

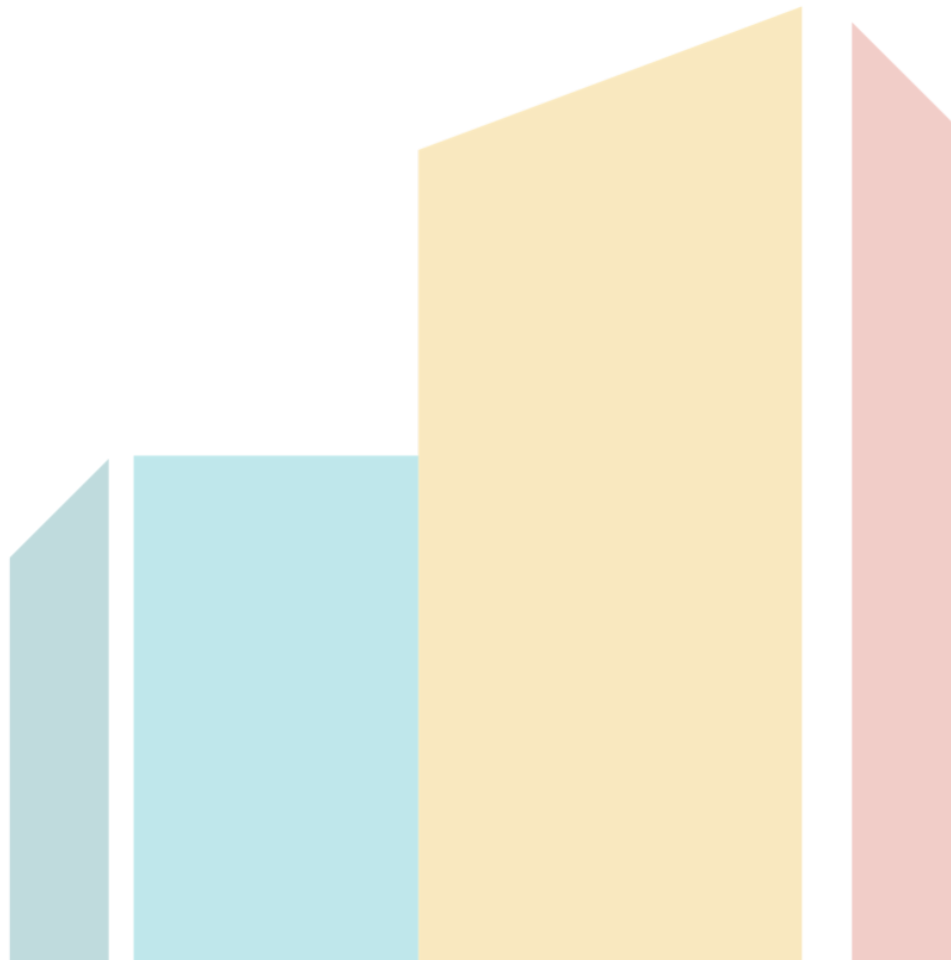


FIRST VOICE  
Urban Indigenous Coalition

*Proceedings of the*

# Partnership Table

*September 2023*





**FIRST VOICE**  
Urban Indigenous Coalition

**Partnership Table**  
**Meeting Agenda | September 2023**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 // 3:00-4:30pm // Room B1004, Signal Hill Campus

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Leader</b>
3:00pm	Opening Prayer	Ellen Ford
3:05pm	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Review &amp; Approval of Agenda</li><li>● Review &amp; Approval of Minutes</li></ul>	Jordan Lawrence
3:10pm	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● First Voice Website Revamp</li><li>● Truth and Reconciliation Signature Grant</li><li>● Orange Shirt Day</li></ul>	Justin Campbell
3:20pm	Education Priorities	Marc Humber
3:35pm	Update on Action Circles <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Justice: Terms of Reference</li><li>● Healthcare: Appointment of Community Advocate Co-Chair</li></ul>	Jordan Lawrence & Justin Campbell
3:50pm	SIRT-NL MOU	Justin Campbell
4:10pm	Municipalities NL Annual Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● First Voice Plenary Session on Friday, October 27, 2023</li></ul>	Justin Campbell
4:25pm	Closing Prayer	Ellen Ford



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# Partnership Table Minutes for September 20, 2023

Prepared by Jordan Lawrence

## CALL TO ORDER

The September 2023 meeting of the First Voice Partnership Table was called to order by Justin Campbell at 3:10pm on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. The meeting was held in room B1004 at Memorial University's Signal Hill Campus with remote participation options available. Inuk Elder Ellen Ford opened the meeting by blessing the members of the Partnership Table and giving thanks for the work of First Voice.

