

Advisory Committee Learning Partnership for Mino Bimaadizwin

Meeting Date:

Sept 22, 2017

Meeting Day:

Friday

Meeting Location:

NRI Seminar Room (Room 320)

Attendees: Eric Bjornson (Sundial Building Performance), Serena Petrena (Brandon University), Neil Cooke (Red River College), Barney Mason (Wasagamack FN), Clarence Harper (Island Lake Tribal Council), Elsie Monias (Garden Hill FN Employment Training), Shirley Thompson (UM), Curtis Monias (GHFN Employment Training), Laurel Gardiner (Indigenous Development Support Services), Marleny Bonnycastle (UM), Shailesh Shukla (U of Winnipeg), Pepper Pritty (UM), Lisa Peters (University of Manitoba- UM), Mark Hoddenbagh, Tawfiq Hasan (UM), Keshab Thapa (UM).

Regrets: Poonam Singh (AAC), Dennis Ballard (UCN), Ray Hoemsen (RRC) and Donna Martin (UoM).

Meeting Purpose: Advisory committee to discuss organization, structure, initial accomplishments and next steps for the learning partnership to achieve goals for housing, food and education.

Topic	Discussion points
Advisory Committee structure/ Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shirley Thompson welcomed all members of the Advisory Committee. Each member shared his/her brief experiences they have related to housing and food in the context of Northern Manitoba. After the introductions, Shirley asked to add any additional agendas. Education committee was added.• Structure: The advisory committee will meet quarterly and decide issues by consensus. Each partner organization is represented on the committee and it would be ideal if each person had another co-applicant or collator from their organization be a replacement, if they are unable to attend. See attached project structure – appendix b with the Executive or Steering committee and Dr. Thompson having the ultimate responsibility of the project complying with SSHRC governance requirements.
Shirley Thompson Principal investigator Report	<p>Dr. Thompson described the progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Inaugural workshop was a success with 40 partners and collaborators, which really demonstrated the tremendous potential of working together as a partnership of First Nations with many universities and colleges in Manitoba, social enterprises and governments. Many ideas resulted and are recorded in the workshop report that was sent out to all the partners and can be found at: http://ecohealthcircle.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/July-12-2017-Workshop-Report.pdf. A survey was sent out at the same time. The survey found the workshop was rated as excellent by 95% of participants and also found that the workshop report was considered excellent and this work connected with many recommendations of the truth and reconciliation commission.• The working groups that were identified at the inaugural workshop, have mostly developed terms of reference and some have had planning meetings:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Housing design and research committee (Chairs: Eric Bjornson, Barney Mason);2. Social and policy issues committee (renamed Community-led participatory research committee) Chairs: Marleny Bonnycastle and Myrle Ballard3. Food education and research community (FERC). Chair: Pepper Pretty4. recruitment and retention committee. Chair: Elsie Monias5. Education community. Chair: Mark Hoddenbagh and Barney Mason.6. Wasagamack post-secondary ed. committee. Chairs: Lawrence Harper and Percy Harper7. Garden Hill post-secondary ed. Committee. Chairs: Cathy and Elsie Monias.