Opening Ceremonies:

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) President, Nelson Mayer called the meeting of the NAFC 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order and thanked the Sweet Medicine Singers for the opening song. The Chair acknowledged the traditional land of the Dakota, Ojibway and Métis people that the 44th Annual General Meeting was taking place on and acknowledged the NAFC Senate, NAFC Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC), NAFC Board of Directors and all delegates and observers.

Welcoming Remarks from Grace Godmaire, Founding Member of the Brandon Friendship Centre:

Welcome to everyone in attendance. The last four (4) days of the AYC Youth Forum have been great. It has been heartwarming and eye opening. We need to work together and as the last workshop said: “Elders Don’t Bite”. I felt that in my earth prayers that I would like to say the same prayer that I said that day when we opened Brandon Friendship Centre and I’m going to leave you today with that short prayer. Let us be united, let our minds apprehend alike, common be our resolutions and common be our intentions and perfect be our unity. Thank you for everything you have done for me in these last 50 years.

Grace was presented with a token from the Youth Executive. The NAFC Chair took a moment to acknowledge the following individuals from the Manitoba region who carried flags into the room during the opening ceremonies: Megan Linklater, Ed Bernard, Daniel Chartrand, David Grey, April Hourie, and Muriel Parker.

Welcoming Remarks from Muriel Parker, President of the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres:

Youth, Elder, Delegates, Staff and Board Members, it’s great to see you gathered here in Friendship. I want to acknowledge the Métis people from this area and thank you for welcoming us into your homeland. I want to say thank you to the Dakota and Ojibway people for welcoming us into your territory as well. Thank you to the city of Brandon for welcoming us here. The staff and Board of the Brandon Friendship Centre, they have worked hard in putting this together and have done themselves justice in gathering us, don’t you agree? Thank you all very much, enjoy your weekend, and if there is anything we can do to assist you please let us know. When I say that, I mean Adam. Thank you.

Muriel was presented with a token from the NAFC Secretary.
Welcoming Remarks from Lorne Mosionier, President of the Brandon Friendship Centre, MB:

On behalf of the Brandon Friendship Centre staff and board, we appreciate your being here and we want to welcome you here as friends and certainly we want to be better friends by the time you leave here. We can get acquainted much better as we go through the week. We hope anything that is contentious will be resolved in a dignified manner. Once again, thank you for being here.

Welcoming Remarks from Larry Maguire, MP, Brandon-Souris:

President Mayer, Board Members, delegates from across Canada, it's my pleasure as a Federal candidate to welcome you here. I hope that your deliberations go well. I've met Andrea [Andersen] here earlier and I trust that the delegations the youth have had have been useful as well. It all started here in 1958 and Centres like this have always worked together to help one another to bridge the gap. The Centre also partners with various other partner organizations and last week I had the pleasure of attending the “Together Towards Tomorrow” conference. Phil Fontaine talked about building partnership for success and helped organize the event. So it was a pleasure to listen to Mr. Fontaine and he brought forth some interesting statistics that I am sure you are all familiar with. So the words that have just been expressed to listen to the needs of the younger generation. I'm pleased to work with all levels of government and working together we can be successful. Together we can build a better nation. I wish everyone success in your deliberations here and success for everyone in their futures. I want to express our gratitude for you being here. Thank you.

Welcoming Remarks from Melissa Wastesticoot, MLA, Brandon East:

I'm actually the MLA’s Constituency Assistant. He is Drew Caldwell, from Brandon East and he is very sorry he can't be here tonight so he sent me in his place. We just want to say thank you to everyone who has come from across the country and we hope you are enjoying your stay here for the NAFC AGM. We're so happy you are all here in this beautiful Dakota Territory. We hope you get to make new friends and acquaintances, our social lives are very important and we never seem to miss any opportunity to joke around, although this is probably not the time. I just want to say that because we are reflecting on our strength and resilience as people. We know how important it is to have Friendship Centres in urban areas. They bring together all of our relations and offer support to those in need. We want to congratulate the Brandon Friendship Centre for being gracious hosts and we wish you all the best for a successful AGM.

Welcoming Remarks from Reg Helwer, MLA, Brandon West:

Welcome to Manitoba, I'm thrilled that you are here in Brandon. It's a fabulous place to be, as is Manitoba. You've had a lot of great speakers and meetings and I'm just enthralled by the enthusiasm here. Larry talked about the “Together Towards Tomorrow” conference and there were a lot of great speakers there as well. There is one that struck a chord with me, Joe Roberts. He spent 10 years on the street as an addict in Vancouver and found a way out of it. One of his messages is that we call experience adversary and Joe's message was that each of us individually have the power to choose how we deal with that adversary. Of course, we can do it without the likes of the Friendship Centres. Thank you for your time and thank you for being here tonight.
Welcoming Remarks from His Worship, Mayor of Brandon, Rick Crest, MB:

Thank you Nelson Mayer. Ladies and gentlemen, extreme welcome and as MLA Reg Helwer said he didn't want to welcome you to Brandon but I'm more than happy to let anyone coming to the microphone to welcome you here. We are truly honoured and privileged to have you here in Brandon. As you well know, listening to one of the founders, our Friendship Centre is turning 50 years old this year. It’s a milestone that we are certainly proud of here in Brandon but certainly no more proud than the people who are associated with the Centre are. They have been doing the heavy lifting here for a long time and bridging the gap between all of the cultures. We are extremely happy to partner with them. We are working very hard here in Brandon and have an organization called the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples Council, which is a coalition of all interested organizations in our city. I truly believe the organization is getting traction and turning the corners and making improvements for all Urban Aboriginal Peoples in our country. We know that is what each and every one of you does in your own communities, doing great things to improve things in your city. I hope that you will share together as the youth have done in their forum. We are truly privileged to have this event in our community. Thank you very much.

Welcoming Remarks from John Fleury, MMF South West Region Board Member, MB:

Good evening everyone, I would like to thank the Elder for the opening prayer. It’s an honour to see you again. I bring you greetings on behalf of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). It's great to have you here. If I sound nervous and you can hear it in my voice it's because I am. I'll do my best to honour the MMF and it’s citizens. MMF has had a wonderful relationship with the Brandon Friendship Centre throughout the years. The movement has just snowballed throughout the years and we are so grateful for the work the people of the Friendship Centre have done. We’ve made so much progress throughout the years, we have the ASETS (Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy) program and the biggest contingent of that is the youth so finding out the youth are involved in this conference was great to hear. I hope you have a wonderful conference, thank you.

John Fleury was presented with a gift by the NAFC President and the NAFC President thanked the MMF for the gracious donation of buffalo meat for the buffalo burger BBQ held earlier that day.

Welcoming Remarks from Jeff Fawcett, Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples Council, MB:

Greetings, welcome to everyone. I’ve been on the Urban Aboriginal Peoples council since 2010 when it was formed by that city council. I’m going to let you know about a few things that we have been doing, we’ve done our youth conference and engaging momentum conference, we’ve done lots of positive profile videos, the Together Towards Tomorrow conference, and recently we got our Aboriginal youth mentorship program. Two other points I want to make: when we started this project we moved slow to start and we weren’t meeting very regular and it was difficult to get moving. It was obvious that one of the issues is trust in one another and there was a sense that we didn’t trust one another. The Brandon Friendship Centre didn’t necessarily trust us and in reflection, fair enough, they didn’t need to. We’ve really made an effort to earn that trust from the city of Brandon. We are moving fast now and that’s really good. Brandon University and ACC have a very strong Urban Aboriginal youth population and the message being sent to Brandon is youth are here and they are coming. We accept and want you here. Thank you very much, thank you for being in Brandon, I hope that you enjoy your stay.

Welcoming Remarks from Ian Grant, Chief of Police:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests. I have been asked to bring greetings on behalf of the Brandon Police Service. It is a great honour and privilege to be invited to the opening ceremonies. Recently I had the pleasure of attending the 50th Annual General
Meeting of the Brandon Friendship Centre and from its beginnings our humble Friendship Centre is truly a powerful agent for change and collaboration within our community and region. Their service to the area is second to none and have expanded greatly, all with the mission of assisting people with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal backgrounds. As a police service we value all our relationships with a wide variety of groups within our community but our relationship with organizations such as the Friendship Centre stands tall. Two point of interest concerning our Friendship Centre that for over the last decade 3 members of the Brandon Police Service have been elected to the Board of Directors for the Friendship Centre. Two of them have completed their time but I know they continue to help their Centre in any way that they can. Relationships forged by those members, supported by our service and nurtured by the Brandon Friendship Centre is a testament to our solid relationship based on mutual respect and trust.

The second point I would like to raise is around a new initiative that we have begun in our community called “Community Mobilization”. It is a program where various human service organizations come together to assist people, any and all people, who are at an acutely elevated risk of either offending, being offended against, or risks to themselves due to certain behaviours. This is not a judgemental program or a reactive program. It is very strongly proactive. Imagine, if you will, a police officer showing up at another persons home not for the purposes of someone going to jail or not for the purpose of taking someone’s children away but for the purpose to say to that person or that family “something very bad is happening here, what can we do to help? We are here to help.” This program has become successful in many other Canadian communities, for example in Prince Albert, SK and more recently in North Bay, ON. It came as no surprise to me that the Friendship Centre was one of the first to come forward and express interest in what we’re trying to do.

My first exposure to the Friendship Centres came when I was a young member of the RCMP in northern Manitoba and a wonderful Aboriginal lady took me under her wings to teach me some expressions in her language. She was a great teacher and I was a poor student. I haven’t yet mastered the English language, never mind trying to master two. I think of her from time to time and remember what she was trying to do. To me, she epitomized friendship in every sense of the word. I wish you success with your meetings and we could certainly use a lot more youth from different backgrounds in the police service. Miigwetch, thank you.

Welcoming Remarks from Diane Roussin, Winnipeg Boldness Project, MB:

Turns out I’m the last speaker and that works for me because if I can’t get the first word I might as well get the last. I want to acknowledge the traditional territory on which we are meeting this week, the Elder for the opening prayer and the ladies for the beautiful song. I am here to bring greetings on behalf of the Winnipeg Boldness Project. There we are looking at improving educational outcomes for our Indigenous kids. The Winnipeg Boldness Project is focused on a particular neighbourhood in Winnipeg called Point Douglas but you would probably know it as the north end. The purpose of it is that it’s a community driven initiative that is aimed at improving outcomes for our young children in the neighbourhood. We are trying to figure out why their outcomes currently are not good and what can we do to try and fix that for those kids. We have more recently come into contact with the National Association of Friendship Centres in a formal way as far as partnering on a couple of projects that will help our kids in Winnipeg and across the nation.

You may or may not be aware that, on behalf of this partnership, there was an announcement at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission closing events in June and as part of an act of reconciliation there was an announcement made that we would commit to working together on an initiative that would improve educational outcomes for our kids and it is particularly focused on this thing called the “Canada Learning Bond”. I think it is something that you will hear a lot more of and I think it is something that some of the key Friendship Centres will be driving the success of the initiative forward.
There is a lot more information about this available on the NAFC website: www.nafc.ca and families can sign up on the website and find out how to save money for their kids education. Most of that is on the website. I just want to say that the partners who are involved in that are: The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, NAFC, The Winnipeg Boldness Project, The Inspirit Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada, The Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, The Vancouver Island University, The Smart Saver Program, and TD Bank group. A lot of national partners are also coming together to pool into this. Friendship Centres are particularly situated to know what is going on with families at the local level and I commend the work that you do. The last thing I want to say is to give a quick shout out to my niece Erin who works with the Friendship Centre here and she loves her work. I am also a big social media hound so I am going to take a picture of you and tweet it. I encourage you to follow us on social media; we are willing to talk to anybody. Chi-migwetch for having us here, the work you do is so very important and I want to thank you for doing that.

The NAFC Chair read a brief letter on behalf of Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba:

I am delighted to welcome everyone to Brandon. Friendship is deeply engraved in the heart of Manitoba. It is these values of cooperation that form the foundation of Canada’s 117 Friendship Centres meeting here this week. Their culturally appropriate services empower individuals and bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities together. It is an honour to have you here in Brandon. I wish you a productive and successful Annual General Meeting and Youth Forum.

The NAFC Chair presented the following:

I have known Mel Maracle for a very long time. Mel, as many of you know, has worked with NAFC for 40 years. She has been a historian for us, she has gone through countless Executive Directors and she is a true representative of Friendship Centres. She has been a friend to all of us and a mother to the younger ones. We are never going to be able to provide her with the accolades that really truly express our appreciation. Mel, you have been so beautiful, so kind and so loving. We do have a small gift that we hope will at least begin to show our appreciation for everything that you do and have done.

The NAFC Executive Director presented the following:

I’ve worked with Mel for 5 years now; and after that amount of time there isn’t anything Mel doesn’t know about you. She’s a joy to have in the office and she’s done a lot for me over the years. Mel has booked a lot of your travel over the years so I wanted to find a way to show our appreciation in a way that would recognize that, so Mel, this is a card and I’ll let her open it later but with it is a $5,000 travel voucher gift card that you can use wherever, whenever you want on whatever you want. With this gift is a wolf bracelet and we chose that for you because it symbolizes motherhood, courage, and endurance. All qualities that you have shown you possess over the many years with NAFC.

Merle White, President of the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) presented Mel with a gift on behalf of ANFCA.

The NAFC Senate presented the following:

On behalf of the Senators we want to say thank you to Mel for all of the work you have done for us. She has been our staff liaison and really makes sure that we are comfortable and well looked after. I’ve known her since she was a little girl and I’m going to ask Vera to explain this gift that we are giving to her. It’s a Pandora bracelet with a few certain jewels on them. The first one represents a leading lady, the next one represents your 40 years of service, the next one is purple because we know that is important to you and the last one is a turtle because we know you have been a hard shell of a woman.
The Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres presented Mel with a gift on behalf of their entire organization.

Following these presentations, the NAFC Chair introduced himself and the other members of the NAFC Executive Committee:

Andrea Andersen, Youth Executive
Bill Mintram, Secretary
Jack Park, Treasurer
Chris Sheppard, Vice-President

The NAFC Chair then presented the following as closing remarks to the opening ceremonies:

The work that we do is important. I know we have two Senators who are going to be formally inducted into the Senate at this event. I’m originally from Manitoba and remember the first time I ever walked into a Friendship centre. At that time they were still on Lorne Avenue and that building is still there. Working as a team puts a smile on my face because that’s what we are. I have first time young people coming to me saying, “Nelson, this is amazing”. The opportunities everyone has to engage in social fun and activities. It’s been a great few days with the youth and the Youth Forum and I hope we all have the same successes here at this AGM.