**Present [15]** ("R" = Attending Remotely; "A" = Alternate Representative)

- **Brooke Blanchard**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Carey Majid**, Executive Director, NL Human Rights Commission
- **Chad Bedard**, Research Coordinator
- **Charlotte Winters-Fost**, Community Advocate
- **Ellen Ford**, Inuk Elder (R)
- **Jordan Lawrence**, Action Circle Coordinator (R)
- **Justin Campbell**, Program Director
- **Kelly Simms**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Kevin Breen**, City Manager, City of St. John's (R)
- **Laura Winters**, Chief Executive Officer, Stella's Circle (R)
- **Lisa Faye**, Executive Director, St. John's Status of Women Council
- **Marc Humber**, Community Advocate
- **Natasha Drover**, Community Advocate (R)
- **Pam Griffin**, Manager of Program Delivery, Public Health Agency of Canada
- **Rutanya Wyse**, Community Advocate (R)

**Regrets [12]**

- **Amber Lawrence**, Regional Senior Program Officer, Indigenous Services Canada (R)
- **Catharyn Andersen**, Vice-President (Indigenous), Memorial University
- **Collette Smith**, Vice President, Clinical Services and Human Resources, Eastern Health

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- **Corey Morris**, Community Advocate
- **Daphne March**, Community Advocate
- **Lisa Smith**, Community Advocate
- **Maggie Burton**, Councilor at Large, City of St. John's
- **Maria Gentle**, Executive Director of YWCA St. John's
- **Natasha Fillmore**, Regional Program Development Advisor, Indigenous Services Canada
- **Paula Sheppard**, President & CEO, Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- **Stacey Howse**, Executive Director, First Light
- **Susan Onalik**, Community Advocate

### **ADMINISTRATION**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **1. First Voice Website Revamp:**

- New design unveiled for First Voice website with a focus on user engagement and tracking of community projects.
- Organizational Partners and Community Advocates are prominently featured. Bios can be updated by getting in touch with Jordan.
- A new section on the Calls for Change has been added to make them more accessible and easier to explore.
- Soft launch has been initiated with a major launch planned for September 30th, the national day for truth and reconciliation.

#### **2. Truth and Reconciliation Signature Grant:**

- Secured a \$50,000 grant from the Canada Post Community Foundation to help publicize and promote the Calls for Change.
- An announcement for the grant will take place on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 10 am. The event will be held at 40 Quidi Vidi Road.

#### **3. Orange Shirt Day:**

- Two events are planned for Orange Shirt Day: a closed event for survivors of residential schools and a public Rally for Reconciliation.

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- One of the main goals is to highlight the need for truth and reconciliation and to promote the 42 Calls for Change.
- A coordinated social media campaign is ready to be launched. Partners are encouraged to support consistency of messaging across the coalition.
- A draft media release announcing the Rally for Reconciliation has been prepared. It was reviewed and approved by the Table.
- Multiple organizational Partners have agreed to post the media release on their websites and social media platforms.

### REGULAR BUSINESS

#### 1. Education Priorities

- **Transparency Concerns:** Many members expressed concern about the lack of transparency and activity in existing educational committees, especially the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC).
- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Several challenges, including long timelines for course redesign and frequent leadership changes, were identified as potential barriers to action.
- **Strategic Considerations:** Members debated whether to integrate into existing governmental frameworks like the IEAC or to form an independent Action Circle or Working Group as possible alternatives to address the slow progress and lack of transparency from official bodies. It was agreed that public bodies need to be accountable for their lack of action.
- **Curriculum Redevelopment:** There was a consensus that the initial focus of the coalition's efforts on education should be redeveloping the K-12 curriculum to include Indigenous histories and cultures more accurately and comprehensively.
- **Teacher Training:** The necessity for proper teacher training was emphasized to ensure that any new curriculum changes are effectively implemented.
- **Resource Allocation:** Concerns were raised about whether adequate resources, including human capital, are allocated for effective indigenous education reform.
- **Next Steps:** The Table agreed to seek more information from relevant government departments, stakeholders, and decision-makers. The results of these engagements will inform a more formal strategy, to be proposed at the next monthly meeting.

## **2. SIRT-NL Memorandum of Understanding**

- **Scope Expansion:** The Table accepted SIRT-NL's recommendation against expanding the MOU's scope to include women and gender-diverse people due to concerns about how best to handle sexual assault cases.
- **Operational and Transparency Plans:** The MOU aims to identify appropriate community liaisons and will be made publicly available for transparency.
- **Language Clarity:** Terminology and definitions, especially concerning "Indigenous Community Liaison," were clarified for consistency.
- **MOU Approved:** The MOU was unanimously approved. The Table reached a consensus to move forward with the current MOU and to revisit scope expansion and other details in the future.

*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. Inuk Elder Ellen Ford closed the meeting with a prayer expressing hope that the Partnership Table be kept strong so that it may continue its important work.