

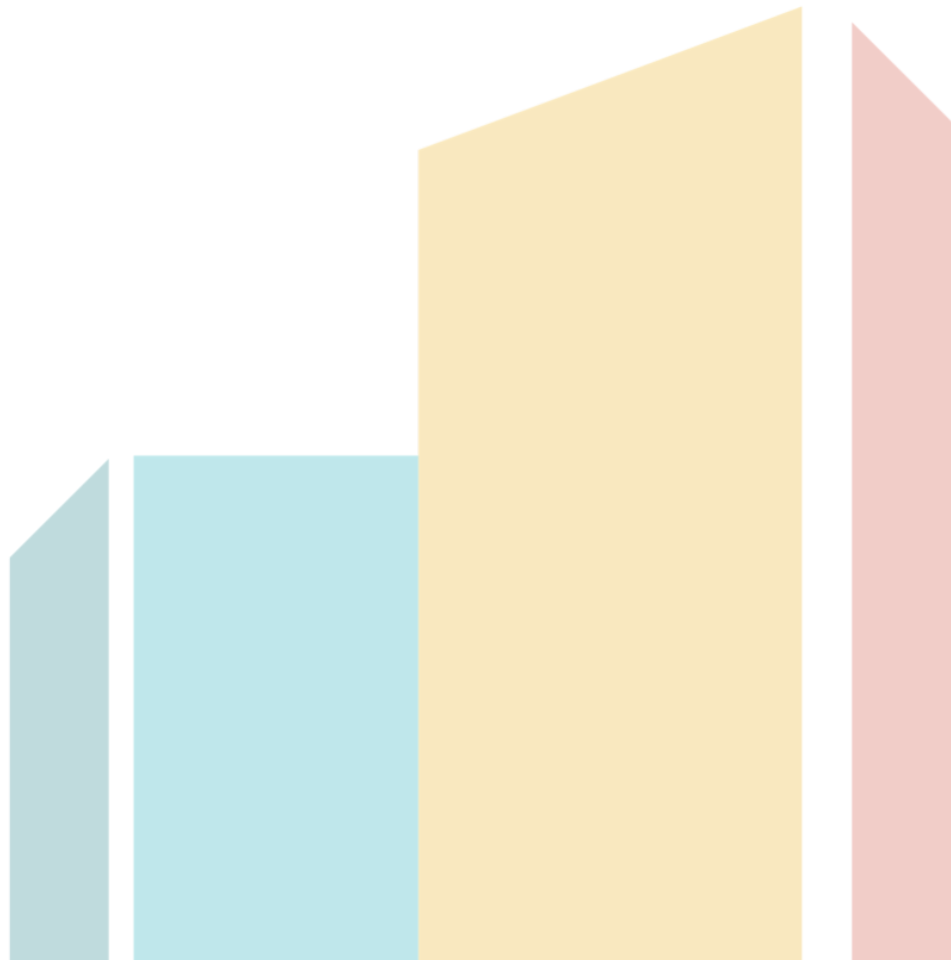


FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Proceedings of the

Partnership Table

November 2023





FIRST VOICE
Urban Indigenous Coalition

Partnership Table
Meeting Agenda | November 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 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	Jordan Lawrence
3:10pm	Updates & Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">● SIRT-NL MOU● Indigenous Justice Action Circle● Healthcare Action Circle	Jordan Lawrence & Justin Campbell
3:55pm	Education Priorities: Moving Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)● Call for Change 1	Jordan Lawrence
4:15pm	Other Business	Open Floor
4:25pm	Closing Prayer	Marjorie Muise

Partnership Table

Minutes for November 15, 2023

Prepared by Jordan Lawrence

CALL TO ORDER

The November 2023 meeting of the First Voice Partnership Table was called to order by Justin Campbell at 3:10pm on Wednesday, November 15, 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 opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present [17] ("R" = Attending Remotely; "A" = Alternate Representative)