Nominations for the Establishment of the AGM Committees

The Chair asked the NAFC Secretary to read through the rules and procedures of the AGM:

Procedures for conducting business have evolved over the years and the rules and procedures for the AGM are:

1) Annual General Meeting shall convene at 9:00AM and adjourn at 5:00PM every day unless otherwise specified;
2) Persons attending the AGM shall be registered;
3) Friendship Centre and Provincial/Territorial Association membership fees must be paid in full to be entitled to vote;
4) Each member of the Association shall be entitled to name not more than 2 voting delegates and 1 youth delegate aged 18-24 years of age to each AGM of the Association;
5) Any change to the agenda must be approved by the delegates in the AGM before it may take effect;
6) Delegate’s attendance, or roll call, shall be taken every morning by the Chair to determine the number of delegates present. PTA’s will be expected to coordinate their delegate’s attendance each day and must report to the Chair on the respected delegate numbers. Delegates should inform their PTA representatives that they are present in the assembly hall to ensure correct roll call reports;
7) Quorum of the AGM shall be 50 + 1% of all delegates registered. If necessary, roll call shall be taken in order to determine if quorum exists at any point during the meeting;
8) All matters of business placed before the meeting shall be dealt with by motion;
9) Motions may be dealt with in two (2) ways: Voting, each registered delegate shall have one (1) vote. Each vote will be represented by vote cards or by secret ballot, if warranted. A majority of votes shall decide any questions with the exception of constitutional changes. Motions to rescind and challenges of a ruling of the Chair, which require a two-thirds (2/3) majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote. Motions which are approved un-opposed must be said to have been passed unanimously. Consensus, following a motion directing a question to be decided by consensus, the Chair shall hear all the concerns raised by the delegates. When the
Chair has decided that all concerns have been raised and that there is a general will to proceed in a particular way, consensus will be deemed to have been achieved;
10) For recording purposes, all speakers must identify themselves and state their region, association, or other organization before addressing the Chair or the AGM;
11) During discussion on a motion or resolutions, priority to speak are given to voting delegates;
12) The governing principles of kindness, honesty, sharing, and strength are expected to be upheld by all who are present in the AGM;
13) Observers are encouraged to participate in the AGM and at the workshops but only voting delegates may introduce and vote on motions and resolutions. Voting delegates are given priority on any speakers list;
14) A delegate who is not able to attend the meeting or has to leave the meeting early may assign his or her vote to any other delegate but such assignment must be made in writing and must be deposited with the Secretary of the Association or Credentials Committee, if any, at the time the delegate registers and assignment must set out when the proxy takes effect;
15) Delegates exercising proxy votes shall be entitled to hold no more than four (4) proxy votes at one time;
16) Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of any meeting of the Association;
17) Youth delegates must be of 18 years of age or older to vote and must be present in the assembly room to vote;
18) Delegates must only speak to an issue at hand within the allotted time and should confine themselves as far as possible to the Association or National issues;
19) When speaking to an issue, the initial speaker shall be allowed ten (10) minutes for presentation of the issue and each additional delegate speaking to the issue shall be allowed five (5) minutes. Following the discussion, the initial speaker shall be allowed five (5) minutes to further address the issue;
20) All resolutions must be submitted to the resolutions committee which will assist the mover and the seconder to present the resolution in a proper form;
21) Security shall be maintained if necessary to avoid disruption during the meeting;
22) No alcohol or drugs shall be allowed in the AGM assembly room. No one under the influence will be allowed in the assembly room.

The Chair read through the Terms of Reference for the Credentials Committee as follows:

The Credentials Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors prior to the opening of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It must consist of at least three people, one of whom is the Secretary of the Board who acts as the Chair of the Committee. The Credentials Committee must be confirmed at the outset of the AGM by motion from the floor. The Credentials Committee has the responsibility to:

1) Obtain and review the written credentials of delegates to the AGM;
2) Ensure that delegates presenting their credentials represent a Friendship Centre or Provincial/Territorial Association (PTA) in good standing with the NAFC;
3) Ensure that the annual membership fee is paid before a delegate can be registered or vote;
4) Decide on the acceptability of delegates in good faith;
5) Advise the registrar of delegates who cannot be registered because of the unacceptableness of their credentials;
6) Provide the AGM Chair with the number and list of delegates as soon as possible following the closing of registration;
7) Accept written proxies and inform the AGM Chair of these proxies; and,
8) Note that proxy assignments specify when the proxy is to take effect and to whom the proxy vote is assigned.

The NAFC Chair then asked for a motion to accept the nominations for the Credentials Committee as put forward by the NAFC Board of Directors.

**The appointees to the Credentials Committee were:**
- Bill Mintram, NAFC Secretary
- Jennifer Rankin, NAFC Staff
- Farren Saulis, NAFC Staff

**Motion #1:** To accept the Credentials Committee appointments as put forward by the NAFC Board of Directors.

**Moved by:** Tyler Sayese, Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, SK  
**Seconded by:** Eric Klapatiuk, Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre, BC  
**Carried unanimously**

The Chair read through the Terms of Reference for the Procedures Committee as follows:

Recommendations to the Procedures Committee can be made by the Board of Directors prior to the opening of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or they can be appointed from the floor of the Annual General Meeting. It must consist of at least three people, one of whom acts as the Chair of the Committee. The Procedures Committee must be confirmed at the outset of the AGM by motion from the floor.

The Procedures Committee has the responsibility to:

1) Establish and introduce the daily agenda and process;
2) Ensure the business of the Association begins and ends on schedule by refining the proposed agenda for acceptance by the Assembly;
3) Ensure the addition of any matters of a technical nature to the proposed agenda, respecting and meeting the generally accepted procedures of the Assembly;
4) Ensure that suggested changes to the agenda are accommodated, when possible, and inform the Chairperson(s) of such changes;
5) Ensure that PTAs, through provincial "whips", have coordinated their delegate's attendance each day; and,
6) Provide the Chairperson(s) with assistance, if required and/or appropriate.

The NAFC Chair opened the floor for nominations to the committee and the following individuals were nominated for the Procedures Committee:

- Annette Morgan, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres nominated Kari Hutchison;
- Adam Blanchard, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres nominated Lorne Mosionier;
- Kelly Benning, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, AB nominated Miranda Laroque
The Chair asked the 3 nominees if they accepted their nominations and they agreed.

**Motion #2:**

To accept the nominations for the Procedures Committee.

**Moved by:** Ember Starr, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB  
**Seconded by:** David Gray, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB

**Carried unanimously**

The Chair read through the Terms of Reference for the Resolutions Committee as follows:

The Resolutions Committee should consist of at least three people, one of whom should be a board member, nominated and approved by motion of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the outset of the meeting.

The Resolutions Committee has the responsibility to:

1) Assist the movers and seconders of draft resolutions in wording, writing and presenting them in the proper manner;

2) Ensure all movers and seconders of draft resolutions are registered delegates;

3) Gather all draft resolutions and remove resolutions which are administrative in nature;

4) Set a daily deadline for acceptance of draft resolutions from the delegates;

5) Ensure that draft resolutions coming forward are numbered, worded correctly and have a mover and a seconder;

6) Ensure that the content of draft resolutions is clear. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee will ensure that designated committee persons are available to discuss the contents of the draft resolution with the mover and seconder and, if necessary, to revise the draft resolutions before they are finalized;

7) Make editorial corrections to draft resolutions with the consent of the mover and the seconder;

8) Ensure that there is no repetition between draft resolutions presented at the AGM and approved at previous AGMs;

9) Distribute typed and translated copies of the draft resolutions to the chair and the delegates prior to their introduction on the floor of the AGM;

10) Decide on and inform the assembled delegates to the procedure for submitting draft resolutions;

11) Set up a table in or near the meeting hall with a computer and copies of the NAFC Constitution and By-laws and past resolutions approved at previous AGMs;

12) Determine the Chairperson from within the approved committee;

13) Ensure the Resolutions Committee Chairperson presents the draft resolutions to the assembly floor and draws to the Assembly’s attention those resolutions, which may be contrary so they can be dealt with at the same time;

14) Ensure the movers and seconders of draft resolutions are present in the assembly room
when the draft resolutions are being presented and discussed; and,

15) Resolutions are adopted by two-thirds majority vote as outlined in the NAFC Constitution & By-Laws.

The NAFC Chair opened the floor for nominations to the committee. The following individuals were nominated for the Resolutions Committee:

- Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC nominated Carl Mashon;
- Kerri Johnston, The Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB nominated Jim Sinclair;
- Ed Bernard, Portage La Prairie Friendship Centre, MB nominated David Gray;
- Jack Park was appointed by the NAFC Board of Directors
- Conrad Saulis was appointed by the NAFC Board of Directors

The Chair asked the 3 nominees if they accepted their nominations and 2 agreed:

Jim Sinclair respectfully declined his nomination, as there were too many Manitoba representatives put forward.

Motion #3: To accept the nominations for the Resolutions Committee.

Moved by: Brittany Whynot, Mi’kmaw Native Friendship Centre, NS
Seconded by: April Hourie, Selkirk Friendship Centre, MB

Carried unanimously

The Chair asked the NAFC Vice-President to read through the Terms of Reference for the Elections Committee as his position was not up for election. The terms of reference for the committee were presented as follows:

The Elections Committee consists of at least five people. No member of the Elections Committee shall be a voting delegate. Each member of the Elections Committee shall be nominated and approved by motion of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the outset of the meeting.

The Elections Committee has the responsibility to:

1) Decide upon election procedures, including procedures for candidates’ speeches and question/answer period and seek approval for these procedures from the AGM;

2) Conduct the elections strictly according to the Elections Procedures; and,

3) Oversee the destruction of the ballots following motions to do so approved by the AGM.

NOMINATIONS

1. Nominations will proceed for each position in the following order: President, Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; and Youth Executive.

2. Each person nominated must have a letter of support from their PTA or Friendship Centre and must be nominated by an accredited delegate and have the nomination seconded by an accredited delegate.

3. Each nominated candidate by position will be asked to accept or decline the nomination.

-2-
4. Following nominations, by position, the Chief Electoral Officer will ask for further nominations three times and then ask for a motion to table nominations until just before the election.

ELECTIONS

1. A Chief Electoral Officer and an Assistant Electoral Officer will be appointed by the Elections Committee.

2. The Chief Electoral Officer will ask the floor for any further nominations after which the nominations will be closed.

3. The elections procedures will be announced. They are:
   a. A candidate must win the election by 50% plus one of the eligible votes cast;
   b. When more than two candidates run for a position, and none receive the required number of votes to win the election, the candidates receiving the lowest number of votes will be dropped from the ballot. A further ballot, as necessary, will then take place until a winner is declared.
   c. No two positions may be filled by representatives from the same Province or Territory.
   d. Voting will take place by position. Candidates failing to be elected for a position may let their name stand for a subsequent position.
   e. Each candidate may select one scrutineer.
   f. Returning officers will be selected and confirmed by the AGM.
   g. Each mover will be allowed to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes.
   h. Each candidate for President will be allowed to speak for ten (10) minutes. Other candidates will be allowed to speak for five (5) minutes.
   i. A question period will follow, twenty (20) minutes for Presidential candidates and ten (10) minutes for other positions.
   j. Voting will take place by Province/Territory. Ballot boxes will be set up at four (4) voting stations. Each Province/Territory will be marked.
   k. All voting delegates must wear their delegate's badge and have their vote card(s) in their possession.

The NAFC Vice-President opened the floor for nominations to the committee. The following individuals were nominated for the Elections Committee:

- Brian Jackson and Pamela Ouart were appointed by the NAFC Board of Directors
- Annette Morgan, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC nominated Warren Claremont
- Jodie Thompson, Hinton Friendship Centre Society, AB nominated Yvonne Oshanyk
- Muriel Parker, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB nominated Jeremy Smith
- Tyler Sayese, Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, SK nominated Janet Carrier
• Philippe Meilleur, Montreal Native Community Development Centre, QC nominated Carrie McGinn
• Alfred Lea, Riverton & District Friendship Centre, MB nominated Mike McKenzie

Mike McKenzie could not be nominated as he currently sat on the NAFC Board of Directors.

The Chair asked the remaining 5 nominees if they accepted their nominations and they agreed.

**Motion #4:** To accept the nominations for the Elections Committee.

**Moved by:** Susie Secord, Dauphin Friendship Centre, MB  
**Seconded by:** Ed Bernard, Portage La Prairie Friendship Centre, MB

Carried unanimously

**Announcements and Closing**

The Chair thanked all delegates for participating in the NAFC 44th AGM Opening Ceremonies and the following announcements were made:

- An Elections Committee meeting will take place immediately after the meeting adjourns;
- AGM gala tickets are still available;
- The Sand Hills Casino outing is now full;
- The White Buffalo trip is also full;
- Sweat is still open for more attendees;
- Manitoba region will caucus at 8:30AM on Wednesday July 22nd in room 134;
- Saskatoon region will caucus at 1:00PM on Wednesday July 22nd in room 117;
- There will be a pipe ceremony at 6:00AM on Wednesday July 22nd

An honour song was performed by Paul Lacerte for Mel Maracle.

The NAFC 44th AGM was adjourned for Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

**Wednesday, July 22, 2015**

The Chair called the meeting to order and made the following announcement:

- Someone has lost a pair of glasses, please see the Chair of the Procedures Committee.

The Chair then called upon the Elder, Dominique Rankin, to provide an opening prayer.

**Roll Call by Province and Territory**

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**TOTAL Voting Delegates: 298**  
**Quorum = 150**
Procedures Committee Report

The Procedures Committee Chair, Kari Hutchison, read through the agenda for the morning of July 22, 2015 as follows:

- Roll Call
- Agenda
- Review & Acceptance of NAFC 43rd AGM Draft Minutes
- Business Arising from the Minutes
- Appointment of the Auditors for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year
- Executive Committee Report (if time permits)
- Credentials Committee Update

Motion #5: To accept the Procedures Committee Report for the morning of July 22, 2015

Moved by: Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded by: Lorne Mosionier, Brandon Friendship Centre, MB

Carried Unanimously

Review and Acceptance of the NAFC 43rd Annual General Meeting Minutes

The NAFC Secretary, Bill Mintram, read through the Summary of Motions from the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on July 8-11, 2014 and opened the floor for any corrections to be made to the draft minutes. The following corrections were submitted to the NAFC National Office and all corrections were made to the NAFC 43rd AGM Minutes:

- Page 34: Bronwyn Cowan is noted as representing two different Friendship Centres;
- Page 34 & 35: Ron Rice is noted as being from the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres but he is actually one of the Barrie Native Friendship Centre delegates;
- Page 54: Wilf Chelle is not from Sacred Wolf, he is actually from St. Johns, NL
- Page 56: after Motion #55, which is for the NAFC Youth Executive, the notation under the motion is making note of the NAFC Secretary not the Youth Executive;
- Page 56: Juliette Nicolette should be listed as representing the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres in the summary of motions but in the minutes she is noted as representing Sault Ste. Marie;
- Motion #1 says that I was the Aboriginal Youth Council but I believe I was holding the Fort Qu’Appelle vote;
- Page 10, Motion #44: Roberta MacKinnon is spelt incorrect;
- Page 11, Motion #53: April Hourie was representing the Selkirk Friendship Centre;
- Motion #2 & Motion #32: correction to the spelling of Martin Desrochers last name to Durocher;
- Juliette Nicolet is to be, in all instances, holding Ne-Chee Friendship Centre proxy not Sault Ste. Marie or the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres;
- As a point of order, you need to identify a mover for the motion to accept the Board or else we have been operating illegally for an entire year;
- Motion #36 to accept the NAFC Board of Directors will have Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC listed in order to replace the unidentified mover;
- Motion #3: spelling of the last name of Sheena Read needs to be changed to Reed;
- Motion #13: correction to the last name of Danielle Debruyen
Motion #6: To accept the NAFC 43rd AGM Draft Minutes as amended.

Moved: Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Sarah Mowat, Selkirk Friendship Centre, MB

Carried unanimously

Business Arising from the NAFC 43rd AGM Draft Minutes

The Chair opened the floor for business arising from the minutes and heard the following:

Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC: In regards to motion #42 and what Nelson was saying yesterday in regards to him reading an old Terms of Reference, was the review actually done and did we get that? Was that what was sent out?

