

>>> BULLETIN <<<

3RD GATHERING OF INDIGENOUS YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

This bulletin was prepared by Véronique Picard



Maison pour la danse, Québec City, June 3-4 2024

With contributions of Percolab Coop, First Nations Youth Network of Québec-Labrador, New Pathways Foundation, Qarjuut Inuit Youth Council, Puamun Meshkenu, Mikana, Quebec Native Women, Wapikoni Mobile, Cree Nation Youth Council, Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec

1

- Collective vision
- Follow-up by the ministry
- Discussion blocs 1 & 2
 - Education
 - Mobilization
 - Challenges
- Discussion bloc 3
 - Collaboration and pitch!

THE PRINCIPLES

Three central principles have been named to guide our approach.

- 1. Shared leadership:** Co-construction of the schedule and discussions, host rotations.
- 2. Transparency:** Expenses are shared, with regular reporting.
- 3. Experimentation:** Exploration of new ways of doing and holding these meetings.

INTRODUCTION

The consultation measure comes from an initiative initially led by the SAJ. The desire to fully hand over leadership to Indigenous organizations so that they work together to bring this measure to life.

This meeting was co-organized by Percolab Coop (as the host), with the FNYNQL and the NPF which are part of the organizing circle.

The Youth Network Chair (YNC) has the role of documenting the meetings and the evolution of this measure.

2

- Governance and structure
 - Terms of reference
 - Renaming the measure
 - Centralizing the information
 - Mission and mode of operation
- What's next and feedbacks

THE COLLECTIVE VISION

COLLABORATIVE WORK THAT BECOMES INTUITIVE

"We make the pizza dough, and you put your ingredients in it. We want to create the opportunity for everyone to embark on this work dynamic, and for everyone to feel comfortable bringing their expertise to the table, for it to increase in value during the meetings." - Gabrielle, FNYNQL

SAFETY AND REPRESENTATION

- The consensus-building measure represents collective governance and co-creation.
- To ensure good collaboration, it is essential to create a comfortable and safe space, reflecting the values of Indigenous nations which promote gathering and sharing.
- All voices should be represented and each person can confidently discuss their experiences, challenges, strengths and methods of collaboration.

EXPERIENCE CONSENSUS-BUILDING UNDER 4 THEMES

The discussions were organized into 4 main categories. Everyone was invited to submit discussion topics based on these categories:

1. Sharing with others

- a. Sharing and discovery of projects, issues, solutions, practices.

