



Mackenzie Region Aboriginal Interagency Council Meeting
High Level Native Friendship Centre
November 7, 2017



1. Attendance:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1.1 | Amanda Dachuk | HLNFC |
| 1.2 | Baily Fowler | Town of High Level |
| 1.3 | Bev Ferguson | NW,CFS |
| 1.4 | Carrie Demkiw | RCSD |
| 1.5 | Debra Loonskin | WJS Canada |
| 1.6 | Kendra Ghostkeeper | HLNFC |
| 1.7 | Lawson Martel | HLNFC |
| 1.8 | Leah Ghostkeeper | Child Services |
| 1.9 | Maryann Auger | HLNFC |
| 1.10 | Melodie Badour | HLNFC |
| 1.11 | Michelle Grant | NW, CSS |
| 1.12 | Rachel Wiens | Child Services |
| 1.13 | Rhonda Wheele | CSS, AB Works |
| 1.14 | Wendy McLean | HLNFC |
| 1.15 | Val Crosby | HLTLLS |

2. Opening of the meeting

- 2.1 Call to Order – at 10:35 by Rhonda Wheele
- 2.2 Introductions – Name and Organization representing

3 Agenda

- 3.1 Smudge/Opening Prayer – provided by Melodie Badour
- 3.2 Amendments/Additions none
- 3.3 Consensus to accept.

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4.1 October 3, 2017 - Approved
- 4.2 Consensus to approve.

5 Business Arising from the minutes

- 5.1 *Judy Gillespie ~ Strong Communities make strong children.*
 - There was a really cohesive literature on Indigenous worldviews and Aboriginal approaches to research. Three main ideas were consistently identified regarding Indigenous worldviews: interconnectedness, circularity, and balance and harmony. These ideas were echoed by MRAIC members, but more importantly the literature reinforced MRAIC members discussion of the importance of relationship; indeed relationship was identified as the heart of Aboriginal approaches to research – this included relationships between those working in multi-sector



Mackenzie Region Aboriginal Interagency Council Meeting
High Level Native Friendship Centre
November 7, 2017



collaborations as well as relationships between researchers and participants – this notion of relationship also encompassed respect for one another, responsibility towards one another, and reciprocity with one another.

- There were definitely some interesting ideas on how to evaluate multi-sector initiatives such as the AICs. A lot of the literature emphasized that the evaluation methods should be useful to the members and should assist them in understanding what is working and how to enhance their efforts; there were some very good examples of how this was done.
- However, there was NOTHING that brought together the two ideas above – in other words, how to approach evaluation from Indigenous worldviews and Aboriginal approaches to research. So this was very disappointing. I didn't expect we would find a lot but I had hoped that we would find something.
- I will be emailing participants who expressed an interest in hearing about the findings to share the above with them.
- I would also be happy to return to MRAIC and share the findings more fully with everyone. I can present some of the interesting examples we found on evaluation approaches that non-Aboriginal initiatives have tried and we could discuss how they might be able to adapt the idea(s) for their own work. I am teaching Jan to the end of March but could attend the April 3 meeting or the May 1 meeting if either of those dates would work.
- On another note, I sent the thank you cards and gifts to participants who gave me an address but there were three people who participated that I did not have addresses for. It was nothing big – just a UBC key chain and a pen from First Nations University but it was not my intention to leave anyone out so if you could just let people know that if they did not receive a gift they can send me an email with their address and I am happy to send it out.
- judy.gillespie@ubc.ca

ACTION

Michelle Grant will update Judy Gillespie that she is welcome to attend either the April or May meeting.



Mackenzie Region Aboriginal Interagency Council Meeting
High Level Native Friendship Centre
November 7, 2017



6. Standing Agenda Items

6.1 Action Group

MRAIC discussed whether or not to keep Action Group as a standing agenda item; is it still relevant?

RECOMENDATON: One of MRAIC's strengths is identifying issues and advocating for further analysis, action and/or resolution, and it's important to maintain the ability to do this. Rather than an Action Group, MRAIC has determined that it would be effective to strike ad hoc committees as issues arise, that have an articulated mandate, timeline and membership.

ACTION: "Action Group" will be removed from the MRAIC agenda as a standing agenda item.

6.2 Aboriginal Day June 21, 2018 – Bring forward closer to the planning time

7 Additional Items

7.1 **Project PEACE** - Rhonda Wheele participated in a webinar and shared:

- *Project PEACE (Prevention, Education, Action, Change and Evaluation)* is an initiative funded by the Status of Women Canada (SWC) to promote safety, violence prevention and solution based approaches for Aboriginal women and girls through engagement processes.
- *Project PEACE* has developed a free workbook to support Aboriginal women and girls in achieving their personal and professional life goals and ambitions, as well as for men and boys, to assist to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls. Overall it's a good model to help anyone set goals.
- Email link: <https://www.nwac.ca/policy-areas/violence-prevention-and-safety/project-peace/>

7.2 **Co-Chair** Val had asked that this topic be on the agenda, but it will be brought forward to discuss when she is present.



Mackenzie Region Aboriginal Interagency Council Meeting
High Level Native Friendship Centre
November 7, 2017



ACTION: Michelle will review the MRAIC terms of reference regarding co-chair elections to help inform the conversation.

8. Sharing Circle (not recorded)

- *Share a very brief description of their program or organization and new and upcoming programs and services.*
- *Remember to keep your information haring under 5 minutes to allow for everyone to be able to share, especially if there is a large group.*
- *If you are seeking ideas for resources from one another please feel free to connect at the break or after the meeting.*
- *Be prepared to take your own notes on the items that pertain to your organization.*

9 **Closing of meeting**

- Next Meeting
DATE: December 5, 2017
TIME: 10:30 A.M.
PLACE: High Level Native Friendship Centre
- **Closing Prayer** - Melody Badour, HLNFC
- **Adjournment** - 1:00 by Rhonda Wheele