Bill Mintram, NAFC Secretary: There was a review of the Resolutions Process that was done by the Board of Directors. I’m not sure if the Terms of Reference have been formally updated as approved so at the moment we do not have a formal amendment to put forward that will be located within your books. The Board of Directors did do a formal revision and adjusted the process for resolutions whereas the resolutions that have been received have gone through the Board Policy Committee and they have reviewed them to look at language and expedite the process for resolutions. As the resolutions were presented there have been a number of them, there were not very many changes recommended but it does follow the exact same process in that is does require the mover and the seconder to allow any change if it was recommended and then it goes to the resolutions committee the floor of the AGM where it will then be followed in accordance with the Terms of Reference that are still located in our books. So the extra piece of procedure was to add the Policy Committee of the Board as an extra filter as sometimes it can be a challenge to track down the mover and the seconder.

David Grey, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB: It had not been my intention to speak on this but in listening to your answer I now have two (2) questions: is there a reason it is going to take more than a year to do a relatively simple process? And secondly, did you just say that the Board of Directors was added as a filter for resolutions? That’s what I heard you say and I can’t believe that is what you intended.

Bill Mintram, NAFC Secretary: To clarify that, my wording may not have been entirely accurate, but rather that the resolutions as they are submitted and go through their normal process following an adherence with the procedures that have already been established and adhere to within the NAFC AGM procedures. So there is no extra processes or filters that allow for any change. The mover and the seconder are the ones who define the language and it is at their discretion, not the discretion of the Board of Directors. In relation to the process, I will be checking with one of our NAFC staff after as the Board of Directors, in our reviews, we do have amended language and wording that has been put forward by the Board of Directors; I will just need to look that up.

David Grey, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB: I’m surprised Sylvia is not addressing this since she seconded motion #58, was there action actually taken on that? Is there a reason this has taken more than a year to address these issues?

Bill Mintram, NAFC Secretary: Yes there has been movement on that as well. The alternate voting options are currently a violation of our Constitution and so within this AGM we do have some amendments that are available for everyone to review that will be tabled for next year and will allow us to then explore alternate methods of voting. Our current by-laws do indicate by ballot or by voting card, which excludes us from the ability of doing electronic voting.
David Grey, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB: Gary McLean had asked for a breakdown of professional fees, was that done?

Jack Park, NAFC Treasurer: Yes it was done and will be reported on during the Financial Report.

Hearing no further Business Arising from the Minutes the agenda resumed.


The NAFC Secretary then turned the floor over to the NAFC Treasurer for the presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ending March 31, 2015. The NAFC Treasurer introduced the Auditor, Greg Moulard, Andrews & Co. who presented the following:

Good morning, thank you for having me here in Brandon, I’ve never been here before. As we mentioned it’s been a year of tremendous change for the NAFC. The organization has received a tremendous amount of additional revenue and it’s really changed the look of the organization financially. The overall audit went very well, we had no issues. There was a new transition to a new Director of Finance and that went very well, we had no problems.

The first page I’ll take you through is the Independent Auditors Report. The report has not changed from the years past with one exception, the Independent Opinion, there is no reservations with any of it other than the one relating to the purchase of capital assets. You will notice that on the 2nd page of the Auditors Report under “Basis for Qualified Opinion” there is an explanation there regarding capital assets and the reason for this is that, for those of you who don’t know, should the organization purchase a new capital asset such as a new server or something that has a prolonged life accounting standards require us to capitalize that item and expense it over the useful life of the item. However, with a lot of the funding and contribution agreements from the government they require that it be done on a cash basis and that the year that the item was purchased, it be expensed as well. So technically this is not what is expected for accounting standards but it is what the government requires so we report in the manner that they want to see. Other than that I don’t have any other comments on the report we submitted.

Moving to the Statement of Financial Position or balance sheet, on the next page, as I mentioned you will see a lot of changes on these items from the previous year. The organization’s revenues have increased by 50%. The cash position is up quite substantially as well as accounts receivable. Overall the assets of the organization have doubled. Likewise moving down to liabilities, you’ll see that has also increased as well.

On the next page you will see the Statement of Operations and this is where you’ll see the changes I have mentioned. There is an over all increase in revenues of about 53% for the year. Looking through the expenditures you’ll see Bad Debt, we didn’t have any in the years past, and this was a bit of a clean up from years past and has been written off. There were some very large changes in Communications and the reason for this is in professional costs, there were several initiatives entered into there and a lot of costs went into preparing the organization for that. IT and related costs were up as well as there were changes and updates to databases. Office supplies was up tremendously as well mostly as a result of new staff and that resulted in new technology needs. Translation has decreased substantially as this has been deferred to the Quebec region.

Moving on from there, notes to financial statements, there was not really a need for us to change any of the notes. We have updated them for this years required disclosures but there has been no new significant notes added to them. I don’t have anything further to add from an assurance perspective so, thank you.
The NAFC Treasurer thanked the Auditor for his presentation and made a note in reference to the recommendation that NAFC work with more Aboriginal consultants. The NAFC Executive Director does try his best to make that happen and with the office being in Ottawa it is hard but this number should increase over the next few years.

*The floor was opened for comments and questions:*

**Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON:** I do have a question but I also wanted to mention that we just passed a motion to approve the minutes from last year that contained a motion to include a breakdown of how many Aboriginal consultants were being used by the NAFC and I don’t believe that this has been fully addressed. My question deals with page 10 of the Audit, a pension plan expense, it would appear that under staffing contribution there is a number to the tune of $48,945 yet on your balance sheet you indicate your pension reserve fund had no change over the year.

**Greg Mouland, Auditor, Andrews & Co.:** The note you are referencing on page 11 that $48,000 was the actual amount that was expended and paid into a pension plan. On page 5, the pension fund reserve is a separate fund that was set up so that should the organization not be able to meet it’s obligations to pay for the pension in any given year, there would be a $150,000 available to the organization so as the employees do not suffer.

**Jack Park, NAFC Treasurer:** I also want to speak on the balance sheet of $150,000, if the Assembly recalls last year I asked staff to ensure that the $150,000 was put into an interest bearing savings account and it was, however the statements don’t show the interest accrued over the year and you notice in the notes that there was an amount accrued so I have asked the staff in the future to ensure that the pension fund amount of $150,000 include the interest.

**Maeehgan Linklater, Indian & Metis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB:** In regards to the professional fees, you had that pegged at thirty six plus change and if you total those numbers up it comes up to three eighty one which leaves a balance of missing dollars. Even if you include the Aboriginal organizations it would still be short so I’m just wondering how that was broken down or where it’s been identified?

**Jeff Cyr, NAFC Executive Director:** What the notes are designed to say is that since there is an increase of approximately $300,000 from professional fees, the note is designed to say why was there that increase and to explain that increase of that entire portion. So while they are related, the math won’t work in the way that you have described.

**Motion #7:** To accept the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ending March 31, 2015

Moved: Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Ella Mayer, High Prairie Native Friendship Centre, AB

Carried unanimously

The NAFC Treasurer then noted that the NAFC Board of Directors was proposing to the tender the audit for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year and asked for a motion to recognize such:

**Motion #8:** To tender the Audit for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year.

Moved: Alfred Lea, Riverton & District Friendship Centre, MB
Seconded: Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB

Carried unanimously
Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB: I just have a quick suggestion in regards to the management letter. Maybe next year you can include somewhere in there that the Board of Directors has reviewed and accepted the management letter. Thank you.

Executive Committee Report

The NAFC President noted that the Executive Committee would not be reading directly from their report and introduced the Executive Committee members as follows:

Nelson Mayer, President
Chris Sheppard, Vice-President
Jack Park, Treasurer
Bill Mintram, Secretary
Andrea Andersen, Youth Executive

The NAFC Executive Committee welcomed all delegates and observers to the NAFC’s 44th Annual General Meeting and hoped that everyone would enjoy the hospitality of the host Friendship Centre, the Brandon Friendship Centre, and take part in many of the functions that they are providing. The NAFC Executive Committee extended a special welcome and acknowledgment to the NAFC Senators whose knowledge and guidance which has been of great benefit to them as they move forward. The NAFC Executive Committee also wished to acknowledge the Youth whose passion and enthusiasm will lead them into the future.

The NAFC Executive Committee wished to recognize the individuals who has passed on to the spirit world, shared their condolences with their families and their loved ones and to express their appreciation for all of the hard work that they performed on behalf of the Friendship Centre Movement. Finally, the NAFC Executive Committee wished to acknowledge the Aboriginal Peoples traditional territory on which they were honoured and privileged to hold the national Annual General Meeting. They hoped that the following report would provide all delegates and observers with information regarding their activities over the past year.

The NAFC President activities:

  o The NAFC President noted that attendance at such events as AGM’s allows them to hear first-hand the concerns and issues that member Centres have regarding the NAFC and the many areas of business and work that is being done at the regional level;

• Originally scheduled to be at the announcement about the Action Plan with Minister Kellie Leitch in Regina however this announcement needed to be rescheduled due to the Parliamentary calendar;
  o The announcement was made on September 15, 2014 in the House of Commons and it was decided that the National Executive Director would attend on behalf of the NAFC President;

• Had discussions with OFIFC to determine if they would be interested in taking their “I am a Kind Man” program and expanding it nationally. There has also been discussion about approaching the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and seeing if they would be interested in expanding their “Moose Hide Campaign” nationally;

• During the past year, Community Capacity Support (CCS) program funds were allocated in order to have 10 new CCS sites established across Canada. Names of individuals were solicited for people to be appointed to the National Adjudication Committee (NAC) that would be reviewing the CCS applications for the 10 additional CCS sites around the country. The plan was to have 4 people internal to the Friendship Centre Movement and 3 people external to the Friendship Centre Movement appointed to this committee;
The Committee consisted of: Daniel Bennett, NL/LB, Anita Campbell, MB, Lucille Cook, AB and James Marlowe, NWT;

- Attended the BCAAFC quarterly board meeting in Victoria, BC on October 23-25, 2014;
  - The NAFC President listened to their issues, concerns and business discussions with great interest and our Executive Director was able to participate via Skype for a portion of their meeting;
- Invited to the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network launch of their annual “Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week” in Regina, SK on December 1, 2014;
  - The NAFC Secretary attended this event on behalf of the NAFC President;
- Invited to attend the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Winter Gala in Ottawa on December 18, 2014;
  - The NAFC Vice-President attended this event on behalf of the NAFC President;
  - The NAFC President noted that whenever he receives invitations to events around the country, it is his intention to involve other NAFC Executive members as much as possible to attend on his behalf. Considerations will be given to location, travel costs to the NAFC budget as well as the schedules and availability of Executive members to attend these events.
- There was a NAFC Executive Committee meeting on January 20, 2015 via Go to Meetings and telephone call-in. The Executive committee agenda included the Action for Women Initiative, sole source contract with the Preakelt Foundation and the Indigenous Innovation Summit. The Executive Committee passed the following motion;

> The Executive Committee approves the Action for Women Initiative and directs it to be brought to the Board of Directors.

*Moved by: Chris Sheppard, Vice-President*
*Seconded: Bill Mintram, Secretary*
*Approved: Unanimous*

- Attended the 2015 Indspire Awards Ceremony in Calgary, AB on February 27, 2015 and presented an award to a recipient for his work in the environment field;
- In January 2015 the Negotiating team met in Victoria, BC and a recommendation was made to hold a special Presidents and Executive Directors meeting to lobby for renewal of the Urban Partnerships funding which is currently scheduled to end March 31st, 2016.
- The Special Presidents & Executive Directors meeting was held on May 12-13, 2015 in Ottawa, ON. There was some media training provided to assist people in understanding some techniques that would be useful in conveying key messages and soliciting political support.
- Attended the opening for the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions closing ceremonies, participated in the walk, had supper with representatives of the McConnell Foundation, sat in on the presentation of the Commissioners’ report and recommendations, and attended the closing ceremonies at the Governor General’s residence at Rideau Hall.

**The NAFC Vice-President activities:**
- Attended an NAFC Senate conference call on November 26, 2014;
- Attended the AGN Winter Gala on December 18, 2015 in Ottawa, ON;
- Attended a call with Brian Jackson and Pamela Ouart of the NAFC National Office to partake in an initial review of the communications framework and other documents;
- Attended the Special President’s & Executive Directors Meeting held on May 12-13, 2015 in Ottawa, ON;

**The NAFC Treasurer activities:**
- Actively monitoring the financial health of the organization and diligently reviewing financial statements;
- Provided the draft financial statements for March 31, 2015 at the May 29-31, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting in Ottawa, ON;
• Attended the Special President’s & Executive Directors Meeting held on May 12-13, 2015 in Ottawa, ON;

**The NAFC Secretary activities:**
• Reviewed the “International Engagement” policy document and the “Strategic Plan Review” policy document which is a response to the NAFC’s Policy Committee request and outlines how the NAFC will go about undertaking a new strategic plan for post-2015 when the existing one expires;
• Attended three (3) conference calls of the NAFC Policy Committee on December 15, 2-14, January 7, 2015 and February 5, 2015;
• Attended the Special President’s & Executive Directors Meeting held on May 12-13, 2015 in Ottawa, ON;
• Attended the opening ceremonies of the Truth ad Reconciliation Commission, participated in the walk, and listened to the Commissions’ report and recommendations;

**The NAFC Youth Executive activities:**
• Upcoming conference call meeting dates for the Aboriginal Youth Council are October 16, 2015, November 13th, 2015 and December 11, 2015;
• Attended the 4R’s National Partners Meeting on September 15, 2014 in Ottawa, ON;
• Involved in discussion with Aboriginal student groups across Canada at the college and university level;
• Facilitated a design workshop session in Halifax, NS to help steer the designers with regards to colors, layout, naming, content language and what they would like to see in the A4W mobile platform;
• Attended the Special President’s & Executive Directors Meeting held on May 12-13, 2015 in Ottawa, ON;
• Attended the Special President’s & Executive Directors Meeting held on May 12-13, 2015 in Ottawa, ON;
• Attended the closing ceremonies for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Ottawa, ON

This concludes the NAFC Executive Committee Report on our activities this past year. As NAFC Executive members we have maintained contact with each other and our National office following up on our respective responsibilities. We have maintained contact within our regions where we reside and have put forward our best effort to ensure contact with all regions of our Movement.

As we move into the upcoming year the changes to the funding programs of the past to the new UAS programs funds of the Community Capacity Support and Urban Partnerships will see an increased need to follow standards of performance to ensure that all Friendship Centres continue to receive the necessary funding to keep their doors open. These standards of performance will ensure that Friendship Centres continue to be open, transparent, accountable, effective and efficient as we have been these past 60 plus years in the provision of programs and services to the urban Indigenous population of Canada.

Thank you for allowing us the honour and privilege of serving as your National Executive members for the past year, and we thank each and every one of you for your commitment to making this country a better place for our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all those yet to be born.

Thank you to the National Board members for your work on behalf of the regions you represent and bringing your issues to our attention.

Thank you to the National Senate for your wisdom and guidance to us.
Thank you to the National AYC for your dedication and commitment to ensuring that we are ever mindful of heeding the voice of our youth.

Finally thank you to Jeff and all the NAFC staff for continuing to make the NAFC an organization that all of us can take great pride in as we play our part in continuing to keep our circle strong.

The floor was opened for comments and questions:

**Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB:** Is there a movement or a way that the NAFC will push the issue of standards for Friendship Centres? Because standards are something that we have been talking about and we have a committee that is looking not only at standards of performance but just standards in general. One of the things we talk about is Executive Directors and how pivotal that role is to our Friendship Centres. In the past year, the more I think of standards the more we have to look at establishing our own standards of performance. Should we not try to establish standards at a national level in terms of accountability and responsibility to look at them for other PTA’s and Friendship Centres to meet?

