



**Teleconference Call**  
**June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 10am**

**Members present:** Rina Arseneault, Joanne Britton, Jody Dallaire (Co-Chair), Sylvie Morin, Kim Nash-McKinley, Jennifer Richard (Co-Chair), Noëlla Richard, Wendy Robbins (Recording Secretary), Paulette Sonier-Rioux

**Members absent:** Stéphanie Beaulieu, Line Doiron, Jewell Mitchell, Sue Pitman, Phylomène Zangio

**Ex-Officio Members present:** Jocelyne Mills

**Staff:** Beth Lyons

**Next meeting:** Regular in-person meeting October 3 & 4<sup>th</sup>, Edmundston

**AGENDA**

**1. Welcome**

**2. Additions to and approval of agenda**

**3. Adoption of April minutes**

**4. Adoption of 2014-2015 Annual Report**

**5. Issue Updates**

Abortion access (W. Robbins)

Childcare funding (J. Dallaire)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission findings & Missing & Murdered Aboriginal Women (K. Nash-McKinley, B. Lyons)

Strategic Program Review (B. Lyons)

**6. New Business**

Office Update (B. Lyons)

Research & ACSW positions (B. Lyons)

**7. Updates from Committees**

Finance (J. Dallaire, B. Lyons)

Communications (P. Sonier-Rioux, B. Lyons)

**8. Other Business**

**MEETING**

**1. Welcome**

- Co-Chairs offered a reminder of consensus process and that decisions requiring in-depth discussion should be tabled for the October meeting.
- *Action:* B. Lyons to inquire as to why teleconference number does not work consistently.

**2. Additions to and approval of agenda**

- Reminder from Co-Chairs that items are adopted by consensus, no need for mover/second



- Additions to agenda:
  - Discussion of process for reviewing Relationship Protocol (Office Updates);
  - Process and guidelines for each member's proposing the names of five women for Agencies, Boards, and Commissions (Other Business);
  - Discussion of language requirements for future VNB hiring (Finance Committee update).

### 3. Adoption of April Minutes

- Adopted without changes.

### 4. Adoption of 2014-2015 Annual Report

- Members request that we include a financial report in future editions; the 2014-2015 Forum financial report will be covered in the Women's Equality Branch's reporting.
- Members request that future editions prominently highlight the accomplishments of the Forum, particularly positions taken and public commentary offered.
- Adopted without changes.

### 5. Issue Updates

- Abortion access (W. Robbins):
  - As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, PEI will fund abortions for PEI residents at the Moncton Hospital, as well as the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Halifax—travel costs remain the responsibility of the resident.
  - A breakdown of abortions performed in NB from 2014-2015 according to region of patient's residence and of service provision have been made public (via an Acadie Nouvelle access to information request), as well as emails detailing the process and rationale behind the Horizon Health Network's decision to open its sole abortion service location in Moncton, which is one of two communities where the Vitalité Health Network provides the service (via a Globe and Mail access to information request). In the emails, John McGarry, CEO of Horizon, made a point of mentioning the Saint John region's substantial Irish Catholic population.
  - Members identified a need for in-person discussion on public (hospital) and private (clinic-based) service.
  - Members agreed to issue a media release stating that abortion access in NB and PEI remains inadequate and that government must not take religion into consideration on this issue given the separation of church and state. *Action:* B. Lyons to contact Jane Ledwell (Executive Director of PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women) and prepare a media release. W. Robbins to share research by Christabelle Sethna on distances to abortion services in different regions of Canada.



