



**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 5, 2022**  
**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**  
**Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:** Tammy Tinney (Co-chair), NYGH; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Sue MacLennan, Aboriginal Legal Services; Richard Nathanson, Crown Attorney's Office; Tonya Passi, LAO; Andrew Wills; CHIRS; Christi Patterson, SolGen; Genieve Chin, Toronto Bail Program; Bradley Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Kyra Schrader, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Tanya Chin, Justice of the Peace

**Regrets:** Andrew Maclellan, Cota; John McInnes, Judiciary

**Call-in:** None

**Land Acknowledgement**

Tammy noted the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Approval of March 3, 2022 minutes**

The minutes of March 3, 2022 were approved by Christi and seconded by Sue.

**Review Action Items:**

Action items were reviewed and completed. It was noted that the Toronto Regional approved the NY-HSJCC 2022-2023 workplan and proposed budget.

**Co-chair position**

Discussion ensued regarding the vacant Co-chair position to replace Dina Zalkind. Sue MacLennan, Aboriginal Legal Services expressed interest.

Richard Nathanson nominated Sue, second by Tammy Tinney.

The committee members unanimously voted for Sue to be the NY-HSJCC Co-chair with Tammy. We appreciate your leadership Sue.

**Presentation:** Bradley Scarr, and Kyra Schrader from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Presentation slides will be circulated.

- There was a moment of silence to acknowledge National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- "Métis" means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
- MNO Secretariat - established a provincewide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario. Directed through eight branches, the MNO employs 300 + people located in 32 offices across Ontario. Link below:
- Offer Mental Health, Addiction and Community Wellness Programs.

[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)

MNO has Restorative Justice Indigenous Liaison Program – Individual can access the MNO Community Diversion Program as an alternative to traditional sentencing. It promotes conflict resolution and reintegration into communities.

The Justice Council is made up of Métis Elders, community members and professionals. The program can utilize in-house Métis --focused support programs. Catchment area: Peel Region, York Region and Durham Region.

Justice Liaison Program: can access legal information, assistance with understanding various court and tribunal processes, general information about the law, information about various court and tribunal forms. Does not provide legal advice.

Contact info: 1-800-263-4889 Ext 7 or email at [Justice@metisnation.org](mailto:Justice@metisnation.org)

Barriers to services were identified. They are:

1. Lack of involvement from courthouse staff
2. Communication barriers
3. Lack of referrals to MNO Programs
4. Lack of education on who Métis Peoples are
5. Lack of Métis specific programs
6. Lack of culturally relevant supports and services
7. Lack of connections/relationships within the human and social services sector
8. Need for additional cultural services (ex: Métis Gladue Writer, Métis-led mediation)
9. Mistrust of colonial systems, including the criminal justice system and court process (including mistrust of lawyers, courthouse staff, law enforcement, etc.)
10. Educational barriers (there is a lack of education and awareness regarding Métis rights in the CJS)

### **Themes discussed**

Diversion program requires a catchment, but other programs are available throughout the province. Does the MNO recognize the many 'self-proclaimed' Metis organizations such as in Nova Scotia? Why MNO is not serving the Toronto Region? Due to funding restrictions MNO is unable to serve Toronto Region. However, clients can choose who provides services to them i.e. Aboriginal Legal Services or MNO. Currently, they are working with Newmarket courthouse to develop protocols. Please note that there are twenty-eight thousand Métis living in Ontario.

Bradly and Kyra were thanked for the informative and insightful presentation.

### **Lunch and Learns**

- Domenica reported on the upcoming session on the Sentencing and Parole Project (SPP) taking place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. SPP is a non-profit organization that prepares enhanced pre-sentence reports (EPSRs) for Black people marginalized by poverty and racial inequality. Their work has built upon the use of the reports in Nova Scotia

- where they are ordered by the judiciary to assist with the sentencing of marginalized Black people. Presenter will be Faisal Mirza.
- The reports give judges and parole boards the information they need to make informed sentencing and release decisions. They include recommendations for culturally appropriate programs to assist with rehabilitation. The SPP also trains justice system participants about racism in the justice system.

### **Agency and Organization Updates**

How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your organization, sector and/or community? Service Coordination/Resolution Issues?

- Sue reported that the Aboriginal Legal Services are planning to provide in-person services starting June 1, 2022.
- Richard noted that the crown attorney's office as of May 16<sup>th</sup> will be in-person three days per week.
- Tonya reported that LAO is back in-person, however, client come in occasionally.
- Tammy reported that NYG has one psychiatrist in the MH and Justice program. They are in the process to recruit another psychiatrist.

### **Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:**

Tammy reported that the Toronto Regional committee has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc committee. Its membership includes all local HSJCC Co-chairs. The main goal is to develop an Anti-Racism educational series for the HSJCC target population. The main focus is education, increase awareness, identify issues and collaboration.

Next T-HSJCC meeting is taking place on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Domenica reported on the Provincial HSJCC. Planning for the next conference has begun.

### **Action Items:**

- Domenica will report on the Lunch and Learn sessions at the next meeting
- Domenica will circulate the PowerPoint presentation slide deck.
- Members were encouraged to provide feedback on the annual members evaluation.

**Presenter for next meeting:** TBD

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 (virtually) from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.