**Nelson Mayer, NAFC President:** No there is no plan for national standards, we do have processes in place for when Centre’s are not meeting requirements in terms of special agreements. The reason we put this in our report is in terms of the changes in the Eligibility Criteria. We know that right now there are many Centres in Canada that hit a level of performance that their eligibility is not a question but we do know that there is some Centres that struggle so we don’t want to be in the business of closing people down but we do need to have measurements.

**Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB:** We speak in terms of family and what we aren’t doing anymore is sharing best practices and standards. We don’t share enough of what we are doing well, maybe that is a way for us to communicate better. I just want to make sure, standards are important.

**Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC:** In regards to your attendance at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission closing events, is there anything to help those survivors further?

**Nelson Mayer, NAFC President:** Yes there will be. Many of the recommendations go back to the work that many Friendship Centres have been doing for many years already. I also want to comment on Anita’s comments. When people come to an AGM there is an opportunity to go and learn about these best practices here. There will certainly be some discussion around this in the future.

**Motion #9:** To accept the Executive Committee Report as presented.

**Moved:** Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB

**Seconded:** Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC

**Carried**

**Procedures Committee Report**

The Chair of the Procedures Committee announced that there would be an amendment to the agenda to include the Executive Director’s report in the morning of July 22, 2015.

**Motion #10:** To accept the amendments to the Procedures Committee Report for the morning of July 22, 2015.
Moved: Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Jamie Linington, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB

Carried

### Executive Director’s Report

The NAFC Chair welcomed the NAFC Executive Director up to the podium to present his report.

Welcome to all delegates to Brandon, MB, Canada's heartland, for the 44th Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). Friendship Centres have played a key role in helping urban Aboriginal people through their lives. To ensure that the next generation carries on in a good way, to youth finding their identities, to learning new skills and finding that secure place in the community. As you know Friendship Centres are dynamic and evolving and have always been found creative solutions to address pressing issues. As the old saying goes “necessity is the mother of invention”.

### Action for Women

I encourage you all the check out the A4W Live booth that is set up in the other room. A4W stands for Action for Women and this is a national campaign to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. Action for Women will provide the information, resources and support to empower Indigenous women and girls and engage men, families, and communities to change behaviours that lead to violence. Together we can raise national awareness of violence against Indigenous women and girls and help stop it.

### The Indigenous Innovation Summit

PTA’s have long been hubs for partnerships and innovation. The NAFC has been working hard with a few key partners on the Indigenous Innovation Summit. It’s a first of its kind, national level event being held at the Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, MB. We look forward to formalizing the format, the presenters, and attendees over the next two months. The NAFC’s website now has a draft agenda posted.

### Canada Learning Bond

This is a partnership approach to securing Indigenous educational opportunities. Partners include: J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, SmartSAVER, The Boldness Project, Vancity Credit Union, TD Foundation, Inspirit Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada, Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal, and United Way of Canada.

### Labour Market

NAFC has been working on this for two and a half years now. Centre’s participating in this were chosen by their PTA’s. The 2014-2015 strategic partnership agreement was signed and came into effect. Work was completed under the Sectoral Initiatives Program and the NAFC has developed three (3) reports, which have been submitted for translation.

### Youth Engagement

This is important to the national office. To help support the Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC) a youth development officer was hired to assist them. NAFC also supports the AYC by attending the Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference and other youth run events as possible. The 4R’s movement and their involvement and participation in these initiatives is critical to the Friendship Centre Movement.
Research & Knowledge Mobilization

Creating and maintaining NAFC research initiatives is a priority at the national office. 50 regional research projects have been developed and a new data visualization tool has been created. It can be found on the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) website. NAFC Pathways/PEKE is funded through the Canada Institute on Mental Health. PEKE’s goal is that Friendship Centres are meaningfully and deeply engaged.

Looking Forward

We have a sun setter in some of our core-funding aspects. Established relationships and shifting political realities will mean more work for the national office. Federal government interaction including the not-for-profit community will shift, particularly with the Election this fall. I know that Friendship Centres are hubs for information and increased partnerships. I worked over the last few years as a means of ensuring programs stability. While change may be the constant in our work, we are poised for growth. The NAFC will strive to make that happen. We continue to work hard and I would like to say thank you to the volunteers, staff and centres for your contribution to the movement.

The floor was opened for questions or comments:

Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: I want to start off by saying again that I think we are fundamentally wrong when we don’t identify Action for Women as Action for Indigenous Women. We had an opportunity to say that this was about stopping violence against our women and girls. I don’t have a problem with all women having violence free lives but this comes across as us just bowing down to the federal government and taking money while taking “Aboriginal” out of what we are doing. We have the right to be recognized and our own bodies have no right to take “Aboriginal” out of what we do. On page 36 we talk about Action for Women and you say it’s an NAFC initiative and then you refer to it as a Friendship Centre Movement initiative, no, it is not a Friendship Centre Movement Initiative. My question though is, we partnered with you in I am a Kind Man and yet I have no idea about what is going on there. So, what’s happening with it?

Jeffrey Cyr, NAFC Executive Director: We’ve had several conversations and what we have is a broad request from regions of the country to expand I am a Kind Man to it and in particular requests from the RCMP, who want to see that wonderful program exist in the ten most vulnerable communities that they identified in their report. My last meeting with them was about 2 ½ - 3 weeks ago and they said they are taking it back and not letting money be the issue behind it. They want to move forward with expanding it. So as that progresses we will need to bring OFIFC into the mix.

Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: Well, it is important, as you began your report on communication, to let us know. Partnerships can’t be one way and I shouldn’t have to stand up at a national assembly to find out what’s going on. This actually leads me nicely into my next comment about resources. The federal government doesn’t want to pay it’s bills and it passes them on. The NAFC got caught as a pawn in that and they came to provinces and territories and asked for money for the NAFC. There used to be long standing rules that you didn’t pursue our money and that include being clear with Aboriginal Affairs that they can’t put you in difficult positions. We’re being a little bit too nice and you don’t always have to be so kind that they walk all over you. What really bothers me about your report is around UAKN and PEKE. You are paying Universities to be partners and you have asked some of us who have the experience to be partners and we have said we want to be paid like the University but we’re not. Can you explain to me how you have expertise in the movement that equals what the Universities bring to the table but we are being paid different amounts for the same contribution?
Jeffrey Cyr, NAFC Executive Director: SSHRC only works with identified academics so the concept there was to build a research program that had community driven research and that was structured by the UAKN Network Council as an attempt to get money into there. PEKE doesn’t have a ton of money associated with it right now; it only exists in 3 places. The idea for us is to try and leverage that into other communities because the resources aren’t there right now. We aren’t paying researchers under PEKE.

Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: The simple answer is you can’t pay Universities a different amount to do the same work we are doing for you. We are moving into jargon that is representing urban Aboriginal People and the primary job of the NAFC is to support the further development of the NAFC. We have to be careful with the language we are attaching to the work that we are doing.

How do Friendship Centres feel about doing that? We only exist at their good will. We are moving into jargon that is representing urban Aboriginal People and the primary job of the NAFC is to support the further development of the NAFC. We have to be careful with the language we are attaching to the work that we are doing.

How do Friendship Centres feel about doing that? We only exist at their good will to help them improve. We got the kit on the 12th or 13th of July and the minutes weren’t done. If they were done in 30 days like we’ve asked time and time again then we wouldn’t have these issues. We have to keep up administratively. What about a policy of engagement in the Friendship Centre Movement? One of the things that concerned us last year and still concerns us this year is the line in the press releases that states “democratically elected and accountable to the government of Canada”. You are accountable to us only, not the government of Canada.

Nelson Mayer, NAFC President: I still have yet to find a press release that states the accountability of the NAFC to the federal government of Canada. I would never approve that. The one’s I have looked at so far have not contained that.

Paul Lacerte, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC: This is my first time being able to speak from this floor so I want to acknowledge the traditional land on which this assembly is being held. I want to thank the Executive Committee and the national staff for the work that they do. I want to acknowledge the comment made on using the term “Aboriginal” and I agree with that wording needing to be identified. What I feel like as perfect or imperfect is that I’m so sick of being in a country where people think it’s ok and the violence against Indigenous women in this country needs to stop. This is something developed by youth, for youth and with content that is relevant to them. We have done a lot to learn from what happens in the Ontario region and we are genuinely interested in what happens in that region. I support evidence-based programs. Simple awareness campaigns to get men to speak up. I applaud and feel deep gratitude that we are doing something. We are being criticized and I don’t care what those people are saying. We have to stand up and be heard immediately and this is an emergency for me. I just want to say thank you for the leadership from our Board, Staff and Executive. It’s not OK for people to treat Indigenous women without love and respect.

Nelson Mayer, NAFC President: This is the forum for our movement to come and speak and say “this needs to change” and yes, we need to rebrand it and call it “Action for Indigenous Women”. There are regions with very different ideas of what we should be doing, as you mentioned. There is a mix of everything. Certainly we need to tighten up our administrative policies. We can fix these things like the minutes. We have discussed that with the Executive Director and Secretary for a process to be established. The minutes will be completed within 3 months of this meeting to allow the board time to speak on the issues at hand.

Edith Cloutier, Regroupement des centres d’amitié autochtone du Québec, QC: I feel very privileged to be standing here with you. I have been involved in this movement and I have seen it grow and face many challenges. I am very proud to be a part of this great organization. I want to commend Jeff on this report it is a great report. This has been a very challenging year and we have a challenging decade ahead. This has been a great challenge for everyone at the national level and I want to thank the NAFC staff and Board for getting this initiative going. I also agree with Sylvia, that there is a need to integrate the word “Indigenous” in this initiative. I was asked to be a spokesperson for this initiative and I truly believe we need to take action and get
involved. I’m at the frontline as an Executive Director and also a witness of all of the distress that can happen and see how families can be broken. The women that need all of the support to get out of violence. I don’t think what we did is bow down and get money; it’s about enhancing our services and doing what we have done for 60 years. We did not bow down for money; we just came out and spoke about what we wanted.

Garry McLean, The Indian & Metis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB: I want to echo the voices of Paul, Sylvia, and Edith. I have sent a letter to you and didn’t receive a response. I don’t blame anyone for that but myself for not being on top of that. We have tried to contact you and you didn’t respond. Any agreement that will happen in any province with another organization requires that the PTA must be contacted. With the women’s initiative, I have six (6) sisters and two (2) of them were killed by their husbands. My mom was also very abused by my dad for the first ten (10) years of their marriage. I also have 2 brothers that are still physically abusing their wives and mentally abusing them as well. We also know that Winnipeg has been in trouble, the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres (MAC) has been a 3rd party for a number of years now and it's tough to run a Friendship Centre and meet the needs. I have no difficulty with signing the agreements but I hope this doesn’t happen to another centre. We represent the Friendship Centre movement and somehow we have to reposition ourselves. So I ask each and every one of you to make those adjustments too.

Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: You use the phrase in press releases well into April. It exists on the website under “Who We Are” and even scarier it exists on the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) website. In the report on page 39 it says in the work that we are doing for Action for Women that we don’t have plans to delay our implementation yet we know other organizations have other plans. If it’s not about getting money than we have to create change.

Nelson Mayer, NAFC President: That will be removed from the NAFC website immediately. We have always taken the position that we represent services for urban Aboriginal people not the government.

Kelly Andersen, Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, ON: I also went to the TRC events and read that TRC report from front to back and I feel as an Aboriginal person that those recommendations will fall on deaf ears and I would like to know what plans the NAFC has to make sure those recommendations don’t fall through. I am a statistic. I talk about my story and I take every opportunity that I can. I also know that a lot of people look to blame other organizations and the government and other people, we have to stop passing the buck. If you see a woman getting pushed around, intervene. Thank you.

Nelson Mayer, NAFC President: We will not be silent on the follow-up of the TRC recommendations and we will pursue them. We will continue to move forward collectively. It may seem like we are not together but this body here has gone on and we continue to move forward.

Maxine Salopree, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB: I just wanted to comment on the minutes. They were very detailed and I want to thank you for doing that. I thank you for Jeff’s report and I really appreciate it. I want to comment more on the minutes. The by-laws state on page 15 & 16 there is nothing to say that there is a timeline for the minutes to be done in a certain amount of time. Is that something that needs to be done? Next year it’s going to be the same thing.

Nelson Mayer, NAFC President: The issue has been addressed with the Executive Director and Secretary and it may come into the by-laws in the future, but this will never happen again.
Motion #11: To accept the Executive Director’s Report as presented.

Moved: Jamie Linington, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB
Seconded: Maxine Salopree, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB

Carried unanimously

Announcements & Break

The following announcement was made before the NAFC 44th AGM broke for lunch:

- Procedures Committee will meet in the back briefly before lunch.

Roll Call by Province and Territory

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TOTAL Voting Delegates: 301
Quorum = 152

Procedures Committee Report

The Procedures Committee Chair, Kari Hutchison, read through the agenda for the afternoon of July 22, 2015 as follows:

- Roll Call
- Agenda
- National Negotiating Committee Report

Motion #12: To accept the Procedures Committee Report for the afternoon of July 22, 2015 as presented.

Moved: Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Lorne Mosionier, Brandon Friendship Centre, MB

Carried

National Negotiating Committee Report

The NAFC Chair invited the National Negotiating Committee (NNC) to present their report.

The Chair of the National Negotiating Committee, Sylvia Maracle asked the other members of the National Negotiating Committee to introduce themselves as follows:

Paul Lacerte, British Columbia
Adam Blanchard, Manitoba
Sylvia Maracle, Ontario
Tanya Sirois, Québec
Gwen Bear, Saskatchewan
Pamela Glode-Desrochers, Atlantic
Tyler Sayese, Youth

It was noted that Sandra Sutter, who represents Alberta sent her regrets.
We tabled a report with the assembly to transfer knowledge and skill sets among the movement. Having said that we have reported and you heard in both reports that the Executive Director did some unique things to arrive where we are. We will talk about our principled approach. We’re going to present a couple of slides by the numbers, current realities it’s called. Some of those authorities are running out. What our expected outcomes are and some proposals on how you get there. Last year we were clear in talking to the assembly that it is our intention to re-establish core-funding for the Friendship Centre Movement. What we had and what we have is not enough.

We experienced a variety of cuts and the issue as well as our principled approach is to develop the long-term capacity of the movement. It’s not good enough to just tell our story. It is not good enough to just share our successes on an individual-to-individual basis.

The first thing you are all aware of is that we are fully in election mode, whether the writ has dropped or not. In a normal renewal cycle you would have a treasury board in and around October but that is not happening. So we have timing issues for renewal. The Presidents & Executive Directors (P & ED) had a special meeting in Ottawa earlier in the year. The first thing to do is paint a picture around what we are trying to do. We have the NDP in a broad-based lead with a Conservative group relying on their home bases. It matters because that provides opportunity, new MP’s, new ministers and potentially new direction from that cabinet. One of the things we have noticed is it’s an environment of scarcity for organizations where there has been decreasing funding to organizations. Where people are challenging where they can get resources. It’s important to indicate that the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) has no new money in the system. This is exactly what existed in YCW and CCAY. The government of Canada held onto the equivalent of $10 million and their purpose for that is regional strategic planning.

