

MAP INFORMATION WORKING GROUP MEETING
MINUTES

Friday February 1st, 2019 1pm at QMUNITY, 1170 Bute Street, Vancouver

Present:

Carl@ Campodonico – Qmunity

Jenny Moss – MAP

Richard Belcham – inasmuch

Katherine Griffin – MOSAIC

Mariana Martinez Vieyra – VAST

Sara Lopez – VAST

Mélodie Honen-Delmar – MAP (Minute-Taker)

Chair: Katherine Griffin (MOSAIC) • Welcome and establish contact on the phone with Richard and Sara

• **Outline of agenda approval:** Jenny wanted to add MJTT funding to discuss shifting budget as some more funds are available via the Provincial Contract with MAP. Carl@ also wanted to discuss the potential MC, Taylor Jacob, referral from Carl@. He works at HIM (Health Initiative for Men) and Taylor works in fashion and would represent the 2spirit community and is part of Qmunity. Katherine said that this will be discussed under the event. Agenda Approved.

• Minutes approved from January 11th

1. Item referred by MAP co-chairs to IWG: Recommendations requested re: Voice of MAP

Jenny: discussed MAP voice and stated that IWG needs to make recommendations to the next MAP meeting because there was not a consensus at the January 24th meeting. Everyone seems happy about the public education part. The next stage is correcting misunderstanding and after, it is advocacy (i.e. housing working group). MAP wanted the topic to be referred to the IWG to make a proposal, and then every member will bring it back to their agencies.

Katherine: mentioned that other MAP partner/participant agencies should have an opportunity to weigh in because IWG members may not represent everyone's voice or interest.

Question: Would government bodies join this discussion? Housing group has already government representatives. If there were soft advocacy, would we lose government?

Mariana: answered that we do not want to lose them, it's the ethos of map and now they are on board so they should continue to be.

Jenny: answered if we chose no soft advocacy, we want to explain why we are not doing so.

Richard: re-emphasized that public education needs to be pushed forward. But suggested that we could provide some factual information via our members. It could be only facts brought to journalists and then each agency could voice their own ideas about the facts, but at least MAP can henceforth help to articulate information.

Jenny: brought up Q&A issue for the kind of things we discussed, the kind of issues that would always come up, therefore media training could be helpful.

Katherine: mentioned that MAP needs to maintain diversity of voices that comprise

membership, but have coherent and unified messages.

Carl@: strengthened that MAP could have a unifying the message and could create new common jargon that all organization agree upon, so to avoid using words that does not fit the language of refugee claimants. It would create a common discourse and we can work on a common vocabulary.

Katherine: suggested that we should also have a check from somebody who is very knowledgeable about the policies/terminology/legal basis.

Carl@: knows someone with degree on immigration consultant.

Katherine: proposed Azedeh (UNHCR) could potentially help with that expertise.

Mariana: suggested reputable lawyers could also be helpful.

Richard: agreed on policy checking and would like to see MAP rapid response protocol and try to respond within 4h to change the types of comments.

Jenny: suggested that this should be on the agenda for the 15th Feb to continue the discussion.

2. Event planning: full program detailing and organization - Richard

Richard: confirmed March 19th for the event, at B101 at the University of the Fraser Valley. The event can host 150 people max. and it would be in a lecture hall with comfy theatre-style seating (no desks)

Please see here: <https://www.ufv.ca/ets/e-rooms/abbotsford/abb/b101/>

They have all the AV and somebody to support. There is also a reception room outside for food and mingling and UFV have approved **caterers**. Therefore, if we want to do our own catering we would need to have a discussion. What are the costs? We don't know yet but Richard says MAP Fraser Valley might help for catering budget.

Mariana: suggested **Sara's** potential option of refugee claimant caterers haven't answered yet (Flavours of Hope), but there are other refugee claimants Catering services. There is potential for Argentinian food (empanadas all vegetarian). **Sara** agreed to contact them for a quote.

Richard: said that MAP needs to co-design the event with the university (students) and therefore co design the branding for flyers and visuals.

