



**Regular In-Person Meeting  
October 22-23, 2016**

**Members present:** Rina Arseneault, Lyne Chantal Boudreau, Joanne Britton, Jody Dallaire, Line Doiron, Jewell Mitchell, Madeleine Nickerson, Jennifer Richard, Noëlla Richard, Paulette Sonier Rioux, Constance Sewell, Madhu Verma, Phylomène Zangio

**Ex-Officio members present:** Beth Lyons (Executive Director), Jocelyne Mills (ADM – Women's Equality)

**Guests present:** Audrey Poitras

**Staff present:** Linda Landry-Guimond (Recording Secretary)

**Next meeting:** Call in November or December – to be determined

**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome / opening round**
- 2. Additions to and adoption of agenda**
- 3. Items for discussion / decision**
  - 3.1 Executive Director's report
  - 3.2 Operating Standards
  - 3.3 Mission, vision, purpose, strategic directions and definition of equality
  - 3.4 Strategic plan
  - 3.5 Membership document
    - 3.5.1 Mechanism for removing a member
    - 3.5.2 Location and dates of future meetings
    - 3.5.3 Upcoming appointments
  - 3.6 Presentation from Women's Equality Branch
  - 3.7 Memorandum of Understanding with Women's Equality
  - 3.8 Employment by-laws
  - 3.9 Finance mandate
    - 3.9.1 2015-2016 spending
    - 3.9.2 Budget 2016-2017
  - 3.10 Strategy in issues-based work
  - 3.11 Midwifery
  - 3.12 Childcare
  - 3.13 Electoral reform
- 4. Other business**
- 5. Closing**



## MEETING

### 1. Welcome/opening round

- Co-chairs welcomed members and lead an opening round.

### 2. Additions to and adoption of agenda

- Consensus to add correspondence received from a group of feminists from Southeastern New Brunswick to Other Business.

### 3. Items for discussion / decision

- 3.1 Executive director's report
  - B. Lyons provided a summary of work accomplished and ongoing since the February 2016 meeting.
- Operating standards
  - Consensus reached on changes required to the document. **ACTION:** B. Lyons to implement changes, circulate to the Governance Committee, then circulate to the membership for adoption.
- 3.3 Mission, vision, purpose, strategic directions, and definition of equality
  - Consensus reached to adopt mission, vision, and strategic directions with changes requested. **ACTION:** B. Lyons to implement changes and circulate to membership. **ACTION:** Governance Committee to continue to work on purpose statement and to identify a stronger example of substantive equality and circulate to membership for adoption before either are used publicly.
- 3.4 Strategic plan
  - B. Lyons provided an update on items from the strategic directions that have been completed.
  - **ACTION:** Members to reflect on how document can best articulate what success looks like for the council.
- 3.5, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.3 Membership document
  - Consensus reached on changes required to the document. **ACTION:** B. Lyons to implement changes and recirculate for adoption. **ACTION:** Governance to work on guidelines for requesting a member step down and conflict resolution.
  - Consensus that when using email to share information or solicit input from the membership, staff and co-chairs may request members send feedback only if they have a question or concern about an item and that staff and co-chairs can assume that members who do not response are in agreement with the email's contents.



- Consensus that organizational representatives can share council documents and information with the leadership of the organization they represent unless otherwise and explicitly noted.
- 3.5.2 Location and Dates of Future Meetings
  - Consensus for meetings to continue to take place on weekends, to occur three times per fiscal year beginning in 2017-2018 (April or May; October or November; and in February) for 1.5 days. Every other meeting should be in Fredericton; other meetings to alternate between Moncton and a location elsewhere in the province
- 3.5.3 Upcoming Appointments
  - Consensus to hold a call for membership in early 2017.
  - Consensus to recommend that appointments to the council at the time of proclamation of the *New Brunswick Women's Council Act* reflect current members' existing terms except with May 31st replacing March 31st as the final day of the term in any given year.
  - Consensus to ask the two individuals who served as external members of the membership selection committee if they will serve again. **ACTION:** B. Lyons to contact two individuals.
  - Consensus that the two members of the council who serve on the committee cannot be applying for re-appointment.
- 3.6 Presentation from Women's Equality Branch
  - J. Mills provided an overview of the role of the branch and a number of items they are currently working on, including: changing the names of positions that are created by legislation and are not currently gender neutral (e.g. Ombudsman, Rentalsman); platform commitment to ensuring that organizations of more than 50 employees who do business with the province be required to have pay equity plans; introduction of legislation for emergency protection orders; the appointment of women to agencies, boards, and commissions; and ongoing work to support New Brunswick's participation with the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.
- 3.7 Memorandum of Understanding with Women's Equality
  - Consensus on changes required in the document. **ACTION:** J. Mills to implement changes and share revised document with the co-chairs and Governance Committee. Document will then be circulated to the full membership for their support before it is advanced to support proclamation of the N.B. Women's Council Act.
- 3.8 Employment by-laws
  - Consensus to support advancing the by-laws for proclamation the N.B. Women's Council Act.
- 3.9 Finance mandate – not covered due to time constraints



- 3.9.1 2015-2016 Spending.
  - Members reviewed spending for the previous fiscal year.
- 3.9.2 Budget 2016-2017
  - Consensus to only move forward with acquiring additional office space if it will not incur an ongoing rental cost to the council's budget. **ACTION:** B. Lyons to identify any costs to acquiring space.
- 3.10 Strategy in issues-based work
  - Discussion on strategic approach to issues-based work.
- 3.11 Midwifery
  - Presentation by M. Nickerson.
- 3.12 Childcare
  - Consensus to hold a call to discuss the recommendations from the Final Report of the Childcare Review Task Force. **ACTION:** Co-chairs and B. Lyons to schedule a call.
- Electoral reform
  - Presentation by Dr. J. Everitt
  - Consensus to submit a brief to the NB Commission on Electoral Reform recommending Mixed Member Proportional Representation as well as gender- and diversity-based incentives to political process financing.

#### 4. Other business

- Consensus that co-chairs will respond to correspondence from group of feminists based in southeastern New Brunswick. **ACTION:** B. Lyons to draft letter.

#### 5. Closing

Meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.

**Distributed to members for review February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.  
Revised February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at an in-person meeting.  
Re-distributed to members April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**