to Order

The August 2023 meeting of the First Voice Partnership Table was called to order by Justin Campbell at 3:07pm on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. The meeting was held in room B1004 at Memorial University's Signal Hill Campus with remote participation options available. Mi'kmaw Elder Marjorie Muise led a smudging ceremony and performed a traditional song. Inuk Elder Ellen Ford opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present [21] ("R" = Attending Remotely; "A" = Alternate Representative)

- **Amber Lawrence**, Regional Senior Program Officer, Indigenous Services Canada (R)
- **Brooke Blanchard**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Carey Majid**, Executive Director, NL Human Rights Commission
- **Corey Morris**, Community Advocate
- **Daphne March**, Community Advocate
- **Elizabeth Anderson**, Executive Assistant
- **Ellen Ford**, Inuk Elder
- **Jordan Lawrence**, Action Circle Coordinator
- **Justin Campbell**, Program Director (R)
- **Kelly Simms**, Community Advocate
- **Laura Winters**, Chief Executive Officer, Stella's Circle (R)
- **Lisa Faye**, Executive Director, St. John's Status of Women Council
- **Lisa Smith**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Marc Humber**, Community Advocate
- **Maria Gentle**, Executive Director of YWCA St. John's
- **Marjorie Muise**, Mi'kmaw Elder
- **Natasha Drover**, Community Advocate
- **Pam Griffin**, Manager of Program Delivery, Public Health Agency of Canada
- **Paula Sheppard**, President & CEO, Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- **Rutanya Wyse**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Susan Onalik**, Community Advocate (R)

First Voice | Partnership Table Minutes for August 16, 2023

Regrets [8]

- **Catharyn Andersen**, Vice-President (Indigenous), Memorial University
- **Charlotte Winters-Fost**, Community Advocate
- **Collette Smith**, Vice President, Clinical Services and Human Resources, Eastern Health
- **Ian Froude**, Councilor Ward 4, City of St. John's
- **Kevin Breen**, City Manager, City of St. John's
- **Maggie Burton**, Councilor at Large, City of St. John's
- **Natasha Fillmore**, Regional Program Development Advisor, Indigenous Services Canada
- **Stacey Howse**, Executive Director, First Light

Administration

- The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.
- The minutes for the July 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus. The document will be posted to the First Voice website.

Regular Business

1. SIRT-NL MOU

Background

- SIRT-NL is responsible for investigating any serious incidents involving police officers in NL.
- In *Building Trust, Restoring Confidence*, First Voice put forward recommendations that SIRT-NL adopt a policy of consistently appointing Community Liaisons for all investigations in St. John's that involve affected persons who are Indigenous (Recommendation 4.2 and 4.3.)
 - The purpose of the Community Liaison role is to provide advice on how best to interact with affected communities. The role is also meant to improve transparency and accountability in relation to investigations that involve police officers.
 - A roster of well trained, trusted community members will need to be developed in order to support SIRT-NL in its implementation of the two First Voice recommendations.
 - SIRT-NL has agreed to compensate Community Liaisons at an hourly rate of \$60 dollars will be provided to Community Liaisons, with payment to be administered by First Light to ensure timely payments.

**First Voice | Partnership Table
Minutes for August 16, 2023**

Points of Feedback

- Knowledge, experience, and resources were noted as potential issues that may need further attention before consensus can be reached to approve the MOU.
- Concern was expressed about the lack of connection to all Indigenous Nations in the province. It was suggested to build in language that reflects First Light's ability to create and administer the proposed roster of Community Liaisons using "established relationships."
- It was agreed that the consistent language of "monitoring and observing SIRT-NL" should replace any references to "working with SIRT-NL".
- Questions were raised about how "affected persons" would be defined in a way that would incorporate all possible reasons First Voice may have an interest in following a particular investigation. These questions included:
 - How is Indigeneity to be defined?
 - Must an affected person be Indigenous themselves in order for an investigation to be of concern/interest to the urban Indigenous community?
 - How are the boundaries of St. John's to be defined?
 - Are investigations that take place within the City the only ones that may be of concern/interest to the urban Indigenous community?

Next Steps

- First Light and the St. John's Status of Women Council agreed to discuss the MOU separately and prior to next month's meeting.
- It was agreed that the window to provide feedback would remain open to all Partners and Community Advocates. The draft MOU will be put in a Google Document and shared with the Partnership Table to add comments.
- **Consensus was reached that the draft needs to be adjusted to reflect the Partnership Table's feedback and will be reconsidered at the next meeting.** The priority is to get it done right, not quickly.

2. Justice Action Circle

- The Indigenous Justice Action Circle currently has 25 members and is scheduled to meet on September 14, 2023 from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.
- The Terms of Reference for this Action Circle will be decided on at this initial meeting to determine the scope of the work involved and what is achievable.

First Voice | Partnership Table Minutes for August 16, 2023

- Prospective members are invited to contact Jordan; all Partners and Community Advocates are welcome to suggest individuals and organizations that should be contacted about the Action Circle.
- Consensus was reached to appoint the following Co-Chairs:
 - Community Advocate: Lisa Smith (Kelly Simms will serve as an alternate).
 - Organizational Partner: NL Human Rights Commission, represented by Carey Majid.

All remaining agenda items were deferred to a future meeting.

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 4:30pm. Inuk Elder Ellen Ford closed the meeting with a prayer.