Further to that what we have is the government of Canada demanding a regional strategic planning process and they are in the lead for it sometimes they have gone through PTA’s and something they have not. We are having long conversations about what they are doing with it. We have other organizations and both former councils and other national organizations who have received funding are all feeling those lack of resources. It was the CAP Daniel’s decision that requires the treatment of Métis and non-status Indians in a similar fashion to those who are status Indians. That puts a really big stress on the government to make it accessible broadly. It has legislative and program implications. So, the current situation we are in right now is this is the 2nd year of the 5-year agreement, $43 million in total, $23 million in CCS and $20 million in Urban Partnerships. One of the things that could happen is in 2016-17 we could have an offer without renewal of major component, UAS. That would bring us to $17 million mostly in CCS. A $26M decrease.

Scenario #2 is our expected outcome. The doomsday scenario is what we are trying to paint as unacceptable. That money is committed by contract with the government. That’s the worst possible outcome. That was the treasury board authorities from the old CCAY program. The indication we have had from our past engagement is that nobody has indicated to us that they are not intending to renew UAS. We haven’t engaged one person yet who has said, “we don’t intend to renew UAS”. From this dirt floor we wanted to talk about the process briefly. Once the election writ drops there are no treasury board meetings, which means they are not able to approve the full $43 million. We would normally put out our CCS calls prior to Christmas. We will be in an election prior to Christmas and will have a new government by then. Our negotiating committee thinks that the wisest path forward is to wait until 2016 to put out the call for proposals.

Scenario #3, since we don’t know the outcome of what the election will be, has us looking to not just renew but also increase the funding in this envelope. We cannot back away from that message. Now is the time to embrace the Friendship Centre Movement fully. We would increase to $50M. We renew the $43 million and they transfer the $7M back to us. Scenario #4
is an increase of $50M and beyond. We would do some reimagining and planning of what that future would look like.

There was a gap that would recover for 2016-2017. Since the beginning of 2015 there have been meetings with the NNC and directors and presidents and the best possible scenario would have us with a renewal however it’s been a very tough year and we worked really hard to get there. Now we have to prepare the next direction to take the negotiations beyond. We have to do an analysis since we don’t know what government we will have beyond the election. During the campaign there is work to be done and we will work to engage the political parties and commit to the NAFC to eventually facilitate renewal to the end of the year. We all have a collective responsibility to this renewal. You will be called upon to help with this campaign. There will be a lot of turnover so we need Executive Directors and Presidents to make presentations. Also you will be called upon to contribute and talk about success stories in your local communities. These are things we need to consider.

The negotiating committee really believes in the Friendship Centre Movement. We know what it means and have played with many scenarios to minimize the impact locally. We have been proactive with the engagement and decision makers and we will continue to do that work. We will continue to negotiate on your behalf. We will have to have quick meetings with quick turn around to meet that demand. I believe we have the strongest leveraging position of any organization in Canada and one of the biggest helps to us as a committee is having you work locally to engage with government officials. We are here to work on your behalf, there is no will to cut the funding and we will continue to advocate for you. I don’t think we will do any less than you do on the ground and we will work to minimalize the impact.

The floor was opened for comments and questions:

Andrea McLandress, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, AB: We’ve seen some other Aboriginal organizations talk about getting out the vote and showing where there is a number of ridings where Aboriginal people could actually sway the vote. Have we done anything like that within our organization? In terms of elections readiness. My second question is related to how we approach the federal parties in the lead up to the election. There are some questions that we could be asking the federal parties about funding and policy issues that affect our organization and our people. I’m speaking specifically about, say, the long form census, research, funding for programs not directly related to our funding, etc… have we asked these or is there a desire to?

Jeffrey Cyr, NAFC Executive Director: First of all, the NAFC has worked with various groups on getting the youth vote out and I would say it has had varying success rates. From a regional perspective some of the PTA’s have done that as well. As part of the Special President’s and Executive Director’s Meeting we put together an entire engagement package that we sent out through PTA’s or independent centres that included some strategic questions for engagement. My only personal take on that is to have an agreed upon approach on what we’re seeking from the government of Canada and not get into too many issues. We will be engaging the parties directly as we get coser to the writ date and talk about specifically this issue of renewal.

Andrea McLandress, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, AB: Is this something that will be public, or will it be something that remains quiet?

Jeffrey Cyr, NAFC Executive Director: I don’t think there is anything quiet about it per say, we will definitely be public about what we are seeking and I don’t think it will be a surprise to anybody.

Paul Lacerte, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC: I just want to highlight a couple of pieces from the document that NAFC sent out in regards to engagement tools. One really practical thing that we are encouraging and will continue to encourage is to hold all candidates forums in your areas. It is a real tangible way of making the
electoral process accessible to our people. There are materials that give examples on how to do that from the invitation letters to sample agendas and of course you are able to pose our questions when you are in that type of a context. It also is effective in getting people out. Elections Canada has made friends with some centres across Canada to act as polling stations and so I know that there are some folks in this room that have been engaged in that. One other comment about the politics, I hear this in the FCM all the time, are we political? In Indian Country that notion gets bent and misinterpreted on a regular basis. We are very political. Just being born Aboriginal makes you political. You have 7 different definitions on you and labels and legal cases. We are political. We are not partisan. It is written into our code that we are not a partisan organization, which means we do not publicly endorse any one political party but we engage in those process all of the time. I just want to reaffirm that.

Gene Jamieson, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, ON: There is two pieces that are happening here and you are asking us to speak from our level and we need to have one voice, what tools are we going to be provided with to do that?

Jeffrey Cyr, NAFC Executive Director: There is a lobby package available through the PTA’s that contains key messages and they aren’t very long.

Maeehgan Linklater, The Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB: We used the package and sent it out to our MP’s, it works and it’s easy peasy. Everyone should reach out and do these types of engagement. We’re under attack and the government has left the marriage. We still have our community to look after.

Paul Lacerte, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC: To me, there is a huge amount of urgency here. There is lots that has to happen when we leave here. Some of that falls on the PTA and many of our centres might not be staffed up at the beginning of this election. It is important to not forget the significance of social media. You can make a massive and important contribution to the FCM through social media. It will be on all of us to participate and press as hard as possible during this campaign.

Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: We are constructed as the National Negotiating Committee and currently before us is lots of opportunity for permanent funding for Friendship Centres. It’s not that we don’t do other work and we don’t have other hats but the very primary Friendship Centre issue is at least securing the $43M, but from there we really need to go to $50M and beyond.

Ella Mayer, High Prairie Native Friendship Centre, AB: One of the easiest ways to engage people if you haven’t before is develop a series of questions that are important to you and your region. The politicians are going to be knocking on doors. The one question that needs to be asked by the membership is, can this return to a permanent program with an increase?

Garry McLean, The Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB: I want to congratulate the NNC for doing a great job. The other question I have is for the other centres. How many of you sent your letters to MP’s? If you haven’t please do so before the election and right after, it’s up to us to educate the MP’s. If they get a letter from every Friendship Centre in Canada that’s a lot of education for them. The last election only 62% of Canadians voted, nevermind anishnabe numbers. We do affect 52 ridings and maybe we can affect more. We have lots of power. Make sure you have a polling station in your Friendship Centre and ask your members to vote. Miigwetch.

Motion #13: To accept the National Negotiations Committee Report as presented.

Moved: Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB
Seconded: Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC
Carried unanimously

Report from Elections Committee

The Chair of the Elections Committee, Carrie McGinn, introduced the rest of the Elections Committee as follows:

Pamela Ouart
Jeremy Smith
Warren Claremont
Yvonne Oshanyk
Janet Carriere

The Chair of the Elections Committee then read through the Terms of Reference for the Elections Committee.

Motion #14: To accept the Terms of Reference for the Elections Committee.
Moved: Annette Morgan, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC
Seconded: Tracy Cardinal, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB
Carried unanimously

Motion #15: To open nominations for the position of NAFC President
Moved: Jamie Livingston, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB
Seconded: Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC
Carried unanimously

Phyllis Chalifoux, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB nominated Nelson Mayer and Billy Lewis, Mi’kmaw Native Friendship Society, NS seconded the nomination.

Motion #16: To table nominations for the position of NAFC President
Moved: Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Tracy Cardinal, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB
Carried unanimously

The Chair read through the Terms of Reference for the position of NAFC Secretary.

Motion #17: To open nominations for the position of NAFC Secretary
Moved: Eric Klapatiuk, Quesnel Tillicum Society Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Joe Pintarics, Rae Edzo Friendship Centre, NT
Carried unanimously

Joe Pintarics, Rae Edzo Friendship Centre, NT nominated Mike McKenzie and Hailee Williams Hurdell, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB seconded the nomination.
Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, AB nominated Bill Mintram and Tyler Sayese, Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, SK seconded the nomination

**Motion #18:** To table nominations for the position of NAFC Secretary

**Moved:** Jamie Linington, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB
**Seconded:** Jessica Thompson, Hinton Friendship Centre Society, AB

Carried unanimously

The Chair then read through the Terms of Reference for the position of NAFC Youth Executive.

**Motion #19:** To open nominations for the position of NAFC Youth Executive

**Moved:** Tracy Cardinal, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB
**Seconded:** Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC

Carried unanimously

Heidi Dixon, St. John’s Native Friendship Centre, NL nominated Andrea Andersen and Kerri Johnston, The Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB seconded the nomination.

**Motion #20:** To table nominations for the position of NAFC Youth Executive

**Moved:** Tanika Chaboyer, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB
**Seconded:** Simiss Roan, Hinton Friendship Centre Society, AB

Carried unanimously

**Announcements & Adjournment**

The following announcements were made:

- AYC is having a meeting in room 117
- BC caucus on Thursday at lunch
- Winners from the TRC booth were: Marie Meawasige and Sheena Reed
- Procedures Committee meeting the back of the room tomorrow morning
- Pipe Ceremony will take place on Friday morning

The NAFC Secretary wished to recognize two new Friendship Centres that had joined the Friendship Centre Movement:

Under One Sky Inc. located in Fredericton, NB. A code of ethics plaque was accepted on their behalf by Pam Glode-Desrochers, Mi’kmaw Native Friendship Centre, NS.

Centre de développement communautaire autochtone à Montréal is located in Montreal, QC. A code of ethics plaque was accepted for them by staff Philippe Meilleur and Danika St-Laurent-Maheux.

The NAFC 44th AGM was adjourned for Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

**Thursday, July 23, 2015**

The Chair called the meeting to order and called on the Elders Joe and Esther Calder to offer an opening prayer.
Announcements

The Chair made the following announcements:

- I would like to make an announcement that as we sit here in this assembly there is a young man named Brad Firth who is running from Vancouver to Ottawa to raise awareness on issues of and as of right now he is in Saskatchewan and will be in Manitoba tomorrow so I am asking for everyone here to think about him as he works to protect mother nature.

Roll Call by Province and Territory

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TOTAL Voting Delegates: 299
Quorum = 151

Procedures Committee Report

The Procedures Committee Chair read through the proposed agenda for the day as follows:

- Roll Call
- Agenda
- Senate Report
- AYC Report
- UAKN Report
- Elections

Motion #21: To accept the Procedures Committee Report for the morning of July 23, 2015

Moved: Bronwyn Cowan, Qu’Appelle Valley Friendship Centre, SK
Seconded: Simiss Rowan, Hinton Friendship Centre Society, AB

Carried unanimously

Senate Report

The Chair of the NAFC AGM invited the NAFC Senators to come forward to present their report. The members of the NAFC Senate introduced themselves as follows:

- Marge White, British Columbia
- Helen Hudson-MacDonald, Northwest Territories
- Adeline Webber, Yukon
- Linda Boudreau-Semaganis, Alberta
- Ray Fox, Saskatchewan
- Winston McLeod, Manitoba
- Vera Pawis-Tabobondung, Ontario
- Dominique Rankin, Quebec
- Myrtle Banfield, Newfoundland
- Joan Glode, Nova Scotia
The Senate noted regrets on behalf of Adeline Webber, Yukon Representative, who had family commitments during this time. The Senate also wished to note that they had two inactive Senators, Roger Obanswin & Joan Glode and Senator Ray Fox was on a leave from the Senate until after the Federal Election in October. The NAFC Senate presented the following:

Good morning Delegates, Elders, Youth and Distinguished Guests:

Welcome to Brandon, Manitoba. Firstly we acknowledge the traditional territory of the people on whose land we are conducting the business of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). We give our heartfelt thanks to the Brandon Friendship Centre (BFC) and the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres (MAC) for so generously offering their services to host this year’s Annual General Meeting.

At our July 8, 2014 meeting held in Vancouver BC, the Senate agreed that a Strategic Planning session was essential to determine our role within the Friendship Centre Movement. Our choice to facilitate the session was Sylvia Maracle, OFIFC Executive Director and the meeting was set around her availability.

On February 11-12, 2015 we were privileged to be able to hold a Strategic Planning Session under the very capable facilitation of Sylvia Maracle who took us through some serious thinking. The Senate was interested in looking at a strategic planning that addressed our broader involvement in the Friendship Movement; a review of our roles; identify opportunities for future development and making contributions to the various levels of the Friendship Centre Movement.

We were asked to detail our expectations about the workshop process, share our reflection on why we became involved in Friendship Centres and why we continue to be involved. A number of specific outcomes of a plan were initially identified but all the information and elements of the plan were not able to be finalized. It is clear that this session will start a longer more in-depth process and input and information will be required to build a plan moving forward.

In our discussions we found that the role of the Senate needs to be reviewed and defined in a future looking context. It was viewed that the role must be more than ceremonial recognition and attendance at meetings. We found that involvement of each Senator is varied depending on the region. The role of a NAFC Senator must be defined in the framework of a local Centre, Provincial/Territorial Association, the NAFC corporate entity, the Aboriginal Youth Council and the larger community.

The NAFC Senate has taken two opportunities to begin to evaluate and review our role within the FCM. Through a process of reflecting on our engagement as Senators, our experience in participating in NAFC events, reviewing the vision statement and taking a principled approach in considering the needs and opportunities of the FCM, we have identified a number of goals, objectives and specific areas of strategic planning.

While the process has been initiated it is anticipated that it will take over the next year to conclude. The NAFC Senate is committed to ensuring that local FCs, PTA’s, NAFC and the AYC are all communicated with during this process. It is expected to conclude in an NAFC By-Law constitutional amendment.