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most committees have met at least once. As well, the FERC and housing research committee and education committee have made terms of reference and are planning workshops or meetings in October. The housing team is planning to apply for International Design Competition of Housing in Nov. 14th. And will met Oct. 13th to plan a visit to the communities with the community-led participatory research group. Over the summer, Dr. Thompson met with community members at Wasagamack and Garden Hill in their community. At the community level, both communities have formed post-secondary committees for this project. The Wasagamack FN Committee met and decided that they really needed a community education program in trades for January or as early as possible in 2018 to have workers ready for building the high school and teacheridges there. For the GHFN committee they wanted training for the foreman for project managers, and possibly some carpentry training. • In Fall 2017, the Partnership aimed to start four students at ACC for the Applied Carpentry Program that focuses on teaching students the carpentry aspects of building sustainable houses. There were many challenges due to the Island Lake fire evacuation as well as some personal, academic issues with getting students registered. As a result, only two students started are enrolled. The Partnership is researching how this program could be adapted for implementation with Garden Hill and Wasagamack First Nations. A third student, Erfan, started with Miroslava Kavic in Fall 2017 and is looking at modeling houses using various materials. • The partnership is planning to offer a Community-Based Education Program in Jan 2018 for the train-the-trainers through Red River Colledge. This was supposed to start in September but with the fire evacuation in late August until mid/late-September this plan was impossible, as well as the slowness to get funding with the late announcement by SSHRC. • In Fall 2017, the Partnership aimed to start four students at ACC for the Applied Carpentry Program that focuses on teaching students the carpentry aspects of building sustainable houses. There were many challenges due to the Island Lake fire evacuation as well as some personal, academic issues with getting students registered. As a result, only one student started is enrolled. The Partnership is researching how this program could be adapted for implementation with Garden Hill and Wasagamack First Nations. A third student, Erfan, started with Miroslava Kavic in Fall 2017 and is looking at modeling houses using various materials. • The partnership is planning to offer a Community-Based Education Program in Jan 2018 for the train-the-trainers through Red River Colledge. This was supposed to start in September but with the fire evacuation in late August until mid/late-September this plan was impossible. Another factor was the slowness to get funding with the late announcement by SSHRC. • Shirley Thompson and 3 people from RRC (Mike Watson, Ray Hoemsen and Bill Rutherford) met with Deputy Ministry of Indigenous Relationship and asked for a representative of their department to join the membership of the advisory committee. • In September 2017, The University of Manitoba hired a Project manager/Community Coordinator to comply with SSHRC's requirement to have a Project Manager.
Public presence for partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are considering a better name to call the partnership that is easier for people to inspire, remember, pronounce and spell. The evaluation survey showed that there were two top choices to rename the partnership and website: 1) Reconciliation in Action (RIA) Partnership 2) Mino Bimaadizin, 3) FEATHER (Food Education Advanced Training Housing Education Research) Partnership. The Island Lake community members at the Advisory Committee liked Mino Bimaadiziwin (which wasn't a option on the original survey). Mino Bimaadiziwin resonates with the people from north and south; however, for the people of Island