Jenny: MJTT may need to approve the collaboration and the publicity/promotional materials

Mariana: yes, MJTT, Vicki can help to get it approved.

Jenny: concluded that there will be 3 logos: MJTT, MAP, and UFV

Carl@: said that we need to invite Alia Dharssi, and other journalists who work with refugee claimants.

Timeline and role:

Richard: said that Michelle (UFV contact) in the next week will look at the promotion but unsure of what it is yet. The event space is free, UFV have their own First Nations Elder, and could have them come. The space is open to accessibility. Ticket costs: would it be free? If we have the funding, then yes we can.

Katherine: suggested a \$5 deposit to ensure that people come, and the money could be donated. Therefore, we would need an invitation structure

Mariana: suggested a sliding scale, with different level of how much participants wants to chip in.

Richard: said calculating how much they pay or where they should sit would be a problem too.

Katherine: 5 dollars sounds reasonable. And it should be free for all students. **AGREED**

Richard: mentioned that 2 speakers were confirmed. The first is Chenga (Kurdish from Iraq) and is a journalist activist. The story is emotionally engaging for the introduction. We would need a pair of shoes. The other speaker is Ararat (Kurdish, Iraq) a surgeon and the story is of why he had to flee is engaging.

Mariana: proposed two speakers that would be interesting too. They are from Sri Lanka and El Salvador. Now that there is more information, they can communicate more details and go forward. The transportation cost would also be supported with honorarium.

Sara: also suggested speakers from Afghanistan, Columbia, Jamaica and one from Burundi. They do not need any interpretation.

Jenny: Kristi also was interested to be a speaker. Represent LGTBQ, from DIVERSEcity/ I belong program, and is from Albania.

Richard: we only need 4-5 speakers.

Mariana: said that we need to word questions to keep it focussed. We need to emphasize community and moving forward rather than the own individual story that is more like looking at the past.

Jenny: emphasised that the stories should be about starting over.

Carl@: suggested that we need to prepare the speakers. Instead of insisting on lack of security and citizenship and human rights, we need to also hear a message that allows people to learn something that they aren't aware of.

Richard: suggested that we need to brief the speakers.

a) They should stick to a certain length,

b) What points to touch on vs. those to avoid. In Abbotsford, there are not many opportunities to hear refugee claimants because it is not so familiar; so we want to avoid having "professional" refugees.

Jenny: emphasized that we need to build commonalities with people

Richard: suggested that we could have a mixture of telling the stories and have other sessions with written stories to read aloud, or Q & A. It keeps people focused more easily. We can have writing workshop to support that.

Jenny: said that we need a balance of gender, place and pick the best speakers

Carl@: said that he is happy to see different names that he doesn't recognize and that more opportunities are given to diverse voices.

Jenny: said we could repeat this event, change the speakers and have it in Surrey too.

Jenny: Richard's speakers should definitely participate as they live in the area – tell them to save the date.

Mariana: said that she will works on confirming applicants. **AGREED**

Jenny: Transportation will be provided and an honorarium will be given (100CAD).

Potentially can cover wages if speakers have to miss work. **Kristi will not accept payment in lieu of hours but will accept an honorarium and he** can also drive himself.

Program - Richard:

6:30: opening doors (the place is booked from 4)

7: introduction from the elder

7:05: university introduction

7:10 MAP person introduction

7:20-8:10 if we have MC, introduction of the speakers (each 10 min) and Q&A not from the audience but MC (alternative style to avoid sensitive questions.)

8:10-8:30: questions from audience

8:30: food and silent auction

Katherine: questioned if it is too long? In previous meeting, we had discussed wrapping everything up by 8:30 pm

What about 5 min per person?

Jenny: Instead of a full MC can we have a MAP MC?

Carl@: Suggested **Tyler Jacobs** as the MC. He is pretty good and works as a co-ordinator with him.

Mariana: asked is this too much for Abbotsford? We need to meet people halfway; we can talk to Tylor and get a sense if he would be a good fit.