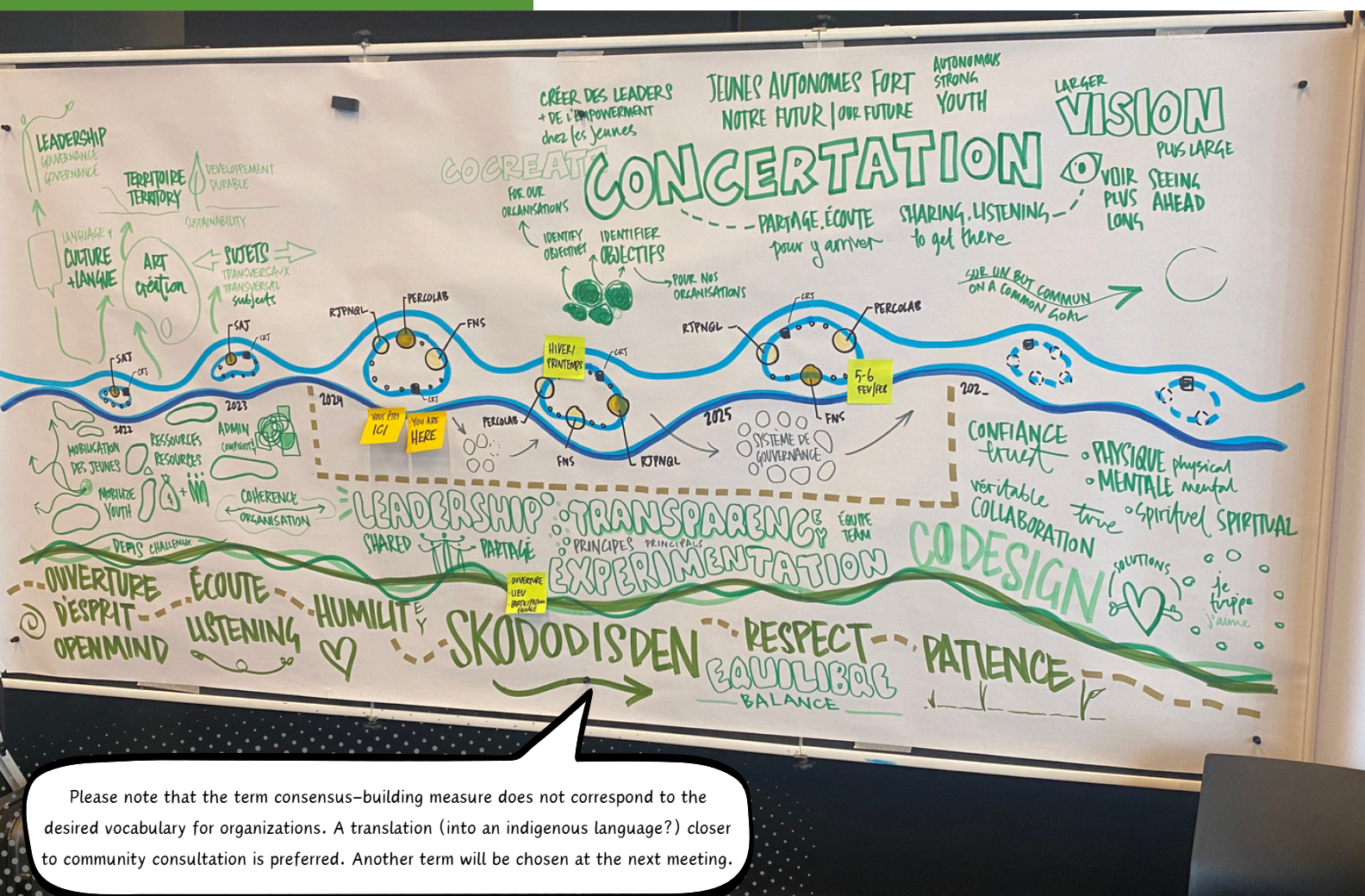
2. Collectively explore a topic

3. Create project collaborations

- a. There are budgets for collaborative projects between organizations.

4. Decide together

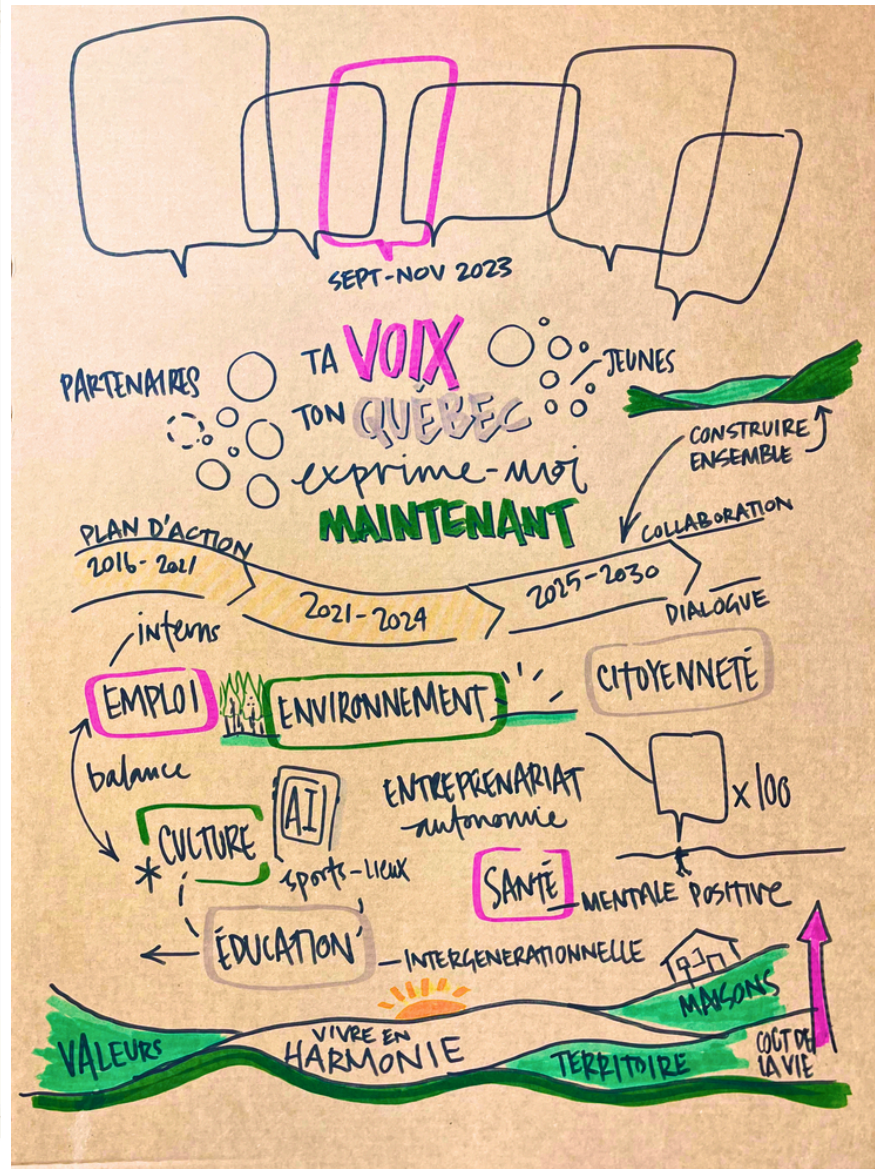
- a. Take strong voices, together.