- **Brooke Blanchard**, Community Advocate
- **Catharyn Andersen**, Vice-President (Indigenous), Memorial University (R)
- **Collette Smith**, Vice President, Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (R)
- **Corey Morris**, Community Advocate
- **Cyril Tobin**, Executive Director, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing and Homelessness Network (R)
- **Danny Breen**, Mayor, City of St. John's
- **Daphne March**, Community Advocate
- **Jordan Lawrence**, Action Circle Coordinator
- **Justin Campbell**, Program Director
- **Kelly Simms**, Community Advocate
- **Kevin Breen**, City Manager, City of St. John's (R)
- **Marc Humber**, Community Advocate
- **Marjorie Muise**, Mi'kmaw Elder
- **Maria Gentle**, Executive Director of YWCA St. John's
- **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 [11]

- **Amber Lawrence**, Regional Senior Program Officer, Indigenous Services Canada
- **Carey Majid**, Executive Director, NL Human Rights Commission
- **Chad Bedard**, Research Coordinator
- **Draco Dunphy**, Community Advocate
- **Ellen Ford**, Inuk Elder
- **Laura Winters**, Chief Executive Officer, Stella's Circle
- **Lisa Faye**, Executive Director, St. John's Status of Women Council
- **Lisa Smith**, Community Advocate
- **Natasha Drover**, Community Advocate
- **Rutanya Wyse**, Community Advocate
- **Stacey Howse**, Executive Director, First Light

ADMINISTRATION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. SIRT-NL MOU

- Justin explained that the SIRT-NL MOU had been accepted and is ready to be signed by a representative of First Voice.
 - The group nominated Community Advocate Lisa Smith to be the Signatory for First Voice. Jordan will follow up with them for confirmation.
- The group discussed possibilities for creating a 'good news story' for Urban Indigenous Peoples. Some ideas were:
 - A formal Press Release that invites local media and the community to join in a celebratory feast followed by ceremony which reflects the values of the diversity of Indigenous Peoples within the urban environment.
 - The lighting of a Kullik
 - Inuit Drumming
 - Throat Singing

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- Smudging
 - First Nations Song
 - Country Foods
- Following the Press Release there will be a photo opportunity along with Joint Media Availability to address any technical details and questions.
 - It was noted that significant attention should be given to address those who may feel skeptical about the MOU as many people are unfamiliar or misinformed around the purpose of SIRT-NL and its role in delivering Justice after a serious incident involving police-related force, wrong-doing or death.
- An “Official Backgrounder” will be produced in plain language to facilitate community-based information sharing.
 - First Light will plan, coordinate, and collaborate with SIRT-NL to identify a schedule, and will draft the document to bring forward to the Partnership Table for review.

2. Indigenous Justice Action Circle (IJAC)

- The Terms of Reference have been finalized and approved by both the Partnership Table and the Indigenous Justice Action circle members.
- An update on deliverables will be provided at the next Partnership Table meeting.

3. Indigenous Healthcare Action Circle (IHAC)

- The Organizational Co-Chair will be Collette Smith from Newfoundland and Labrador Health Service, in partnership with Darla King, Executive Director of the Department of Health and Community Services.
- The Community Advocate Co-Chair is Brooke Blanchard, with support from fellow Community Advocate Rutanya Wynes.
- Follow-up meetings with the Co-Chairs will take place soon to determine any identified stakeholders, decision-makers, community members and rightsholders for invitation.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- **Education Priorities: Moving Forward**
 - Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)
 - It was noted that our letter offering to join the IEAC had been brought to the table on October 4 & 5, 2023.
 - There has been no response since.
 - The group appreciated the time it takes to revamp any educational curriculum; however, they expressed disappointment in the lack of clarity around timelines for change, as well as the inclusion of Urban Indigenous Peoples.
 - Call for Change 1
 - The structure of the education system complicates decision-making processes related to the creation and implementation of new curriculum.
 - It was suggested that First Voice try connecting directly with the Minister of Education to facilitate more meaningful engagement with the process.
 - Support is not being built for parents who must navigate the system which is over-structured and often denies cultural learning opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike.
 - The process for developing new curriculum needs to be understood by the public, especially Indigenous Peoples who may be unfamiliar with how the systems work.
 - It was noted that parents need to be properly involved to accurately inform any decisions around curriculum changes.

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 4:35pm. Jordan Lawrence closed the meeting with a moment of silence to reflect on the work that the Partnership Table is doing, has done, and will continue to do in the future.