At our last meeting held on June 8-9, 2015 in Toronto, ON, the Senate developed our Strategic Goals, Objectives and identified specific activities to each objective. They are as follows:

**Strategic Goals:**
- Transmission of history and knowledge of the FCM;
- Participation and engagement in support of the FCM;
- Improved communications;
• Improved integration, role clarity and building unity in the FCM

Strategic Objectives:
1. Increased Involvement in the transmission of the Spirit of the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM)
2. Increased Involvement in transmission of oral histories of the FCM
3. Increased engagement with youth to ensure the origins of the FCM are kept alive
4. Support for all levels of the FCM with respect to relationship building, social capital, establishing standards of performance and communications
5. Review of the existing structure and role of the Senate and identification of the relevant role of the Senate including the notion of a “Sober Second Thought” including identifying more consistent involvement
6. Provide directional support for the organizational history and cultural environment
7. Provide support to the FCM leadership

We have identified some of the specific Activities to each objective as follows:

Objective #1
• To share personal history of Senate involvement
• Specific communications tool created to transfer knowledge (picture/bio of each Senator)
• That a skills inventory be undertaken to define the expertise that the Senate members have to offer to the FCM
• That training be provided to the Senate members to ensure that they have expanded capacity to meet the roles prescribed to them

Objective #2
• Senators to be interviewed, digitally recorded and this documentation be made available to the FCM
• Senators encourage broader public relations materials, development and distribution
• Senators identify other knowledge holders to identify unique Friendship Centre experiences

Objective #3
• Senators attend meetings of the Aboriginal Youth Council
• Provide history of FCM
• Encourage good governance and respectful behaviour
• Promote Spirit of the FCM

Objective #4
• Succession planning
• Assist in relationship building with other like-minded groups
• Identify a role for the Senate in communications
• Assist in the establishment of the Standards of Performance

Objective #5
• That the Senate do a role expectation with their home territories
• That a role clarification exercise be held with the Senate
• That the proposed direction be shared with the NAFC, local Friendship Centres, the PTA’s and the Aboriginal Youth Council
• Draft a constitutional amendment for membership ratification
Objective #6

- That there be a clear distinction developed between traditional Elders/Knowledge keepers and the role of the NAFC Senate
- Becoming familiar with the NAFC bundle and able to transmit that knowledge to the FCM
- Identifying specific Elder support for the Senate, Board and the AYC
- Provide orientation and training for incoming Senators, Board of Directors, NAFC staff and the AYC

Objective #7

- The identification of specific longer term portfolio assignments for individual Senators
- Utilizing information obtained from the skills inventory and the history of individual Senators involvement, provide specific targeted support to the leadership

In completing our work and our proposed tasks at hand, we took the time to identify the following as our tentative work plan with proposed time lines:

October, 2015

- Senate meeting to complete, prioritize, identify expectations, identify vision, rework original draft vision as guiding principles


- consultation and drafting of Strategic Plan and by-law amendments

February, 2016 – March, 2016

- final draft, discussion with the NAFC Board of Directors

April, 2016

- Final Draft completed and ready for distribution to the FCM
- Final by-law amendments completed and ready for distribution to the FCM

July, 2016

- Present NAFC Senate’s Strategic Plan and proposed by-law amendments to AGM

We want to acknowledge the presence at our strategic planning sessions of Chris Sheppard, NAFC Vice President who is also the Executive committee member serving as our Liaison person. We were pleased to have AYC representatives Brandy Fekete and Mike McKenzie join us as well for the February, 2015 meeting.

At the February, 2015 meeting, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres hosted us to an evening of enjoyment where we were privileged to see the theatre production of *The Heart of Robin Hood*. Thank you, Sylvia for always being such a gracious hostess and to the OFIFC Board of Directors and their staff for their generosity in always making us feel very welcome.

The Friendship Centre Movement has gone through its’ first year under the new funding stream. The Senate spent a considerable amount of discussion and much concern was expressed about the Urban Aboriginal Strategy funding stream. Of course the main concern was around the make up of Adjudication panels around the country as it appeared the make up of the panels different in each region. Our main concern with the distribution of the funds was that each region remembers that our first and foremost responsibility is to our local Friendship Centres and the importance of keeping their doors open to provide the services to their clients. Some Senators were privileged to have participated on the Adjudication panel in their respective province. Senator Marge was privileged to have the opportunity to be a panel member in her
home Province of B.C. This was certainly a learning experience for her and Buzz Morrsiette her counterpart on the BCAAFC Elder Council.

We want to thank the NAFC national office in keeping communication open to the Senate. We are in receipt of the Communique/Bulletin from the Board of Directors following the board meetings and this has provided us with a lot of information.

As well we reviewed the proposed MOU from the University of Manitoba who host the National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. The Senate felt this would be a great partnership and opportunity to work together in a spirit of mutual benefit to the Friendship Centre Movement.

We want to congratulate Friendship Centres in this country who celebrated a special anniversary this year if it was for the 30\textsuperscript{th}, 40\textsuperscript{th}, 50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary for your Centre or you were able to celebrate the long commitment and dedication of an employee. The Senators would like to know when a special event takes place, we are cognizant of expenses to bring in your provincial Senator for special events, but some form of communication would be appreciated.

The Senate would like to acknowledge and offer our condolences to the Friendship Centre community of Geraldton, Ontario on the passing of Lloyd Michon on May 25, 2015. Lloyd was a First Nation and Elder from the Fort William First Nation who served his community and the nation with active service and a lifetime of volunteering for his people. In the late 1960’s Lloyd was very active in the Friendship Centre Movement and in 1972 was instrumental in the establishment of the Thunderbird Friendship Centre in Geraldton, Ontario. He served most recently as the President of the Friendship Centre and as the representative to the Board of Directors for the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC). As Senators we are happy to take on our rotating responsibility in attending NAFC Board of Directors quarterly meetings and the Presidents & Executive Directors forums. This allows us a chance to touch base with the board from all regions in this beautiful country of Canada.

At different times of the year we are called upon to participate in a meeting or an event. On May 12-13, 2015 a Special Presidents and Executive Directors Forum took place in Ottawa and Senators Vera and Marge were invited to join their meeting. The purpose of the forum was to engage with Parliamentarians in an effort to secure future funding at the federal level. So a series of meetings were arranged and the delegation met with MPs and Senators from their respective provinces. The feedback from the delegation was positive that most MP’s and Senators we met with were familiar and supportive of Friendship Centres. We encourage individual Friendship Centres to contact and invite your Member of Parliament to your Friendship Centre. The more your MP knows about your Centre the more likely they are prepared to provide support.

Last year we reported that the Senate accepted the nominations from Ontario and Alberta and this year we have the great honor of officially welcoming Vera Pawis Tabobondung and Linda Boudreau-Semaganis to the NAFC Senate. We welcome them both into our circle and look forward to their participation and wisdom. The Senate takes great pleasure in congratulating Mel Maracle for her 40 years of service to the Friendship Centre Movement. Mel has been a great support to the Senate and has done wonderful work ensuring that the hosts for NAFC AGMs are well supported. Mel we love and appreciate you.

In closing we want to acknowledge and express appreciation to the NAFC staff and to the Board of Directors for their commitment and dedication and willingness to leave family at home to look out for their extended NAFC family.

Following their presentation, NAFC Vice-President Chris Sheppard swore in new Senate members Vera Pawis-Tabobondung and Linda Boudreau Semanganis with a brief presentation.
The floor was opened for comments or questions and hearing none the agenda resumed.

Motion #22: To accept the NAFC Senate Report as presented.
Moved: Eric Klapaniuk, Quesnel Tillicum Society Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Garry McLean, The Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB
Carried unanimously

Aboriginal Youth Council Report

The Chair of the NAFC AGM invited the Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC) to come forward to present their report. The members of the AYC introduced themselves as follows:

Jessa Laight, President
Mike McKenzie, Vice President
Halle Williams-Hurdell, Secretary
Tyler Sayese, Treasurer
Andrea Andersen, Youth Executive
Karlee Wilson, British Columbia
Jessie Johnson, Alberta
Dakota Favel, Saskatchewan
Brandy Fekete, Manitoba
Desiree Hill, Ontario
Jessyca Thisdale, Quebec
Brittany Whynot, East
Shawn Gon, North

One of the portfolios the AYC holds is the 4R’s movement, which stands for: respect, reconciliation, relevance and reciprocity. By 2017, the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, the 4Rs hopes to have broadened the circle enough to reach over 3 million Canadians touched by the organizations we collectively represent to lever these relationships to transform the dialogue between our founding peoples from coast-to-coast and the settlers who have some to Canada from around the world. Our vision is that Canada’s 150th anniversary can serve as a major symbolic turning point in setting our shared path forward, marked by a range of activities that will reflect the 4Rs values of relevance, respect, reciprocity, relevance and reconciliation of all our traditions. The Representatives for the 4Rs from the NAFC are Jessie Johnson and Andrea Andersen. Jessie has been involved with the 4Rs since 2002 and she is a steering committee member and sits on other subcommittees within the steering committee. Andrea Andersen is also a steering committee member.

This is Our Canada Youth Retreat & Youth Forum

As a result of Jessie’s involvement with the 4Rs Steering Committee, she was invited to the “This is Our Canada Retreat” hosted by the John Humphrey’s Centre for Peace and Human Rights in Nordegg, AB. This experience was indirectly lined to her position on the AYC and the project was held in an effort to engage young people in a discussion of what it means to be Canadian and to share our diverse experiences and histories.

Youth Forum: July 19-21, 2015

The 26th National Youth Forum was held in Brandon, MB from July 19-21, 2015. The Forum utilized people with the Friendship Centre Movement to offer workshops, as well as some guests that were found through other Friendship Centre recommendations, some Manitoba
guests and Gathering our Voices inspired a few of the workshop choices. Featured workshops were presented by the following: The Aboriginal School of Dance, Nelson Tagoona, Labour Market Development, James Jones, Jeska Slater, the Youth Community Circle and Brandon University Photovoice Project, Sav Walkingbear, Senators Marjorie White, Vera Pawis-Tabobondung and Dominique Rankin

**National Table on Literacy and Essential Skills (NTALES)**

President Jessa Laight sits on this national literacy and essential skills table, she meets with NTALES once a month. The Canadian Literacy and Learning Network (CLLN), in partnership with Aboriginal community leaders and literacy experts, is an initiative to create a National Table for Aboriginal Literacy and Essential Skills (NTALES)

**Apathy is Boring**

The AYC continued to explore the partnership between Apathy is Boring and the AYC. Apathy is Boring joined the AYC at their Face-to-Face meeting in Toronto, ON. Apathy is Boring joined the AYC in January for their Face to Face to share their report and findings. Apathy is Boring travelled to GOV to put forth the third phase of their project and NAFC staff supported Apathy is Boring to coordinate their workshops at Gathering Our Voices. The AYC has addressed concerns to do with the manner in which research is conducted with the support of NAFC staff.

**Action for Women (A4W)**

The AYC was invited to take part in the design process by contributing input from their perspective. NAFC staff met with the AYC at their April Face to Face meeting in Ottawa to inform us bout the mobile platform. Atlantic Representative, Brittany Whynot has joined this content advisory board for A4WLlive and she looks forward to bringing more ideas forward form the AYC perspective. The AYC heard the concerns of the Assembly in the previous days activities and will be meeting to discuss and address these concerns.

**Acknowledgements**

- We are very appreciative to have a complete AYC with all seats filled;
- We would also like to express gratitude to all the former members who sat on the AYC for their hard work and dedication;
- We would like to thank Brian Jackson for his contributions to the AYC and for his continues vested interest in the AYC’s health and well-being. We would like to formally congratulate him and his wife for the arrival of their son Jack;
- We would like to thank our new staff person, Ruby Clifford for her passion and interest in the AYC and for helping us find better ways to work together;
- We would like to extend gratitude to the NAFC staff and Friendship Centre Movement for their support of the AYC and for all of their efforts towards the administration, support and funding of AYC activities. We appreciate the patience given towards the AYC as we redevelop who we are and where we are going;
- We are very thankful for the funding that NAFC has secured for the AYC, which has given a sense of stability as we develop our direction

**Closing Remarks**

- The AYC are considering new methodology for fundraising and are looking to develop a plan to stabilize their funding;
- The AYC are now embarking on the road to Strategic Planning, we have made time to get feedback from the youth membership at our Youth Forum and look forward to sharing their Strategic outlook with the Friendship Centre Movement;
• The AYC have renewed confidence in each other and as a whole, we have some communication tools that are under development that will be shared with the Friendship Centre Movement;
• The AYC have renewed confidence in each other and as a whole, we have some communication tools that are under development that will be shared with the Friendship Centre Movement that will give a voice to the Urban Aboriginal youth of Canada;
• The AYC is looking forward to further engaging with the Friendship Centre Movement as well as to further reach urban Aboriginal youth in Canada and beyond, part of this vision is derived from the above mentioned communication tools, such as PSA’s

Aboriginal Youth Council elections changes included:

**Tyler Sayese**, Vice-President  
**Brittany Whynot**, Treasurer

*The floor was opened for comments or questions:*

**Adam Blanchard, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB:** There is a youth council here from Dryden and I want to thank them for the bowtie they gave me. I also want to thank our youth council for all of their hard work, dedication and kind words.

**Darlene Ritchie, Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, ON:** Violence against women comes from other people and its important to understand that you as young people are the targets and most of the women who go missing are under the age of 30. For those of us who are mentors, aunts and moms, we need to understand that you are targets and when we send you off that you are at very high risk and we all need to have a safety plan. We cannot allow Canada to get away with this cultural genocide. It’s your dollars that you are handing out, if they went to their bank account they would have nothing. The crown lands only exist because of our fore fathers who refused to sell our land. It needs to be termed “Violence against Indigenous Women” because that’s what it is and you are the targets.

**Motion #23:** To accept the Aboriginal Youth Council report as presented.

**Moved:**  
**Garry McLean, The Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB**

**Seconded:**  
**Tanika Chaboyer, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB**

Carried unanimously

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**Elections Committee Report**

The NAFC Secretary put forward a motion for the slate of nominees the Board of Directors as follows:

Newfoundland/Labrador: Jennifer Helfer-Elson  
Nova Scotia: Pam Glode-Desrochers  
New Brunswick: Vacant  
Quebec: Tanya Sirois  
Ontario: Jaynane Burning-Fields  
Manitoba: Greg Fidler  
Saskatchewan: Ron Woytowich  
Alberta: Wally Sinclair  
British Columbia: Anna Horianopoulous  
NT/NU: Evelyn Krutko  
Yukon: Marney Paradis  
AYC Youth National Youth Representative: Jessa Laight
Motion #24: To accept the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors as presented.
Moved: Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Barb Ward-Burkitt, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, BC
Carried unanimously

Following the acceptance of the slate of nominees for the NAFC Board of Directors, 2015-2016 the elections committee resumed the elections process.

Motion #25: To re-open nominations for the position of NAFC President
Moved: Tanika Chaboyer, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB
Seconded: Bronwyn Cowan, Qu’Appelle Valley Friendship Centre, SK
Carried unanimously

The floor was opened for further nominations for the position of NAFC President and hearing none the agenda resumed.

Motion #26: To cease nominations for the position of NAFC President
Moved: Jamie Linington, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB
Seconded: Elizabeth Charles, Kikinahk Friendship Centre, SK
Carried unanimously

It was announced that Nelson Mayer was re-elected to the position of NAFC President by acclimation.

Motion #27: To re-open nominations for the position of NAFC Secretary
Moved: Jamie Linington, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB
Seconded: Kelly Anderson, Nishnawbe Gamik Friendship Centre, ON
Carried unanimously

Joe Pintarics, Rae Edzo Friendship Centre, NT nominated Eric Klapatiuk and Annette Morgan, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC seconded the nomination.

Motion #28: To close nominations for the position of NAFC Secretary
Moved: Arlene Twin, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, AB
Seconded: Martin Durocher, Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, SK
Carried unanimously

Following the close of nominations for the position of NAFC Secretary the NAFC 44th AGM broke for lunch.
### Roll Call by Province and Territory

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**TOTAL Voting Delegates: 285**

**Quorum = 143**

### Procedures Committee Report

The Procedures Committee Chair read through the proposed agenda for the remainder of the day as follows:

- Continuation of elections
- UAKN Report
- Resolutions Report

**Motion #29:** To accept the Procedures Committee Report for the afternoon of July 23, 2015

Moved: Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Robert Oshanyk, Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association, AB

Carried unanimously

### Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) Presentation

The NAFC Director of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) presented the following on the UAKN:

The UAKN is a research network with a focus on urban Aboriginal concerns our goal is to contribute to a better quality of life for Aboriginal peoples living in cities and town by filling knowledge gaps in urban Aboriginal research, programming and public policy.

**Defining Food Security for Urban Aboriginal People**

Community Impacts – Meeting Community Needs

One respondent noted: “I’ve been trying to eat, to life healthier and go back and to live a good life so glad I joined this, when I heard about this I was like ‘Yes, sign me up!’”