FOLLOW-UP FROM THE MINISTRY

The afternoon of June 3 began with a recap from Annie Grand-Mourcel Brosseau, deputy minister of the SAJ, on the youth consultations that took place in Quebec. During these, several non-Indigenous youth mentioned the importance of drawing inspiration from Indigenous people in their values, especially in terms of environmental protection.

Concern was raised about the place given to ministerial representatives in these types of meeting, and the burden placed on Indigenous organizations and young people who must continually raise awareness at government levels.



CHANGE THE MINISTERIAL LANGUAGE TOWARDS AN INTERSECTIONAL VISION

"We are here in "consultation", there is a lot of work to be done to identify that things are intersectional – in the government framework, we like axes. But we must identify intersectionalities. For example, we applied to the Ministry of Women's Affairs - we bring projects out of the box (e.g. including men in projects), but we cannot execute them because you have to choose your precise axis - But culture for example strengthens employability. It's intersectional. To get things done, it's a labour of love. Many of us grew up together professionally, we're setting the table but not for us, for the future."

- Tania Richmond

DISCUSSION BLOCS 1 & 2

4

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

- Zyanya (QNW): We have a violence prevention project, a series of videos and a holistic guide to equip you with 2S-LGBTQ+ issues. A need for members to sit on the advisory committee.
- Gabrielle (FNYNQL): A questioning of the Quebec educational curriculum which is always based on falsehoods.
- Widia (Mikana): We are thinking about ensuring that in any project, we give back to young people. That Quebecers have a role in popular education. See to rebalancing power dynamics.
- Mathieu (NPF): We need more feedback from both sides.
- Valérie (SAJ): We must use consultation to optimize the voice of young people.

You [ministries] have a library in your hands...do your homework. There is so much writing, data, research, work done upstream.

- Jean-François Côté

MOBILIZING PROJECTS

- Jimmy (Mikana): Young people who get involved also have trauma. We had a retreat for the ambassadors. Our schedule was deconstructed and two Anishnabe women were in support, we had cultural activities.
- Caroline (Qarjuit): With our youth consultations, we develop new methodologies and mobilization strategies. We learn every time. We would like to share our learnings better.
- Émie (IDDPNQL): We want to decolonize governance and have a community plan to better include members. Open up to funkier ideas! There is no shortage of projects, but accessibility. Need a platform, a common calendar.
- Tania (CNYC): We need to take care of others and create physical spaces. The goal is not to reinvent the wheel, but to do things differently is refreshing! Have ways of doing things where decision-making power is concrete and tangible.

We will need each other in the future so we may as well start working together now.

- Tania Richmond

MOBILIZATION PRACTICES AND ISSUES

- Jay (Puamun Meshkenu): The over-solicitation always comes back, always the same young people involved. There are also the issues of competition for funding. We have to find things to share with others.
- Jimmy (Mikana): It would be good to have terms of reference for the measure.
- Tania (CNYC): The most impactful is bringing youth on the land, but financial issues come with the reality of offering this opportunity to youth.
- Alessia (NPF): Honouring our meetings, and therefore return in time, for the relationship. Youth are waiting for us, the recurrence fuels mobilization and support for our activities. The time invested leads the young person towards a recognition of their needs.

Young people can be tormented by their lives. It's not always easy to know your needs. We must help them to dream.

