

Aboriginal Action Circle

November 26, 2014
5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Ottawa Regional Office
11 Holland
Conference Centre

Type of meeting: AGM
Secretary: Stephanie Penwarden

Chair: Tony Nicolas
Resource person: Stephanie Penwarden
 (PSAC Resource Officer)

Draft Minutes

Present: Tony, Dianne, Julie, John J, John H.C., Toni, Duane, Shirley, Jean-Pierre
Guests: David, Albert, Stephanie, Linda, Tina, Teresa, Rhonda, Vicki, Nathan, Mark

1. Traditional Opening and Smudging Ceremony at 5: 30 PM (Elder Albert Dumont) Albert opened the meeting with a welcome and Rhonda performed an opening song.

2. Welcome/Round Table
 Introductions and welcoming remarks.
 Mark was introduced as our guest M/C.

3. Adoption of Agenda
 Approval of the agenda.
 Tony / Toni moved the agenda. Agenda carried as presented on overhead.

4. Presentation re Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Turtle Island
 Teresa Edwards from the Native Women's Association of Canada presented information on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women. "Breaking the Silence" The slide show presentation is appended.

Chair was turned over by Mark to Tony to proceed with the business of the Circle.

5. Approval of the AGM Minutes November 27, 2013
 The AGM minutes from November 27, 2013 were presented.
 Toni / John Henri moved. Minutes were carried as presented.

6. Reports
 John Henri presented his written report as NCRC Rep.
 John Henri / Toni moved his report. Carried as presented.

Tony passed the chair to John Henri so he could present his report.

Tony presented an oral report as Chair of the Circle.

Tony apologized for not providing a written report.

Tony presented many of the same activities as John Henri as Chair of the Circle or Member at Large for the NCRC Executive.

Has attended the Aboriginal Circle meetings of the OFL on behalf of the PSAC in Ontario.

Low participation at Circle meetings needs to be a priority for the incoming executive. All equity groups have been faced with lower participation rates. Need to continue to work on recruitment. We currently have 75 names on our contact lists but only 5 regularly show up to the meetings. Going forward the Circle needs to continue to identify Aboriginal People in the workplace and encourage participation in the Circle. Aboriginal People need to exercise their voice in order to speak out against injustices and their ears to hear the concerns of members.

Tony / Toni moved Tony's report. Carried as presented.

The chair was returned to Tony by John Henri.

Toni presented the Circle's financial report.

Toni / John Henri moved the financial report. Carried as presented.

Tony turned the Chair over to Mark.

Mark presented and introduced Dave and turned the Chair over to Dave in order to facilitate the elections of the Circle.

Dave explained that the Circle works on a consensus basis and as such movers and seconders are not required unless a formal process to break deadlock is required. Also explained was that new terms or reference for the Circle were passed in early 2014. As such the composition of the executive has changed. The new positions are 2 Co-Chairs where gender balance is encouraged but not required, a treasurer and a secretary. There is no longer a NCRC Rep – this position will be covered equally between the co-chairs. Also to be named is the National Human Rights Committee Representative and the Alternate.

Tony was agreed upon to be a Co-Chair. The other position is vacant. Toni was agreed upon to be the treasurer. The position of secretary is vacant.

John Henri agreed to take on the position of NHRC and Duane the position of Alt NHRC.

Dave then gave the oath.

Dave returned the chair to Tony.

6. Round Table

Tony thanked Vicki and Nathan for the wonderful food which was provided, Rhonda for her singing and drumming, Mark for agreeing to M/C the meeting, Teresa for her informative presentation and to Stephanie for her assistance with the Circle.

Please remember to encourage members to sign their pledge cards. Also to go the PSAC's website to sign the online petition re sick leave.

December 6 is the annual vigil re Violence Against Women. Please attend the vigil. It is anticipated that there will be hot chocolate following the vigil at 233 Gilmour. (Vigil takes place at the Minto Monument.)

The PSAC NCR Human Rights Awards will be presented on December 10th at JK Wyllie. Please do come for these important awards.

The Circle is hosting a Christmas lunch at 510 Rideau on December 13. We are looking for volunteers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On December 20 donations are being accepted by John Henri???? To help women and children????

John gave the closing and the meeting was adjourned.