



Extra In-Person Meeting
February 20th and 21st, 2016

Members present: Rina Arseneault, Stéphanie Beaulieu, Lyne Chantal Boudreau, Joanne Britton, Jody Dallaire (Co-Chair), Line Doiron, Jewell Mitchell, Sylvie Morin, Jennifer Richard (Co-Chair), Noëlla Richard, Wendy Robbins, Paulette Sonier-Rioux, Phylomène Zangio

Members absent: Kim Nash McKinley

Ex-Officio Members present: Jocelyne Mills, Beth Lyons (Recording Secretary)

Staff present: Chantal Teixeira (Recording Secretary)

Next meeting: In-person meeting May 14th and 15th, 2016, Fredericton (tentative)

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome***
- 2. Additions to and adoption of agenda***
- 3. Consent item***
- 4. For Discussion/Decision***
 - Relationship Protocol/legislation*
 - Two year strategic plan*
 - 2015-2016 budget surplus*
 - Contract research and funding of outside projects/events*
 - 2016-2017 budget*
 - Issues Committee Mandate
 - Tools & Approaches in Forum's work
 - Delegation
 - Issue Analysis
 - Government platform commitments
 - LGBTQQ2S inclusion
 - Sex trade, harm reduction, and the justice system

5. Other

6. Closing*

* Indicates agenda item was in camera (i.e. J. Mills was not present).

MEETING

1. Welcome

- Co-Chairs welcomed the members and lead an opening round.

2. Additions to and adoption of agenda

- Consensus to add funding cuts of Mount Allison University's Women's and Gender Studies program under Other.

3. Consent Items

- Spending Guidelines adopted as a consent item.



4. For Discussion/Decision

- Relationship Protocol/Legislation
 - Document outlining proposed updates to the *Act Creating the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women* adopted by consensus (with changes identified) to be advanced as a recommendation from the Forum to the Minister responsible for Women's Equality. ACTION: B. Lyons to update and recirculate document. B. Lyons to ensure that legislation addresses ongoing provision of in-kind services to the Forum by the Province.
 - Consensus that the Forum will publish a public update on March 8th; update will serve as guide for members in how to address queries about the Forum. ACTION: B. Lyons to draft update and circulate to membership for feedback.
- Two Year Strategic Plan
 - Consensus to adopt as draft strategic directions for 5 years with changes identified and further edits to occur. ACTION: B. Lyons to update and recirculate document.
- 2015-2016 budget surplus
 - Consensus to engage in two contract projects (one on governance and one on issues) and purchase additional equipment (i.e. to spend above the amount budgeted for office supplies/equipment) this fiscal year. ACTION: B. Lyons to initiate contracts and purchases. B. Lyons to share any reports resulting from audits, Department of Finance, or Public Accounts with Finance Committee.
 - L. Doiron to replace J. Mitchell on Finance Committee.
- Contract research and funding of outside projects/events
 - Consensus to not accept submissions from organizations until there is a policy in place (this policy may state that no such funding is dispersed).
- 2016-2017 budget
 - Consensus to adopt with changes. ACTION: B. Lyons to update and recirculate document. B. Lyons to confirm with Department of Finance that the Forum's budget is not responsible for employer contributions to staff GNB pension and Canada Pension Plan.
- Issues Committee Mandate
 - Consensus to create Issues Advisory Committee with L. Boudreau, J. Britton, J. Dallaire, N. Richard as members. ACTION: Committee to further develop mandate; B. Lyons to update and recirculate document.
 - Consensus to entrust Executive Director and Co-Chairs to offer media commentary, reports, opinion-editorial pieces, etc. on issues already discussed; on emerging issues where the analysis is straightforward and/or can be addressed with a general statement about women's ongoing inequality; to share via social media relevant articles, petitions, etc. without explicitly endorsing them. The Executive Director and Co-Chairs may seek input from the Committee or outside experts on such items.
 - Consensus that issues that are divisive within women's movement or involve changes to institutions should be considered by the Committee and a recommendation advanced to the membership before a position is taken.