-Émie Rainville

Présentation:
Projets / Événement
Mikana à venir
(opportunités de collaboration)
→ webinaires publics
→ Mois du partage des savoirs
→ structuration partenariats
→ 2025: 10 ans Mikana !!
→ Programme mentorat

Widia
(Mikana)

TOPICS
sujets

PARTAGER LE FRAMEWORK
derrière les Consultations
jeunesses Inuit!
(bons coups, les apprentissages)
Geo

gouvernance
collective dans
nos actions
(this could've been a pink
post-it too. And orange.)

Notre
mission
collective
our state

aire globale
de gouvernance
expliquer la

DISCUSSION BLOC 3

>>> VALUATION OF PROJECTS AND DIVERSIFICATION OF FINANCING

- Henri (SAJ): At SAJ, there is a support program for and by indigenous youth. Financing up to \$50,000. The objective is to value and promote Indigenous projects.
- Tania (CNYC): There is competition in funding sources. It's expensive to invest in a young person. We must adapt to our realities. By project, it can be difficult.
- Jay (PM): It is easier to go to other sources if the GQ approves and promotes our more local, targeted initiatives. This reassures other funders.
- Caroline (Qarjuit): Having political support = more credibility for other organizations.
- Jimmy (Mikana): Put more energy towards participatory projects too. I am sure that many young people have ideas, but less experience. Give back power, empowerment with a certain framework to support them.
- Caroline: We have what we call "Action funding", it's government money that we redistribute to young people.

Money and aftercare are important for the success of projects. How do we take care of what we give back?

- Alessia De Salis

Following the discussions, many quickly expressed the need to establish a mode of operation and terms of reference to better identify the objectives and roles and responsibilities of the member organizations of this measure.

**"What is our collective mission?
You have to put on paper who does
what. You have to get out of here
and have a continuous plan."**



Diversification
des sources de
financement

Jay

Comouvoir et
valoriser les projets
jeunesse autochtone

SRPNJ-Henri

Valérie - SAJ

Jeunesse
autochtone
internationale
+
Youth World

Soutien équipe Rh/Organisme
santé mental terrain pour
jeunes en communauté
référencement entre organisations

RJPNO
Gabrielle

Utilisation de l'information
jeunesse
disponibles
recherche / Recherches
développement compétences
FAB

Tania

Gouvernance

Mikana

- How can our tools be used by others to alleviate the burden from one organization to another?
- Looking for co-narrations for webinars on topics proposed by ambassadors:
 - Realities of indigenous youth, cultural security, narrative sovereignty, subject to be determined (Fall 2024).
- Knowledge sharing: between ambassadors from different organizations for collective learning.
- Collaboration guide to better structure our partnerships and ensure that they are relevant for other organizations.

Wapikoni Mobile

- Our co-creation studios have been collaborative spaces since fall 2023. We aim for collective creations to explore new narrative forms. A flexible format according to needs. These are spontaneous applications.
- An example of a project: Digital storytelling on social networks as a form of advocacy with a group of young people from Wendake.
- We are looking for collaborations with organizations that already have their pool of participants in mind.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT PITCH!



Puamun Meshkenu

“Development of full potential” project. We often see the same young people, over-demand and the context of intergenerational trauma. Create spaces to think about this in 3 parts.

1. Meet, for introspection and positioning yourself
2. Develop themes, get informed and invite people to discuss
3. Inviting people to the territory, surpassing oneself, portaging, canoeing, etc.

Make projects over the year that are connected to knowledge and knowledge related to the seasons.

Qarjuit Inuit Council

An invitation to cultural exchanges between FN and Inuit (exchanges, learning of traditional medicines). It will be in Kangisqsualujjuaq, and there will be net fishing, among other things, for 3 days with young people and Elders from 14 villages. An open call to the people in the room!

CONSENSUS-BUILDING POLICY

What are the actions to make our ideas a reality?

"If we want to make big demands of the government, we must have a solid plan. The mission is essential. Why did we come here? Network, collaborate, be a collective voice in politics...? A networking space, a community of practice."

- Caroline Martel

"We've been in brainstorm mode for 3 years... let's make a calendar with clear actions and deadlines. A list of names with responsibilities. We must identify a platform and put there the information that already exists in our organizations"

- Tania Richmond

The FNYNQL could ensure follow-up every three months, in order to prepare objectives and build unity. Organizations must know their duties at future meetings.