	<p>Lake it is a good fit as it has a unique value to local language. The Advisory Committee also discussed that the name of the website should be more reflective of the grant, easy to spell and remember considering the target group for website such as the partners, students, government, First Nations' education & employment training people, researchers, policy-makers and public.</p>
<p>Housing Education/ Design Research group (Chair: Eric Bjornson)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Design and Research Committee Chair, Eric Bjornson reported that their group had a successful first meeting. • He discussed his affiliation with ACC's Applied Carpentry Program, which this year has students building a net zero house with Eric as the project manager for the build. This is a good model for education programs at Garden Hill and Wasagamack FN that the committee will be assessing and considering. • Eric will be visiting both communities and meet with community coordinators to identify the needs and aspirations of community for housing and to jointly plan how to move forward. The visit will be set up for October or early November 2017. Marleny (Chair of the Community Engagement Committee) is interested in being involved in the community consultation using participatory action research approaches to ensure the design reflects community needs and necessities in housing. • Housing committee will share the International Design competition submission by mid-November 2017 with the group. • RRC has expressed that solidifying the design for the housing is crucial for them to begin their work in designing the curriculum. •
<p>Community-led Participatory Action Research Group Co-chair: Marleny Bonnycastle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, Marleny Bonny-Castle, emphasized the importance for community involvement and engagement, recruiting more members from the community and training the communities in photo-voice to identify and assess their community needs. • The community has an opportunity to establish link between policy and people. • Their committee will focus on generating evidences from the community that influence policies. The committee will also emphasize combining Indigenous and scientific knowledge. • The group will advocate for 'two-eyed seeing', which emphasize on combining indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge. • The key research areas are related to community foods and health, social services and they plan to utilize community forums, local radio, facilitated community stakeholder engagement, and decision making in the project process. • This team will also work on communication and media release.
<p>Food Education/ Research Committee Chair: Pepper Pritty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Food Education and Research Committee (FERC)'s Chair Pepper Pritty updated that a draft terms of reference was created along with a membership list that includes representation from all the post-secondary education institutions, First Nations representation and the partnership secretariat. There is no limit to the committee composition however the chair has identified that input is required from key people so the structure of the committee reflects that. The committee has outcomes, objectives and deliverable and 4 dedicated task forces have been established to focus on 4 key components they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research with Poonam Singh as the lead • Curriculum with Pepper Pritty as the lead • Policy with Shailesh Shukla as the lead • Reporting and Evaluation vacant • Current work includes finalizing the draft TOR which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the committee and the task so that there is no confusion among them who is responsible for completing which committee deliverable. • Post-secondary students are the target groups of food curriculum. Suggested curriculum topics included foundational concepts plants, animals, medicines, soil, gardening, fishing, hunting and land-based learning. • Neil Cooke from RRC offered to provide link to RRC contacts for food education/research committee.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shailesh Shukla discussed the possibility of developing a certificate course on Traditional Food system through UofW and university-level curriculum on working and learning from communities through oral history, elder interviews, etc. • Serena Petrella was highlighting linking horticultural teaching with community gardening, and use of focus groups for community knowledge document. She also shared that Poonam Singh is interested in piloting green houses in the communities.
Retention and Recruitment of Students Committee Chair: Elsie Monias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair of the Retention and Recruitment Committee, Elsie Monias, discussed the need to assess and identify strengths and areas of improvement for each participant, and identify educational institutes for their enrolment. Their selection of programming is based on what is needed at the community level and what resources are available. • One of the challenges in Garden Hill is inadequate educational facilities for higher education. For example, 50 high school graduates from Garden Hill are still in the community without higher education although some have moved to urban setting for higher education. • Elsie stressed that this project, unlike regular projects, should ensure community consultation by minimizing urban-setting meetings. We should adequately consult with community and maintain quality of consultation amid the challenges of project deliverables and deadlines. • Since the project is for First Nations housing and education strengthening, Elsie reiterated the project team to consult with the First Nations in every aspect of project implementation although access to project sites for project team is relatively challenging due to road and weather. "Remember if you just go there and tell them you are going to do this without consulting, you will be unsuccessful," Elsie said. • This group is planning on expanding the group's membership.
Media Release Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership cannot provide media release until SSHRC does their announcement. A short video about the project would be helpful to disseminate project information. How we will produce and share the information during this project is important, with special focus on accessing the information by communities and stakeholders.
Academic Programs Committee Chair: Mark Hoddenbagh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Programs Committee will develop a 9 or 10-month sustainable housing program and train the trainer education program to allow local people to teach the program on an on-going basis. • Besides representatives from educational institutions and relevant organizations operating at Winnipeg, the committee will have 3 representatives each from Wasagamack and GHFN FNs. • Neil Cooke said that the RRC adult education training was mainly on-line and seemed possible to conduct with the community members.
Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirley has provisional funding, so students can be hired and mobilized for community visit. • Ethics protocol for all researchers has to be submitted by October 2017. • Marleny said that everyone who is supposed to visit the community for research purpose should go through the ethics tutorial offered by the University of Manitoba. • Each person is advised to ensure they have done their ethics submission as each researcher is required to have independent approval for their research, as per the university requirement. • This partnership is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Because our focus is on entry-level students, particularly from Island Lake community, undergraduate student recruitment is included in this grant. This applies to Brandon University too and colleges. • If the faculty wants specific research instruments to apply, they must use their own ethics proposal specific they want to do through their university system.
Budget Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displayed budget noting 80% of budget has to go to students - most of which will be allocated to local First Nations students. • Some revisions to the budget are made to meet requirements of SSHRC to have more doctoral students and the need for a project manager/community coordinator.



Governance Structure of the Mino Bimaadiziwin Partnership