Key Findings:

- Food, culture and health are all linked;
- Three areas were identified as being pertinent to Indigenous food security;
  1. Growing, harvesting, preparing and eating cultural food as ceremony
  2. Cultural food as a part of connection to land through reciprocity and
  3. Re-learning Indigenous Food Security practices to address food insecurity;
- Second phase of research to “upskill” community members around cultural food

### Knowledge Mobilization

- Quarterly Newsletters
- Research Briefs
- Webinars
- Lunch and Learns
• Summary of Research
• Website
• CINSA 2016

The UAKN will be co-hosting a national conference next year, CINSA 2016 and we encourage you to attend the conference.

Each community that has research projects happening appears on the UAKN website on our new Demographic Update page. The front page of the website features this and has an option to click and download. We can continue to build on this in the future.

**National Research**

Service Delivery Project
- National Project Findings;
- Regional Projects;
- Final Report early 2016

**Legacy Project**

The Aboriginal Circle is working on a new project called the "Legacy Project" which will support 3-4 Friendship Centres to engage in community-driven research

The goal of the Legacy Project is to create something that communities “the people on the ground” can relate to, build upon and use in their work. This project is an opportunity to highlight the strength and resilience of Indigenous cultures and their role in Indigenous communities today. This project idea, much like the foundation of the UAKN, was formed out of the desire to do things differently, to break out of the box and look at alternative approaches.

Supporting NAFC’s vision for Research:
- Working to develop resources for Friendship Centres
- Using best practices and learning through UAKN in other projects
- Development of Research Policy for the NAFC
- Ultimate goal of achieving institutional eligibility from SSHRC and CIHR

Cathy is at the research booth and you can feel free to stop by and talk to her and get involved in the development of these tools.

*The floor was opened for comments or questions:*

**Unidentified speaker:** Will this PowerPoint be available on the website?

**Pam Ouart, UAKN Director:** I can make it available, yes.

**Andrea McLandress, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, AB:** There’s an organization at the University of Calgary Institute of Public Health called GRAPH (Group for Research with Aboriginal Peoples Health) and what they do is advise researchers on how to work respectfully with Aboriginal communities and do a lot of what we are talking about here. The thing that comes to my mind is would there be benefit to our Friendship Centre developing some kind an MOU or partnership with that organization and then together we would apply for some of this funding?

**Pam Ouart, UAKN Director:** Yes, potentially. I will definitely look them up and I can make contact with them to see if there are opportunities for us to work together.
Motion #30: To accept the UAKN presentation as presented.

Moved: Alfred Lea, Riverton & District Friendship Centre, MB
Seconded: Ember Starr, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB

Carried

Resolutions Report

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee read the terms of reference for the committee and introduced Resolution #15-01 as follows:

RESOLUTION #15 – 01

Subject: Hosting of NAFC AGM

WHEREAS: The 2016 AGM will be the 45th AGM;

AND WHEREAS: Each prior assembly has been hosted by a local Friendship Centre;

AND WHEREAS: Hosting an Assembly makes the experience of the Member Centres and PTA much richer, and is more consistent with our cultural values, and provides opportunities for the Centre which acts as host;

AND WHEREAS: There has been a suggestion circulated that the NAFC may contract with a body other than a Friendship Centre to act as “host” for one or more future assemblies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That all assemblies of the NAFC be hosted by a local Friendship Centre (or if no local Centre is willing that the NAFC shall be the host);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the location and dates of each Assembly be selected, if practicable, two years in advance;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED: That there be established a regular rotation of the PTA/area from which each AGA will be held (subject to application by other Friendship Centres to host a specific AGA)

MOVED BY: Garry McLean, Indian & Metis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB
SECONDED BY: Lorne Moisionier, Brandon Friendship Centre, MB

The floor was opened for comments or questions:

Sheena Reed, Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre, MB: I am speaking in favour of the resolution, I think it is important that we continue to keep our meetings as being hosted by ourselves. I know that the NAFC is there to help us and I would like to point out that it doesn’t have to be held in a huge city. I think everyone should consider hosting one as long as you put some thought and expertise into it. Thank you.
Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: I’m just curious about the rotation of the PTA area. Does it mean that we should be regularly rotating through the provinces and territories where there are Friendship Centres? Perhaps we should say that because a PTA is a Provincial Territorial Association, this describes that a Friendship Centre should be the host, not a PTA, so if you are talking about provinces and territories, that is what you should say instead of PTA. Change the wording to “PTA/area” to “province/territory” and add PTA to the possible host of the AGM.

Ella Mayer, High Prairie Native Friendship Centre, AB: What happens if a PTA wants to host?

Garry McLean, Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB: I didn’t even think of that. I wouldn’t have a problem adding that as a friendly amendment.

Maxine Salopree, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB: I’m wondering about the part that says “there has been a suggestion circulating that the NAFC may contract with a body, other than the Friendship Centre, to act as host for one or more future assemblies”. Now the way I understand this is, the NAFC could contract with MMF or MNA? Who would they be contracting with other than a Friendship Centre?

David Gray, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB: Yes, the way I understand it is that they might have an opportunity to host it.

Maxine Salopree, Canadian Native Friendship Centre, AB: I just want to be clear, unless I am completely misreading this.

David Gray, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB: I believe it to be that another agency outside of the FCM can be contracted to host the AGM and that’s the reason for this particular resolution, to prevent that from happening.

Kelly Anderson, Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, ON: I’m just looking for clarification of the part that says “whereas the 2016 AGM will be the 45th AGM” and then down below it, it takes about an AGA, so is it an AGM or an AGA?

David Gray, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB: We can make the change to say AGM instead of AGA.

Following discussion from the floor, the following amended Resolution #15-01 was proposed:

RESOLUTION #15 – 01

Subject: Hosting of NAFC AGM

WHEREAS: The NAFC must hold an AGM annually;

AND WHEREAS: Each prior meeting has been hosted by a local Friendship Centre;

AND WHEREAS: Hosting a meeting makes the experience of the Member Centres and PTA much richer, and is more consistent with our cultural values, and provides opportunities for the Centre which acts as host;

AND WHEREAS: There has been a suggestion circulated that the NAFC may contract with a body other than a Friendship Centre to act as “host” for one or more future assemblies;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That all assemblies of the NAFC be hosted by a local Friendship Centre or PTA (or if no local Centre is willing that the NAFC shall be the host);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the location and dates of each Assembly be selected, if practicable, two years in advance;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED: That there be established a regular rotation of the province or territory from which each AGM will be held (subject to application by other Friendship Centres to host a specific AGM)

MOVED BY: Garry McLean, Indian & Metis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB
SECONDED BY: Lorne Moisionier, Brandon Friendship Centre, MB

Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: Sorry, the more you read this aloud, the less it makes sense. The first whereas should read “whereas the NAFC must hold an AGM annually”. This isn’t just about 2016, it’s about the pattern. In regards to the issue of who could possibly host, listen, there are any number of suggestions and rumors that circulate on the floor but I’ve never seen a resolution that speaks to it. I would suggest that it’s really to the far right of professional. So I would delete that whole whereas.

Motion #31: To accept Resolution #15-01 as amended.
Moved: Garry McLean, Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg
Seconded: Lorne Moisionier, Brandon Native Friendship Centre, MB
Carried unanimously

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee asked the assembly to table the remainder of the Resolutions process as the Elections Committee had returned to the room.

RESOLUTION #15 – 02

Subject: National Protocol

WHEREAS: The Friendship Centre Movement is a National Movement, encompassing every province and territory in Canada;

AND WHEREAS: The scope and work of the NAFC may require Provincial coordination and effort outside of the Nation’s Capital Region.

AND WHEREAS: Friendship Centres and PTA’s within Provinces and Territories have ongoing work, expertise, and partnerships with many organizations, governments, and other agencies.

AND WHEREAS: From time to time, the NAFC will be required to engage in the Communities and Cities inhabited by our Friendship Centres and PTA’s.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a protocol for the NAFC, or any of its executive officers or staff, attending, negotiating, contracting or engaging in a partnership with any agency or organization or engaging in a partnership with any agency for the provision of service to the
NAFC of the delivery of services to urban Aboriginal people be established by the Board not later than November 1, 2015 and be distributed to each Friendship Centre and PTA not later than December 31, 2015; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:**

That such protocol provide, at minimum:

a. That before entering into any such agreement that the NAFC provide notice, in writing, to any PTA, and any Friendship Centre which is located in the city or town in which the service is being provided or which provides service to that locale, of the nature of the service required, the resources available to perform same, and the parties with whom it is intended negotiations will occur as soon as practicable and, in any event, not less than 7 days before engaging in any discussions;

b. That if capacity exists within the Friendship Centre, and it is willing to undertake the service, preference will be given to the Friendship Centre to provide the service and if the Friendship Centre is not able or willing if capacity exists within the PTA, and it is willing to provide the service;

c. That in any negotiation in which the PTA and the local Friendship Centres are unable or unwilling to provide the service each shall be invited to participate in the negotiations and the decision as to who will be the service provider; and

d. That no contract will be entered into without agreements by the PTA and approval by the Board of Directors of the NAFC.

**MOVED BY:**
Muriel Parker, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB

**SECONDED BY:**
Susie Secord, Dauphin Friendship Centre, MB

*The floor was opened for comments or questions:*

**Kelly Anderson, Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, ON:** I have a question about d in the last part, all of the other ones talk about the local centres but d only references the PTA, wouldn’t the local centres also be part of that agreement?

**David Gray, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB:** Sure, are the mover and seconder ok with adding that into the last clause?

**Muriel Parker, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB:** Yes

**Paul Lacerte, British Columbia Association of Friendship Centres, BC:** I’m a bit confused about this resolution. It says here it is using protocol language and directs the NAFC on engaging in partnerships so it’s actually speaking to two different things. To me, partnerships speaks to relationship building and engagement and then there is all sorts of language here around contracting. I believe that those are administrative matters and I don’t think administrative matters belong in the context of resolutions from the floor of this assembly. Though I do believe that relationship building does so an example that came into my mind was this discussion we just had about the AGM’s and that the NAFC would contract with a host hotel. Is it the intention of this resolution to instruct the NAFC needs to, in every instance, engage in any sort of service agreement, that there would be a right of first refusal? And that in every one of those engagements that the PTA and local centre would need to be engaged first before entering those agreements? If that is the case, it is cumbersome but I am looking for clarification.
The Elections Committee re-entered the room at this time and the Resolutions Report was tabled.

Motion #32: To table the resolutions process.

Moved: Kelly Benning, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, AB
Seconded: Rowena Herana, Selkirk Friendship Centre, MB

Carried unanimously

Elections Committee Report

The Elections Committee returned to the NAFC assembly hall and announced that Bill Mintram was re-elected to the position of NAFC Secretary.

Motion #33: To destroy the ballots for the position of NAFC Secretary

Moved: Brent Kozub, Riverton & District Friendship Centre, MB
Seconded: Richard Samuel, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC

Carried unanimously

The Chair of the Elections Committee asked for a motion to re-open nominations for the position of Youth Executive.

Motion #34: To re-open nominations for the position of NAFC Youth Executive

Moved: Bronwyn Cowan, Qu’Appelle Valley Friendship Centre, SK
Seconded: Jessica Thompson, Hinton Friendship Centre Society, AB

Carried unanimously

The Chair of the Elections Committee noted the standing nomination for NAFC Youth Executive, Andrea Andersen and opened the floor for further nominations:

Paul Lacerte, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC nominated Eric Klapatiuk and Annette Morgan, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC seconded the nomination.

The Chair of the Elections Committee asked Eric Klapatiuk if he would like his name to stand for the position of Youth Executive. Eric accepted.

Motion #35: To close nominations for the position of NAFC Youth Executive

Moved: Brittany Whynot, Mi’kmaw Native Friendship Society, NS
Seconded: Leo Kruger, Ooknakane Friendship Centre, BC

Carried unanimously

Announcements & Awards

Nelson Mayer Award Recipient Winner: Stephanie Keeash, Dryden Native Friendship Centre

Most Active Youth Award: Kerri Johnson, Indian & Metis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg
The NAFC President then came forward to present the 2015 Centres of Excellence Award (in no specific order)

**Centres of Excellence Award Recipients:**
- Labrador Friendship Centre
- Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre
- Centre d’amitié autochtone du Lanaudiere
- Hamilton Regional Indian Friendship Centre
- Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Prince Albert
- Sagitawa Friendship Centre
- Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre
- Uncle Gabe’s Friendship Centre
- Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre

**The Top Six Friendship Centres:**
- Dauphin Friendship Centre
- Mi’kmaw Native Friendship Centre
- Centre d’amitié autochtone du Saguenay
- Wachiay
- North Bay Indian Friendship Centre
- La Loche Friendship Centre

*The NAFC President wished to acknowledge that the Brandon Friendship Centre will also receive a Centre of Excellence Award for it’s outstanding job in hosting this year’s AGM.*

**Elections Committee Report**

The Elections Committee re-entered the room and the Chair of the committee announced that Andrea Andersen had been re-elected to the position of Youth Executive.

**Motion #36:** To destroy the ballots for the position of NAFC Youth Executive

**Moved:** Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC  
**Seconded:** Donna Soles, Indian & Metis Friendship Centre of Prince Albert, SK  
Carried unanimously

**Announcements**

The NAFC Chair noted the following announcements:
- The Sweat had to be cancelled
- Procedures committee needs to meet in the back corner of the room
- PEKE Committee meeting will take place immediately following the conclusion of the meeting for the day.

The NAFC 44th AGM was adjourned for Thursday, July 23, 2015.

**Friday, July 24, 2015**

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the Elder to offer the opening prayer.
Roll Call by Province and Territory

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TOTAL Voting Delegates: 294

Quorum for resolutions was noted as: 196 (2/3 - two thirds)

Procedures Committee Report

The Chair of the Procedures Committee announced that she would be leaving early to catch her flight and read through the proposed agenda for the day as follows:

- Roll Call
- Agenda
- Senate Statement
- Resolutions Report
- Remaining Awards
- NAFC Strategic Plan
- Proposed Amendments
- New Business
- Unfinished Business
- Closing & Adjournment

Motion #37: To approve the Procedures Committee Report for the morning of July 24, 2015

Moved: Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC
Seconded: Lorne Moisionier, Brandon Friendship Centre, MB

Carried unanimously

Senate Statement

It has come to our attention that one of our youth has been treated in a disrespectful way by one of our adult delegates. As they are our future and the future of the Friendship Centre Movement it is our duty to make sure that everyone feels safe and supported at all times. This is one of our most sacred teachings. Words are medicine and we must be careful to use that medicine to lift each other up and not bring each other down. We are reminding each of you how important you are to one another. Each and every one of you is sacred and you must continue to treat each other. As Senators we are committed to making ourselves available to make others feel safe and provided with guidance.

We would like to propose the following motion:

Motion #38: That a separate room be available at all future Annual General Meetings of the NAFC for private discussions and safe conversations

Moved: NAFC Senate
Seconded: Lorne Moisionier, Brandon Friendship Centre, MB

Carried unanimously
Awards

- Winner of Brandon Friendship Centre 50/50: Sarah Mowat
- Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON presented the Groovy Delegate Award to Gene Jamieson,

Resolutions Report

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee read through the amended version of Resolution #15-02 and asked for the motion to be voted on:

Motion #39: To accept Resolution #15-02 as amended.
 Moved: Muriel Parker, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB
 Seconded: Susie Secord, Dauphin Friendship Centre, MB
 In Favor: 48
 Opposed: 206
 Abstentions: 3

Defeated

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee introduced Resolution #14-05:

RESOLUTION #14-05

Subject: Terms of Reference and Funding Agreement Double Indemnification Clause

WHEREAS: A new funding arrangement model has been jointly developed by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the NAFC to supply core operational funds to NAFC FCM members,

AND WHEREAS: The said funds are identified as the Community Capacity Support (CCS) Program, a stream under the Urban Aboriginal Strategy,

AND WHEREAS: The CCS funding agreement model contains “Terms and Conditions” clauses for the signers to respect and agree to,

AND WHEREAS: Paragraph #5, CCS Agreement ‘Terms and Conditions’ states “The recipient shall save harmless and indemnify the PTA…….”

