



MAP INFORMATION WORKING GROUP

MEETING AGENDA

Friday February 15th, 2019 1pm at ISSofBC Welcome Center: 2610 Victoria Drive, Vancouver

Present:

Carl@ Campodonico – Qmunity

Jenny Moss – MAP

Katherine Griffin – MOSAIC

Paige Slight – MAP (event assistant)

Bahar Taheri – BC Refugee Hub

Sabrina Dimitra – AMSSA (by phone)

Mariana Martinez Vieyra – VAST (by phone)

Mélo die Honen-Delmar – MAP

(Pre-introduction: Mélo die Presented the designing and printing cost of brochures to Jenny)

Regrets: Richard Belcham

Chair: Katherine Griffin – MOSAIC

- Welcome by **Katherine** and introductions
- NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:
 - Sabrina Dumitra** (AMSSA) replaces Farah who has left AMSSA
 - Paige Slight** – volunteering with the UFV event
- **Outline and approval of Agenda.** Jenny asked to table the Voice of MAP for a future meeting, but still look at media resources for member agencies.
Katherine added Fraser Valley MAP involvement to the discussion about the event.
- Approved Agenda and Minutes from February 1st meeting

1. Voice of MAP – next steps – IMTF participants

Jenny: introduced and summarized the need to discuss the voice of MAP. She said that the MAP Co-chairs requested we pause until April for discussion at the monthly MAP meeting. In the meantime MAP can create a media toolkit for members with the help of IMTF. MAP can assist with identifying (expert) spokespeople who will be prepared and ready on certain issues, as well as Q&A's on certain topics and other resources. IMTF is working hard on

this especially because of the trial of the Burnaby Syrian refugee coming up soon.

Jenny also announced the opportunity of Media Training:

- One option was a highly professional training with cameras and recording apparatus for 4 people from settlement agencies (half day event) with a cost of over \$3000. The MAP IWG co chairs and Jenny think this is too expensive.

- The other option is an all-day workshop for 30 people. It's less expensive but without cameras and less intensive/specialized. IWG committee prefers this option - but now there is the question of who would get these training spots. Jenny is waiting for budget approval before moving forward. MAP suggested they could choose some representatives of the refugee claimants' sector to go to the training, unless other sectors want to pay for part of the training. Is it better to have 30 people trained or less, and let other organizations pick up?

The training will be given by Michael Davis and Matthew O'Grady. The workshop of 30 people is preferred. It will be organized by IMTF. Some people on the IMTF committee showed interest in paying for themselves; and this could be the case for other organisations too. If IMTF is offering it, then it makes sense to open it up to more broad newcomer groups, but if MAP is paying the whole fee then we need to restrict it to refugee claimants and those working in the refugee claimant field.

Katherine: suggested that we should keep it open because of intersectionality of refugee claimants' domain. Additionally, some organizations might not need the training as some organizations have their media department.

Carl@: suggested that we should confirm the individual price (100\$/person) - that way some can pay individually or other agencies can pay for their chosen members to attend.

Jenny: suggested that IMTF is concerned with responding to negative publicity about refugees/newcomers in general, so it will be fair to open it up to other groups.

Sabrina: also suggested to open it up and MAP can pay for (x amount) and the rest can pay for themselves. But for the "issue spokespeople" that MAP will be paying for, there should be a clear selection/nomination process and criteria as many organizations may have an interest in the training, which would lead to competition and perceived unfairness/favouritism, from past experience with similar situations at AMSSA.

Jenny: emphasized that IMTF's idea is that we need to have people representing expertise in different sectors/issues ready to speak.

Katherine: explained that MAP IWG wants to offer the media training as a capacity-building mechanism for member agencies. She brought up the example of the Vancouver Sun article (IWG co-chairs drafted a fact/issue guide to the article and it was emailed out to

MAP members with the suggestion that those who could respond in personal/organisation capacity should write letters to editor etc.), and explained that the training is also more about having accessibility to a set of skills and tools to respond to media.

Sabrina: the voice of MAP and the training are two separate things. She suggested that MAP should have strategic perspective about the process and asked IWG to give it more thought in order to avoid competing roles.

Mariana: suggested it is more about MAP representation than competition.

Jenny: clarified that the voice of MAP is tabled to April and that the media training should be more open as MAP can have some spots but other can pay for themselves. Concerning the process of selection, it will be redirected to the MAP co-chairs (meeting the following week).

Mariana: added that MAP recognizes people with expertise and heard Sabrina's suggestion.

Sabrina: said that it was great to acknowledge expertise, but everyone should have the same chance. (Sabrina reflected on a bad experience in the past for AMSSA)

Katherine: emphasised that the issue will be referred back to the MAP co chairs about how to best communicate to members re: the training opportunity and spaces. Sabrina's experience could still happen again therefore we need to be transparent and clear in who is selecting and whose selected.

Jenny: said that Saleem, Mariana and herself will discuss it and clarify with IMTF as well.