- Childcare funding (J. Dallaire and B. Lyons)
  - B. Lyons provided summary of situation: over decade ago, NB daycares were heavily criticized in federal study; Province has since increased investment, primarily through wage enhancements for workers and some facility-based funding. In April, the Province announced that owner-operators of for-profit facilities would no longer qualify for enhancement. The justification given is that this is not a cut, but a reallocation to ensure there are enough funds to support a planned influx of workers as the number of childcare spaces increases as per the Province's plan. Also noted that for-profit daycares are usually owned by women and do not generate significant profit.
  - J. Dallaire shared that the affected owner-operators have mobilized and generated media attention. The Province has established a Child Care Review Task Force (members are Corinne Haché and Pam Whitty). Consensus was reached that the Forum should seek membership/involvement with the Task Force. *Action:* B. Lyons to discuss process of approaching Task Force with J. Mills.
  - Members identified a need for in-person discussion on types of childcare (e.g. public, private, for-profit, non-profit).
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission findings and Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women (B. Lyons and K. Nash-McKinley):
  - B. Lyons shared that the Commission released a short version of the final report it will release in the fall. Some of the 94 recommendations directly affect women, others do more obliquely. Report spoke to: high number of Aboriginal children in care and youth in detention; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; spanking law; preservation of Aboriginal languages and culture; creation and release of reports including statistics on family violence, violence against women; public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women; link between violence against Aboriginal women and residential school system.
  - K. Nash-McKinley shared that recommendations from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People have not been implemented and emphasized the issue of poverty, housing (particularly outside of Aboriginal communities) and limited employment opportunity for Aboriginal peoples (suggested that second-language training would increase access to jobs). K. Nash-McKinley questioned if with current spending on infrastructure, could some funds be tied to employment of Aboriginal persons and off-reserve housing creation.
  - J. Mills noted that the Premier issued a statement to the Commission's report that re-affirmed the province's support for a national inquiry.
- Strategic Program Review: Due to time constraints, B. Lyons asked that this item be moved to the end of the agenda.

## 6. New Business

- Members asked that B. Lyons continue to provide "Office Updates" prior to meetings.



Voices of New Brunswick Women Consensus - Building Forum  
Forum de concertation Les voix des femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

- B. Lyons shared that she and J. Mills have discussed the need to revise the Relationship Protocol in the wake of the 2015-2016 budget. Members requested that B. Lyons share it with the full membership and ask them to identify required/desired changes *before* she begins to work on it herself and then with the Governance Committee and Co-Chairs.
- Consensus was reached that the Forum use the NB Advisory Council on the Status of Women's position papers as a resource. Papers will be used as a foundation for the Forum to develop its own positions; papers may be revised and updated as issues arise and require response. It was clarified that this does not mean that the Forum is publicly adopting the NB ACSW positions as its own.

## 7. Committee Updates

- Finance (J. Dallaire and B. Lyons):
  - Consensus was reached to adopt the proposed 2015-2016 \$418 000 budget (prepared by the Finance Committee with support from the Department of Finance) once B. Lyons provided details and one change (increasing the budget line for newspapers subscriptions in order to obtain an Acadie Nouvelle subscription; the difference is to be deducted from the Books budget line) was made.
  - There was discussion on the Research and Policy Officer (may require a title that reflects some supervision of contract staff duties) and need for a staff member designated to social media tasks. B. Lyons clarified that the title was not finalized and that she worked with Department of Finance to identify the appropriate pay band for this position taking potential contract supervision into account. B. Lyons shared that she envisions having a Public Engagement Officer in future years who will hold primary responsibility for social media and other public communications. She stated that this year's budget requires more one-time investments (i.e. significant research contracts, office furniture, etc.) than subsequent budgets will; therefore it does not reflect a full staff team. She emphasized staffing hiring will stress linguistic balance and diversity within the team.
  - W. Robbins reiterated the need for a discussion of an honorarium for the Co-Chairs. J. Dallaire said that this was an item for in-person discussion and any changes would happen in future budget years.
  - B. Lyons noted that the default arrangement for hotels will now be that Forum staff book members' rooms and the Forum will be invoiced for them directly.
- 8. Consensus was reached that all remaining items (additional Finance Committee items; Communications Committee, discussion of identifying women for Agencies, Boards, and Commissions; Strategic Program Review issue update) be tabled until the next call or for email discussion due to time constraints.

**End of Meeting, 12pm.**

**Circulated to Members for revision: July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.**

**Adopted by members \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.**

4 of 4