THEREFORE BE That future programs terms of reference and funding agreements negotiated by the NAFC contain a ‘double indemnity’ clause stating “All signing parties shall save harmless and fully indemnify one another…..”

MOVED BY: Glen Waskewitch, Rocky Native Friendship Centre, AB
SECONDED BY: Roland Cotton, Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Centre, AB

Ella Mayer, High Prairie Native Friendship Centre, AB: Glen was not in the room last year and that is why this was tabled to this years AGM. The resolution should have been thrown out last year.
Muriel Parker, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB: This is a dead motion.

**Motion #40:** To remove the motion from the floor.

**Moved:** Kari Hutchison, Victoria Native Friendship Centres, BC

**Seconded:** Jessica Thompson, Hinton Friendship Society, AB

**Carried**

**NAFC Strategic Plan Presentation**

The NAFC Vice-President introduced the NAFC Strategic Plan and presented the following:

The NAFC is working on their own Strategic Plan and it will end with some goals and initiatives and we would like some input from the regions. It had been previously sent out to the regions for their input. This is the last strategic plan from 2010-2015.

**Goal One: To solidify growth and sustainability of the Friendship Centres, Provincial – Territorial Associations as members of the NAFC,**

**Objectives:**
- Developing, nurturing and maintaining strategic partnerships
- To partner with governments, for profits, not for profits, and other like minded organizations, to actively and successfully capitalize on all funding opportunities when appropriate to ensure urban Indigenous people have access to programs and services that enhanced quality of life and that respects and strengthens the increasing emphasis on Indigenous cultural distinctiveness.
- Highlight best practices within Friendship Centres that can be showcased to the general public, government funders and partners to promote Friendship Centres as premier delivery organizations for urban Indigenous people
- Recognising best practices in the area of social enterprise/social economy and developing own source revenues that exist throughout the FCM, the NAFC should develop and encourage other FCs to pursue and provide resources when available
- To continue to provide support and training to youth as leaders in all aspects of the Friendship Centre Movement.
- Continue to educate and raise awareness of urban Indigenous people, communities and the role that Friendship Centres play within the urban environment
- To enhance communication with the Friendship Centre Movement, through the development and implementation of mechanisms for relevant, timely and reciprocal communication.
- Engaging in ongoing evaluation of NAFC programs and activities.
- Adhering to generally accepted operational procedures, as well as working towards optimal operational efficiency.
- Supporting NAFC governance structures.

**Goal Two: To ensure and support the success of urban Indigenous communities, by:**

**Objectives:**
- Supporting Friendship Centres in their roles as leaders in urban Indigenous program and service delivery.
- Supporting the development and delivery of culturally responsive programs and services.
- Supporting programs and strategies aimed at ending violence against Indigenous women and girls.
• Supporting programs and strategies aimed at improving the economic prosperity of urban Indigenous individuals, families and communities.
• Supporting programs and strategies aimed at urban Indigenous youth.
• Supporting programs and strategies aimed at ensuring ease of mobility by those moving to and between urban centers.
• Working with partners and stakeholders
• Promoting Friendship Centres as the principle gathering place in urban Indigenous communities.

Goal Three: To be a leader in the field of urban Indigenous research and policy by:

Objectives:
• Identify and implement a formal consultation process with the Friendship Centre Movement to ensure consistent policy approaches.
• Lead the development and implementation of policies and policy approaches relevant to the urban Indigenous population.
• Engage with the United Nations and other International organizations and initiatives when advantageous to the Friendship Centre Movement.
• Supporting and facilitating community driven research that is ethical and aligned with community protocols and priorities, which includes supporting Indigenous approaches to research and Indigenous researchers.
• Supporting existing community capacity and developing new community capacity to undertake or participate in research.
• Increasing the capacity of researchers to ethically engage in community driven research that is grounded in the principles of respect, reciprocity, relevance, and responsibility.
• Engaging in innovative, accessible, and relevant knowledge mobilization and translation activities.

The floor was opened for comments or questions:

Andrea McLandress, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, AB: In Calgary we have gas and mining and we see a lot of interest from corporations that invest financial support where they have mines, wells and pipelines. We want them to understand that having partnerships with us is beneficial to them. What can you guys do to help us at that higher level to build that locally and regionally?

Chris Sheppard, NAFC Vice-President: A lot of the time with specific engagements we would see what other regions in your area are doing and I would say that you could also contact the office of your PTA. That would be a good place to start.

Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON: We did provide some input and we talked about being worried about drifting. Nothing would happen to this paper if you removed under the first page “our mission is to improve”. That is the Friendship Centres mission. I don’t care what is stated, it needs to be changed. The NAFC’s mission is to support Friendship Centres in all of it’s aspects. The paper actually reads better if you begin with the paragraph on page 2. So if you get rid of that first bit that would be happy for us. In your SWAT analysis you said you were the largest service delivery organization in the world and I’m sure someone was proud of that but they were very, very incorrect. We are not bigger than the YMCA and we are not bigger than the United Way. Let’s be honest about that.

Our next comment is with respect to strategic goal #1; really it should be to support Friendship Centres and again we are drifting and it’s a dangerous drift. Having said that, in goal #2 you actually say that your first objective is to support Friendship Centres in their role as leaders in urban Aboriginal communities and then you proceed to take programming away. You should really make it a list under that. The list should be “supporting program and service delivery in the
delivery of culturally responsive programs aimed at ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls and supporting projects aimed at Aboriginal men and boys also experiencing less violence." You see what I mean? Get rid of all the supporting because it looks like your taking the power back away from the Centres and you’re not, you’re promoting this. The last two would be separate. The purpose of this paper is to create a strategic plan and you need to ask yourself every time, is this enhancing us or the Friendship Centres? We just help with the support of money, policies and training when we can but we don’t do their work.

**Philippe Meilleur, Montreal Native Community Development Centre, QC:** I just want to touch on the corporate social responsibilities opportunity. We think that if the NAFC is supposed to support Friendship Centres on the local level I know for certain that environmental issues are the main issue for many of our Centres. The social acceptability of what ever funding is flowing through what ever Centre could have an impact. We’ve seen it with the Action for Women campaign. Having a white list of businesses, or a black list of businesses might be a good idea. Something saying who is giving us money and where it is going, we have to do this kind of research before taking this money. There is a bench mark out there that can help us to make sure we do this appropriately because I think it’s a really, really slippery slope and the main thing that preoccupies me is, if we take money from oil and gas, some of our members won’t want to come in the Centre anymore and that’s really, really bad for us.

**David Acco, Montreal Native Community Development Centre, QC:** I want to contextualize my comment around the strategic plan. I said one of the reasons why I am on the Board is because of economic development. I’m an Aboriginal entrepreneur and one of the things which I am mandated to is to have 33% of my staff be of Aboriginal descent: Mélis, Inuit, First Nations living in urban centres. One of the things that I noticed about the strategic plan and I want to address the comment made for the urban Aboriginal because it’s very important to the strategic plan. Statistically 60% of Aboriginal people live in urban centres and a lot of the work being done is being done for businesses that operate in treaty territory. The thing about it is, what’s missing is the procurement policies. My experience has been with many of the major firms in Canada and their contribution is to buying tables, becoming members and supporting $20,000 support funds towards conferences and so on and so forth. What’s missing is the strong commitment around procurement policies around hiring Aboriginal businesses, putting set aside contracts, Aboriginal benefits requirements on contracting, etc… The other part of this equation is the employment equity side of it which is something that should be added to the strategic plan. Finally, what I would also like to say is there is partnerships that are available with the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business and Canadian Aboriginal Minorities Suppliers Council. It’s not just about entry level jobs or skill level jobs but it’s also about management positions. Putting Aboriginal people in management positions allows them to influence the buying and the selling of what happens inside corporate Canada.

**David Grey, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB:** One of the timeline items is that the draft strategic plan objectives were sent to PTA’s in July and Adam didn’t receive them. Now maybe it’s not quite there or I’m not sure how it was transmitted but certainly our process is that we discuss these as a group and sending it in July doesn’t give us much time because our next meeting is in September. Is there a process or timeline for that feedback set out somewhere?

**Chris Sheppard, NAFC Vice-President:** We sent it out three times. July was the 3rd time with all of the comments that we received. We sent it out in February, March and then again in July after we received the comments from other regions.

**David Grey, The Pas Friendship Centre, MB:** Is there a deadline for further comment?

**Chris Sheppard, NAFC Vice-President:** Well our goal and the reason we wanted to present it here was we felt that there were probably still more comments or clarification needed so what we will do is take these comments from the floor here and work on incorporating those messages. This still isn’t an actual strategic plan, it just gives you the goals and objectives.
Once we include the rest of the feedback and make sure that it’s clear that will again be sent out by our committee to make sure that everyone feels what needs to be in there is in there and then we can operationalize it.

**Larry Frost, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, ON:** I would just recommend that the Executive Directors, Presidents and youth council members meet once a year.

**Gene Jamieson, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, ON:** Thank you for sharing these plans with us, there was a large focus on youth and youth engagement in a previous plan and in this one it is kind of threaded into one of the other goals and is not it’s own goal anymore. Can you provide some context on why this happened?

**Chris Sheppard, NAFC Vice-President:** We did provide this to the youth council and they provided their direct input. If there was a strong will to have a youth specific goal then we would be very comfortable with it. Process-wise, when the last strategic plan was done it was in a time when we were doing a lot of work around engaging young people and I can see why that was a large portion of it at that time but now it seems to make more sense put in between goals.

**Gene Jamieson, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, ON:** Part of the strategic plan, especially around employability, has to include the youth council. One of the biggest challenges in working with them is that they want to reach out to Aboriginal youth as well because they see that as one of their strategic visions in corporate Canada. They say one of their biggest challenges is reaching youth so this is a missed opportunity in partnering with other organizations in urban centres.

**Jaynane Burning-Fields, NAFC Board of Directors, ON:** Can we just sort of make sure that we are concerned about communications, is there going to be another consultation? Because at what point are you looking for approval on the strategic plan itself?

**Chris Sheppard, NAFC Vice-President:** We will make sure we look at all the comments that come in today and we will incorporate them and make sure that we do send it out again. We have our next board meeting in October and by then we will have a draft that can be sent out prior to that.

**Eric Klapiatiuk, Quesnel Tillicum Society Native Friendship Centre, BC:** With the discussions for the strategic plan I just want to make a friendly reminder about a resolution that was passed in Whitehorse, I believe it was Resolution 12-01, passed by Cody Taylor and seconded by Andrea Landry. It was in regards to youth engagement in NAFC programs and governance. I just want to make that as a friendly reminder in regards to your discussions about the strategic plan.

**Chris Sheppard, NAFC Vice-President:** Thank you, noted.

**Motion #41:** To receive the information as provided and confirm the instructions the assembly has given you with respect to proceeding.

**Moved:** Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON

**Seconded:** Ella Mayer, High Prairie Friendship Centre, AB

Carried unanimously

The floor was opened for any unfinished business and hearing none the agenda resumed.
• The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres announced that it would be putting in a bid to host the 2016 AGM in Ontario.

**Motion #42:** To accept the intent of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres to host the 45th Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Friendship Centres.

Moved: Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON
Seconded: Sheila McMahon, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON

Carried unanimously

**Philippe Meilleur, Montreal Native Community Development Centre, QC:** I’m hesitating to present this motion as it’s a bit administrative but I will read you my motion. As always I want to thank the local community for allowing us to gather on our traditional land. This year is a historical year and for the first time the general consensus in the Canadian population is that Canada perpetuated a cultural genocide on our people and the real statement is that it was a genocide, plain and simple. Friendship Centres essentially provide services and response to the generational wounds that were inflicted on our communities. That being said, it is in my humble opinion that in tune with our missions we try address many of the TRC’s recommendations. In the short term we have just such an opportunity, the federal election. Time and time again we as Aboriginal peoples have watched our issues fall off the radar and interests of the general population, this year should be different and all the effort should be honoured by a vigorous and concerted effort to drive this election on our issues. Friendship Centres have the capacity and infrastructure to play in important role in shaping the landscape of this political cycle. We can be leaders and engage our people as well as non-Aboriginals to take action and vote and speak out about the lack of political engagements by political leaders. Our Presidents and Executive Directors can speak in the media with a clear and unified message that this election should be about reconciliation but only by specific actions taken by the future Canadian government. That being said, we propose the following:

**Motion #43:** That the NAFC support interested Friendship Centres to make the TRC’s recommendations the elections priority. As well as the media when a concerted that the TRC must be addressed by specific actions. These tools must be translated simultaneously.

Moved: Philippe Meilleur, Montreal Native Community Development Centre, QC
Seconded: Kelly Anderson, Nishnawbe Gamik Friendship Centre, ON

Carried unanimously

**Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB:** In looking at the Innovation Summit, the wording being used seems like we are being excluded. I’m not sure what the cost is and I cant be a sponsor, I’m not even sure if we’re the intended target but the wording that is being used online “the secondary venue is the museum and there is going to be an evening cocktail party this is an inclusive and very special cocktail event for dignitaries and sponsors” I’m not sure who or how or what the dignitaries are going to be or who is going to be invited to that very special event. If the intent is for local centres, PTA’s and NAFC to come together with government officials this makes me feel like I’m not part of that list. I don’t think that was the intent of the NAFC but I feel like I’m not on that list.

**Nelson Mayer, NAFC President:** My understanding is that this is not meant to be exclusive.

**Jeffrey Cyr, NAFC Executive Director:** Great question but the sum of that list hasn’t been developed yet. Its very interactive, the VIP cocktail reception is for the partners who want to
engage and none of that is open yet to register and there is no fixed cost yet. We are still in that planning phase and that will happen in the next 3-4 weeks. The whole event can only hold so we have to get our speakers in first. So I imagine half of the space will be opened up.

**Anita Campbell, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MB:** Is there a way for us to give a name or names of potential sponsors?

**Jeffrey Cyr, NAFC Executive Director:** Yes absolutely we can get that for you.

**Natasha McDonald, St. John’s Native Friendship Centre, NL:** The St. John’s Native Friendship Centre will be placing a bid to host the 2017 AGM.

**Philippe Meilleur, Montreal Native Community Development Centre, QC:** Montreal will be placing a bid to host the 2017 AGM as well.

**Garry McLean, Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, MB:** Winnipeg will be placing a bid on the 2018 AGM.

**Sheila McMahon, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, ON:** I’m glad the young lady brought up the Innovation Summit, we used to sit around before my time and there were times that people used to sit around and a resolution came to the floor that we would not conduct ourselves in that way. Looking at the summit it came forward that anything with the NAFC and with this summit there is alcohol. I really believe in my heart that we can conduct ourselves without drinking alcohol. I want to point that out since there was a resolution from this floor.

### Adjournment & Closing

**Motion #44:** Adjourn the NAFC 44th Annual General Meeting.

**Moved:** Chelsea Arsenault, Niagara Regional Native Centre, ON

**Seconded:** Rance Ratt, Kikinahk Friendship Centre, SK

Carried unanimously