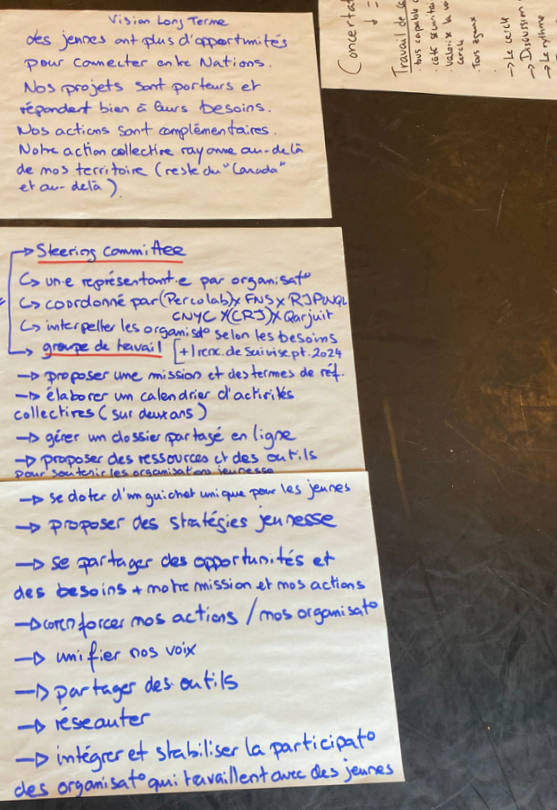
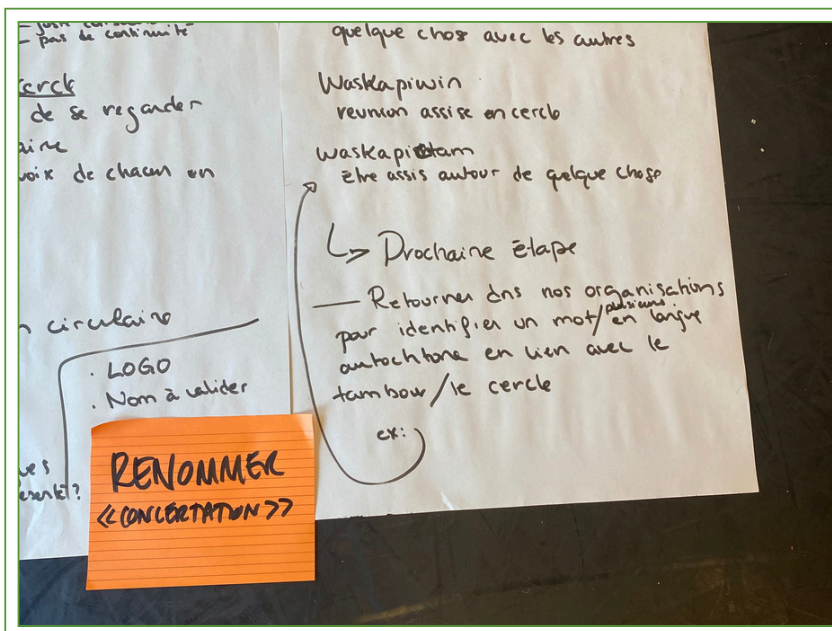
RENAMING THE MEASURE

Important points:

- Being in a circle: consensus, continuity and valorization
- Human approach and respect for each person's rhythms
- Indigenous languages: a more **purposeful image**

Some suggestions:

- Naskapowiw: We hold a circle, around something, together
- Waskapiwin: Gather, sit in a circle
- Waskapictam: Sitting around something



The next steps:

Percolab, CRJ, RJPNQL, Mikana: Coordinate the work to ensure the continuity and progression of this work

1. Caroline (Qarjuit) development advisor
2. Tania (CNYC) department coordinator
3. Percolab and CRJ: supporting roles

The long term: Puamun Meshkenu and Mikana to do informative, educational things, then Wapikoni can do the promotion.

CENTRALIZATION

- Create a platform that groups information into three levels:
 - Internal
 - For the youth
 - External
- That includes:
 - Calendar
 - Documentation and resources
 - Opportunities

SUGGESTION: A DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE... WITH A CONSULTANT AND FUNDING

MISSION AND MODES OF OPERATION

8

Proposals for the future...