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- Action: Committee to draft a full policy on the two preceding points (i.e. when staff and Co-Chairs can engage on an issue, with media, etc. vs. when Committee work and membership consensus is required).
- Tools and approaches in Forum's work, Delegation
 - Consensus that the Forum's decision making model includes committees reviewing items (issues, policies, budgets, etc.) and advancing recommendations to the full membership.
 - Consensus to disband the Communications Committee.
 - Consensus that communication from members that is issue-based, governance-focused, or committee-related should typically be sent to the Co-Chairs with the Executive Director copied; confirmation of meeting attendance or feedback on circulated documents should be sent to the Administrative Assistant with the Executive Director copied; questions regarding room bookings, catering, obtaining copies of documents previously circulated should be sent to the Administrative Assistant; any challenges or complaints relating to administrative details or logistics should be sent directly to the Executive Director.
 - ACTION: Staff to develop option of a private "wiki" to provide members with documents.
 - ACTION: Ensure that contract work on governance addresses confidentiality for members.
 - ACTION: Issues Advisory Committee to identify a variety of tools that can be used to offer advice to government and raise issues to public and government awareness.
- Issue Analysis
 - Government platform commitments:
 - Consensus that housing is a gendered issue linked to poverty and violence; that there must be a gender-lens on homelessness; that housing programs must recognize the complexity of women's lives (including the likely presence of trauma) and, therefore, be flexible, responsive, and offer accommodations.
 - ACTION: Issues Advisory Committee will review the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada's Shared Framework for Building an Early Childhood Education and Child Care System for All and ensure consideration is given to hearing immigrant's voices on the issue (considering refugees, 2nd generation Canadians, etc.).
 - Consensus that the expansion of the Family Law Case Management program is positive as expediting women's access to justice (and offering increased support) is important; must be aware that when violence is a factor informal proceedings (mediation) require acknowledgement of power dynamics.
 - ACTION: Issues Advisory Committee will review Reproductive Justice New Brunswick's petition and recommend whether or not to endorse it.
 - Consensus to support midwifery access in New Brunswick.
 - Consensus to support: gender-based analysis at more levels of government decision-making, the release the gender-based analysis tool publicly, and public sharing of the results of gender-based analysis.
 - Consensus to support improving to the current pay equity evaluation methodology, the implementation of a requirement that businesses of over 50 people doing



business with Government of New Brunswick have pay equity plans, seeing the current pay equity law fully implemented, and seeing a law for the private sector.

- Consensus to recognize colonialism in Canada and that it is a factor in violence against First Nations, Metis, and Inuit women.
- ACTION: Issues Advisory Committee to review specialized court systems, dedicated services, and alternative approaches (e.g. restorative justice) given that criminalization disproportionately affects communities of colour and First Nation, Metis and Inuit communities.
- Consensus to support trans health care coverage.
- ACTION: B. Lyons to ask organizer of opposition to cuts to Mount Allison University's Women's and Gender Studies program if a letter of support would be welcome.

5. Other

o Special comments:

- J. Mills shared that she is working with multiple departments to identify various options to address some of the structural gaps created due to the Forum's separation from the Women's Equality Branch. She is preparing options for the Minister's consideration by the end of March. Options deemed feasible will subsequently be shared with the Forum for feedback. While she indicated that legislation and incorporation outside of government are potential options, she did not detail any additional options as her work was ongoing. ACTION: J. Mills to find out if members have any financial liability relating to the Forum.
- P. Zangio drew attention to Black History Month and that black women, and the issues affecting them, are often invisible within New Brunswick. She emphasized that equality for black women cannot be reached without the support of feminists and she asks the Forum to support black women in New Brunswick.
- Outgoing members S. Beaulieu and W. Robbins were recognized for their contributions over the last two years.

End of Meeting.

Circulated to members: April 13th, 2016 with deadline of April 26th, 2016 for requesting changes