2. Website update – Jenny for Richard

The committee viewed the developmental website and Jenny said that our aim is to share it at the upcoming MAP meeting. Richard has asked everyone to read it over to see if there are any typos, or if there is any content feedback, and Jenny suggested that **Fran** and **Azedeh** should check to see if there is any incorrect information. Regarding the home page, Richard is keen to buy a stock photo.

Committee comments relayed to Richard:

Katherine: is everything down below the photo on the home page accessible from the headers? It is important to have headers and bottom the same information. (Hyperlink top to the bottom)

Jenny: asked do we need to have such a big picture?

Katherine: doesn't think the photo is too big, but it looked a bit cliché, as although it represents diversity, the fact that the girl has a hijab, continues to stigmatize Islam and refugees together.

Carl@: said that the kids are a good idea (idea of the future/better life) but agreed that the hijab is a bit cliché.

Mariana: stock photo is a good idea, as we want to avoid identifying anybody as a refugee claimant. But we also want to avoid "fake stuff" and clichés.

Jenny: the price of the image is \$188.

Katherine: \$188 seems reasonable for something that will be very central and the first thing seen on the site (but mentioned that she has not seen overall budget). For the most important photo for the whole site, it needs to capture what MAP does and it is a valuable investment for the front page.

Jenny: said that the budget is \$5000, and half has been spent on professional fees to Richard and Patrick for writing and design. There could be some money for photos potentially. Jenny showed the Password protected area for members: news, meeting schedules, meeting minutes, member directory, and forums. Jenny showed the members partners page: the logos used to look messy, but now it looks good and everyone liked it.

Jenny: is waiting for some housing information from HWG for the site

Carl@: who has access to the forums and who can moderate it?

Katherine/Jenny: would it be possible to have the meeting **Agendas** posted?

Mélodie: asked if there could be some system to have an online registration when members sign in at MAP meetings?

-- It was decided that there are some potential issues with this and could be revisited at a later time but not a priority right now. Signing in on a computer at MAP meetings could be an alternative in the meantime.

3. Starting Over Event planning

Katherine: explained that Jenny, Richard and herself met with student representative Michelle at UFV who is working with the university to plan the event. The venue is a theatre- style sitting lecture hall with 150 comfortable seats (no tables) and a stage. The room is available from 4:00 pm. The atrium space cannot be booked but if there is interest, students will come. Michelle also said that UFV is a commuter campus so at this time the space will be relatively empty. There is no outside catering allowed, so we cannot offer an opportunity to refugee claimant caterers, but we can keep that idea for a future event. UFV

is most likely going to cover the cost of catering but we need to get back on the selection (light snack and mingle food). We could exhibit some art and hold a silent auction (impossible to miss) inside or outside the theatre. But we need to decide. The parking is Pay parking, but it is reasonable - \$2 for 2 hours. We need to look at the draft on the posters and wait for the approval of the Province and UFV. Fraser Valley MAP also wants to put their logo and may want to revise it.

Jenny: shared the poster: subject to approvals.

Carl@: liked the yellow in the posters.

Bahar: asked if all organisations with representatives on the IWG can have their own logo on the poster. She suggested that it is a norm to have all the organizations who were involved in planning the event represented by their logos.

Katherine: there likely isn't sufficient space, but she suggested that we can acknowledge all the agencies with logos at the event (e.g. with a backdrop on the screen). Would that work?

Bahar: said that working group's individual logos are a norm, and recognition needed for meeting deliverables etc.

Jenny: MAP's logo represents us all.

MAP Fraser Valley will be involved through these potential options: promotion, volunteers, speaking, funding, manpower on the day of. They would also like to have their logo on the promotional poster.

Bahar: suggested that if not all logos are there, there is no representation of the work done and nothing is credited. How is MAP Fraser Valley's logo being included if they have not done anything for the event yet?

Jenny: It will be hard to put all the logos of IWG members, and hard to select which one should be on the poster. We need to recognize the support from funding, but MAP's logo is sufficient to show the representation of all.

Bahar: suggested that not all MAP organizations are part of IWG and recognition of the work and staff time is a "bonus" for the organisations that are involved with the event.

Sabrina: wanted to confirm the event date: March 19th at 6:30.

Jenny: suggested that MAP Fraser Valley could help with the promotion and Jenny will ask them. UFV will also promote it. Alexandra or Andrea (co-chair FV MAP) would also like to call in to one of our planning meetings. They have funds available so we could think

about how to spend/utilize these funds. Jenny suggested printing the banners and brochures maybe.

Jenny: updated the group that the choice of speakers is completed and Jenny&Katherine will be meeting with a few the following week.

Katherine: said that she created a speaker guide. There are 2 ways of telling their story:

- one is short 5 minutes speech
- one is more of an interview style where MC asks guiding questions and refugee answers.

In the guide, Katherine emphasized that starting over was the focus, after arriving in Canada, less about the details from their home country → idea of creating commonality

Bahar: suggested that starting over can be common to everyone in life, even though their starting over is harder, therefore the message won't be so claim focused.

Katherine: said that she feels uncomfortable dictating how someone should tell their own story; has tried to keep the questions as gently guiding as possible.