Steering committee with representatives

- Propose a mission and terms of reference
- Create a calendar for the next 2 years
- Suggested resources and tools
- Establish needs, actions and deliverables
- Proposals for sharing and exchange strategies

Creation of the committee

- Ad hoc, nothing too heavy on the tasks
- Monthly meeting, the first in August

Communication

- Creation of a facebook group ([click here to join](#)). ✓
 - Put upcoming events, invitations, proposals, etc.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Next gatherings:

- November 19-21st, 2024, organized by the FNYNQL (an invitation will be sent)
- February 5-6th, 2025, organized by the New Pathways Foundation
- Considerations for the next gatherings:
 - Transportation options for CNYC and QYC (weekdays are better)
 - Block of 2 days and meetings of the steering committee afterwards
 - Be more clear and concrete in intentions and objectives (resource issues mobilized for 2+ days)



FEEDBACKS

9

Tshinashkumitin
Migwetc
Wela'lin

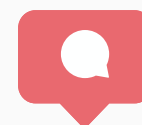
Meegwetch
Nia:wen
Woliwon

Tiawenhk
Tsheniskemeten
Nakurmik



THE STRONG POINTS

- *Graphic notes (fun and interactive)*
- *Space - other than hotel conference room*
- *Connect and Network*
- *Concrete proposals for actions and committees*
- *Sharing examples and challenges*
- *Flexibility of schedule and informal space*
- *Human approach*
- *Not too formal*
- *Humility*
- *The organizational collective as a leader*
- *The organic and non-rigid side*
- *Concrete thoughts*
- *Give everyone responsibilities (roles)*
- *Keep the memory*



POINTS TO ADJUST

- *Agenda and objectives of the meeting – need for more clarity*
- *Allocate time for everyone's work*
- *Two blocks, we want to participate in everything (in silos), how to come back together more in common*
- *No more feedback, refocus the information we exchanged.*
- *Ministry, we felt imposed on the agenda, they stayed for the blocks (employees of the ministries), surprise effect*
- *Perhaps find more thread for the methodology, e.g.: a free section and a more directed section*
- *Arrive with things but also leave with things*
- *Collect topics in advance*
- *More concrete way of exchanging contacts*
- *Management of time*
- *Music sharing, playlist*
- *Invitation model (it wasn't clear)*



POINTS OF PRIDE

- *Participate in creating something new*
- *Create space according to our needs and according to our expertise*
- *We leave with ambition*
- *Visual contributions*
- *Self-determination of Indigenous youth, by and for*
- *The sasquatch*
- *The generosity of the interventions*
- *Connection and relationships*
- *The beautiful team energy*

REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

10

Organizing circle :

Percolab Coop (Host) :

Samantha Slade: sam@percolab.com

Paul Messer: paul@percolab.com

First Nations Youth Network of Québec-Labrador:

Gabrielle Vachon-Laurent: dg@rjpnql.com

Katia Bacon: katia.bacon@rjpnql.com

New Pathways Foundation :

Mathieu Vallet: mvallet@nouveauxsentiers.com

Alessia De Salis: adesalis@nouveauxsentiers.com

Fabienne Gilbert: fgilbert@nouveauxsentiers.com

Documentation : Youth Research Chair, Indigenous stream

To view the raw notes and photos, click here

Natasha Blanchet-Cohen: natasha.blanchet-cohen@concordia.ca

Véronique Picard: crj.autochtones@concordia.ca

Alicia Ibarra-Lemay: aibarralemay@gmail.com

Christine Lussier

Organizations participating in the measure :

Cree Nation Youth Council:

Tania Richmond: tania.lariviere@cngov.ca

Alexander Moses: alexander.moses@cngov.ca

Quebec Native Women :

Zyanya López Meneses: zlmeneeses@faq-qnw.org

Mikana :

Widia Larivière: widia.lariviere@mikana.ca

Jimmy-Angel Bossum: jimmybossum@mikana.ca

Puamun Meshkenu

Jay Mathias-Launière: dg@puamun.com

Qarjuit Youth Council:

Caroline Martel: advisor@qarjuit.ca

RCAAQ

Jean-François Côté: jfcote@rcaaqaq.info

Secrétariat à la jeunesse Atikamekw :

Kosa Chilton (absent): kchilton@atikamekwsiipi.com

Wapikoni Mobile:

Véronique Rankin (absente): veroniquerankin@wapikoni.ca

Marie-Kristine Petiquay: mariekristine@wapikoni.ca

Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec

Valérie Picard-Lavoie: valerie.picard-lavoie@jeunesse.gouv.qc.ca