Jenny: emphasized that we need to meet people where they are, not to push them further.

Richard: said that there is large religious/conservative community in Abbotsford. The event is about fleeing persecution but it could be easy to lose the message.

Katherine: suggested that MC is a facilitator, not the star. We do not want to shift the spotlight from speakers themselves and their stories.

Richard: asked **Katherine, Jenny, Carl@** to go there to tour the venue. **ACTION: Richard**

will confirm whether Thursday Feb 7th in the afternoon works for the university. And we need to think of image of the promotion and what kind of message needs to be promoted.

Mariana: knows a potential MC, somebody who has a background in theatre. Should the MAP speaker be the MC. Jenny? or Richard because local? Richard has local “street cred” and will show a think local/and think global attitude?

Mariana: suggested that we should keep MAP introduction at the end to avoid too long introduction and lagging energy at the beginning of event.

3. Update on Issues Management Task Force (IMTF) –Jenny

Jenny: mentioned that Michael Davis from Rainbow Refugee has background in public relations and has created a nimble media response group for election year, will be media trained and ready. Jenny/Bahar/Katherine/Mariana met with other participants from IMTF (meetings held in Dec and on Jan. 29)

Jenny: said that there is election this year, but the Taskforce is not political, just making sure that the voices of refugees are heard and respond quickly and accurately and have more control over what is happening in campaign/media coverage.

Bahar is working closely with **Michael** on Q&A and toolkits for training service providers and media training.

Katherine: **Bahar** had discussed the importance of empowering settlement service providers in rural areas too, ensuring that they are not left out of the initiative.

Mariana: said that the initiative of Rainbow Refugee is to bring awareness of the differences of refugees. We care for refugee claimants but here only LGBTQ for refugee. March 12 training, VAST will be involved, it is specifically tailored re: LGBTQ+ to help eradicate myths.

Note: Bahar’s clarification:

The training is a full-on training and not just focused on eradicating myths. It is an LGBTQ Refugee and Refugee Claimant Forum. (I’ll send you the agenda and all the info soon.) VAST is going to be involved in one of the Breakout Sessions in the afternoon.

Katherine: said that **Darae** from **I Belong** is participating with **Mosaic**. However, the initial thoughts have shifted, why should IMTF only promote the image of LGBTQ refugees when it could be helpful to everyone?

Carl@: It needs to be an intersectional training. However, with examples of specific barriers for particular populations, e.g. = mobility and access issues for seniors.

Katherine: said that the IMTF objective is to generate 8 positive news stories focussed on refugees by the election (essentially from March to September). Can use momentum/crossover of speakers from various events.

Next IMTF meeting February 14 at 9:30 at Welcome Centre

Jenny: said that the media training offered by **Michael Davis** can give skills to small organizations and refugee claimants who are willing to share their stories. How much does it cost? 2 scenarios: intensive media training for settlement workers (4 people for 3000 dollars – too expensive for MAP) vs. one for refugee claimants and their “connectors” and this one is more of a workshop-style for RC to get tools to raise their voices. Claimants could get to this training with a connector to get more support.

Carl@: said ED of Qmunity instructs that anything refugee related will be handled by Rainbow Refugee.

4. Member Updates

- **Mariana:** said that on March 13th VAST/MOSAIC/UBC has an event on LGTBQ in Spanish and English (bilingual). They are many events on refugees allowing a focus on different groups and build new voices and generates momentum.
- **Katherine:** said that **Kiana** (Practicum Student at MOSAIC) would be the contact for I Belong (with **Darae**) as Masashi has changed roles to another program at Mosaic.
- **Carl@** is interested in media training and the cost will be negotiated by MAP.
- **Jenny** asked for everyone to send his or her ideas for spending money on information

working group as she is meeting on Monday February 4th with Loren to discuss shifting some budget to IWG (i.e. launch website, launch report for housing, refugee day, speakers could we spend for?).

Next meeting - Feb 15th, @ the Welcome Center ISS (Mariana will book the room)