Bahar: suggested that there could be guiding questions that fit the theme of Starting Over, that can be used as questions or skipped as needed. But it needs to talk about starting over.

Carl@: said that CBSA or IRB asked us to tell the story including all about the traumatic events that are the basis of our claim. We should avoid asking the traumatic piece of the story as it could still be emotionally triggering.

Bahar: how can we ask the important questions, without hurting feelings?

Carl@: suggested the MC ask why do you think these violent events happened and how could they have been avoided. For instance, not to tell the details but instead say "the police should have helped me". Not to go into the specifics, but speak in general terms.

Bahar: we want to learn about the experience and want to it to connect with our heart so participants have an idea of how they could help.

Jenny: we need to stay respectful, but Katherine's guide is fairly broad.

- ➔ One suggestion is to ask how do you want the community to be involved? What would be helpful to you?

Carl@: said that sometime it is hard for refugee claimants to think ahead, think of the future.

Jenny and Katherine: will meet with speakers: Kristi, Rooma and Monica and use this guide. We will also arrange for an honorarium, and help with transport.

Jenny: re: **Silent Auction:** Michelle (UFV) asked Maureen (staff liaison) to provide an answer about whether we can run a silent auction and said generally shouldn't be an issue.

Carl@: mentioned that he is not particularly comfortable handling the financial side, especially cash. We need look at payment options.

Bahar: "square" payment method work, or bowls of tickets could work.

Paige: said that if we use an online payment method on site then we need a back up plan in case the connection does not work well.

Jenny: said that Paige could inquire about payment options.

For the silent auction, Matthias (VAST) is collecting drawings by RC children and we can sell those. But we need to decide where is the money going.

Reminder: Admission is \$5 dollars (UFV students are free)

Paige: said that with Eventbrite the cost of paying through Eventbrite is added on top of the \$5 dollars but payment needs to be tied to a bank account.

Jenny: will ask Loren (Kinbrace) if they can provide account to use.

Sabrina: said Eventbrite settings can be set so that the purchaser pays the online registration fees. There should also be tickets at the door.

Carl@: If the sum of the money gets high, we would need to get a receipt and it would be more complicated. We could put the silent action inside the theatre so we can control it better.

Bahar: how are we going to control the food if it is outside the theatre?

Paige: we can give vouchers for food.

Jenny: re: Art and Artists for the exhibition

At World Refugee Day Mona (SOS) worked with refugee artists to exhibit and sell their art, and we could contact these artists but the issue is that it is in Abbotsford. MAP Fraser Valley could also possibly find refugee artists. Agreed by **Katherine**.

Jenny: said that we can give MAP Fraser valley the task to find local refugee artists. If it does not happen, it is fine.

Carl@: said Qmunity can donate some art.

Sabrina: asked what kind of silent action is it? Can we include beauty spas? Meditation? concert tickets?

Katherine: It would better if the goods and services are based in the Fraser valley.

Jenny: said that we should create a letter of intent for those approaching companies with requests to donate. But this is more a bonus than a necessity.
But where are the funds going? It must be refugee claimants related. Should it be housing funds? Or employment related? Or transportation? Or legal aid? Definitely it should be Fraser valley focused.

Bahar: suggested that it could be a general emergency response toward housing transportation. "Emergency fund for claimants in crisis". ALL AGREED

Jenny: we need someone to take care of logistics of the day of and a timeline.

Paige: said that she can take that on, but she needs more information on who is doing what:

Katherine: said that she is the speakers' look out person and looks at promotion.

Katherine: TIMELINE/LOGISTICS: said that the logistics of the day of are more important than an on-going timeline.

Carl@: said that he is the silent auction's person. He also said that that if its going to be big then Qmunity would like to have a contract and have a percentage of the amount.

Jenny: said it is late to get silent auction donations. Jenny asked Carl@ to check with Mathias if his art can be on its own so we can keep it simple. What is the value of the art by refugee children? First need to find value of art and then it could go to the emergency fund? or VAST funds for refugee children?

Bahar: said that she will be in charge of donor relations.

Carl@: suggested using a Google doc.

Jenny: said that the brochures will not focus on myth busting because it draws attention to the myths and not to a positive community for RC's. We need to keep the message positive. Brochures: one about MAP, one about refugee claimants. Pop up banners should be on stage and at the entrance. Member material/MAP FV could also be available.

4. Member Updates

The Afghan play / potential collaboration with Bard on the Beach

Jenny: said that she had a meeting with the CEO of Bard on the Beach as a contact had attended a Bard play written by an Afghan dramatist as a retelling in an Afghan context of Romeo and Juliet. The next step is to connect it with the community. Possibly the Afghan community could be involved and provide comments, and then maybe this could grow into a bigger participation with drama training. Now Bard on the Beach is doing this with South Asian community. Bard wants to stay relevant and want to expand to more communities, and the idea fits in with MAP Public education mandate.

Adjourned – next meeting: Friday March 1st at MOSAIC (Classroom #1)