



Canadian LGBTQ2S Centre Leadership Summit

October 2-3, 2018
Saskatoon, SK

Final Report

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I INTRODUCTION

On October 3rd, 2018, LGBTQ2S centres from across Canada were invited to Saskatoon to explore the possibility of creating a national network. This was the first time that centres in Canada, or rather regional leaders from centres and centre-like organisations, convened in the same space in order to talk about the challenges centers face. Central was the thought that a national network might strengthen these centres and allow them to deliver better and expanded services. Forty some leaders from every corner of the country answered the call and lent themselves to a single day of exchanges that brought out their realities, their capacity, and more importantly, their hopes. It should also be noted that representatives from three federal government departments also participated in the discussion, putting to use their knowledge, but also expressing their limitations, despite their desire, to deliver programming that serves LGBTQ2S communities in every part of Canada.

It will come as no surprise that when one assembles leaders from every part of Canada into a single room, the realities of each will differ immensely in terms of language, geography, programming, history, etc. Despite these differences, it is clear that there are similar challenges that each group seeks support on or tools to work from. It is also clear that each group has the capacity to affect change and to connect with their communities.

This first Summit was a living example of the need for leaders of LGBTQ2S centres to meet, discuss, and resource themselves to be able to deliver needed services in their communities. As such, there were four key takeaways.

- I A second Summit should be organized in no more than a year's time;
- II A national network of LGBTQ2S Centres would align with expressed needs and desires of existing and emerging centres in order to have equitable access to relevant community supports for LGBTQ2S Canadians in every part of Canada, and in consideration of regional particularities;
- III The mandate of the national network be to build/increase capacity-through professional development, mapping, hosting a list serve, organizing summits, collecting data, etc.; and
- IV Diversity is mandatory, thus any structure needs to be both adaptable and accompanied with proper resources (both human and financial).

This report is drafted to capture areas of consensus amongst LGBTQ2S leaders assembled at the summit, but also to capture key areas of concern or aspiration. It is the intent that information found here will not only explain the unfolding of the first Summit, but also help shape the next one. It should also act to provide momentum in order to establish a national network of LGBTQ2S centres.

II BACKGROUND

For centres that have been in operation for 10 to 40 years, the idea of a Summit has been percolating for some time. It was about five years ago, at a professional development leadership summit in the US that a few Canadian leaders started seriously conceptualizing how a Canadian Summit could come to be and through these conversations, the interested parties began to connect with the LGBTQ2 Secretariat in spring of 2018 around the possibility of hosting an inaugural gathering. Linking with the momentum of InterPride, an international gathering of Pride Festivals scheduled to take place in Saskatoon, OUTSaskatoon became the necessary conduit for the LGBTQ2S Centre Leadership Summit to take place in October of 2018. It is both due to their leadership and their willingness to put existing resources to the services of the Summit that this gathering was allowed to happen, and allowed to be effective. Having said that, OUTSaskatoon reached out to other Centres to help guide the process, establishing an advisory committee of sorts, but without a formal structure ever being established. A collegial group involving Rachel Loewen Walker from OUTSaskatoon, Mike Tutthill from Rainbow Resource Centre, and Christian Tanguay from the Centre communautaire LGBTQ+ de Montréal acted as the catalyst for the Summit but also the pivot point for their peers so that a Summit may appeal to all centre and groups. So that the Summit was an opportunity for people to speak freely and for all ideas to come to the surface, it was deemed important to have a facilitator with no connection to any of the centres, and as such to be free of artificially prejudicing the process. It was important that the facilitator have experience working with not-for-profit organizations, be bilingual, and offer an outside perspective on the Centres and the framework of a national network. It was also desired that the facilitator have some understanding of the queer community, if not directly being a part of it, and as the Summit was being held in Saskatchewan, preference was given to someone from the prairies. All those criteria were met by Eric Plamondon, the Summit's facilitator.

Eric Plamondon is a multi-disciplinary queer artist and arts administrator based in Winnipeg. He obtained a Master's degree in political theory from Dalhousie University, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Université d'Ottawa. Previously, Eric has worked many years as a political assistant for both a federal and provincial cabinet minister however, most of his recent work has been tied to not-for-profit organizations. It is in this field of work that he received training in deliberative democracy through Concordia University. Eric's work in the arts sector as an artist combined with his academic background and hands-on experience running an organization make him an adaptable and engaging facilitator.

The diversity of Eric's professional experience has permitted him to offer consulting services to various organizations such as *Société santé en français*, *Manitoba Arts Council*, *Nine Circles*, *Conseil jeunesse provincial*, *100 Nons* and *Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba*.

The Summit was held in Saskatoon on October 2nd and 3rd 2018, just prior to InterPride and the timing helped to maximize attendance to both by having them happen succinctly. Much attention was placed in assuring representation from every region of Canada was able to attend without barriers. Thus, special efforts were made to extend invitations to emerging centres or to groups that took on centre-like activities. Furthermore, thanks to the support of Employment and Social Development Canada, travel and accommodation was covered for all attendees. Many also took advantage of coming to Saskatoon to also attend InterPride, as many were leaders in organizations or groups that were involved, if not fully responsible, for Pride as well as Centre services.

ATTENDEES and organizations

Albert McLeod, Two Spirited People of Manitoba (Manitoba)

Allison Brewer, The Elderberries (Nova Scotia)

Annie Savage, Coalition Montréalaise des groupes jeunesse LGBT (Québec)

Ash Brar, SHEW Vancouver (British Columbia)

Bibi Bilodeau, Positive Space Club/Iqaluit Pride (Nunavut)

Boyd Whiskey-Jack, Edmonton Two Spirit Society (Alberta)

Cait Glasson, Spectrum KW (Ontario)

Catherine Delage, Ensemble Greater Moncton (New Brunswick)

Charles McDougall, Rivière de la fierté du Grand Moncton (New Brunswick)

Chelsea Thacker, Rainbow Coalition of Yellowknife (North West Territories)

Christian Tanguay, Centre communautaire LGBTQ+ de Montréal (Québec)

Cybelle Rieber, Peers Alliance (Prince Edward Island)

Guiniveve Lalena, Queer Yukon (Yukon)

Haran Rijayanathan, Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (Ontario)

Heather Wong-Mitchel, Qmunity (British Columbia)

Jacq Brasseur, UR Pride (Saskatchewan)

Jade Rachwal, Safe Alliance - Labrador (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Jason Fiedler, Sexuality Education Resource Centre – Brandon (Manitoba)

Joe Wickenhauser, Moose Jaw Pride (Saskatchewan)

Jyssika Russel, Spectrum Hamilton (Ontario)

Kate Shewan, The Youth Project (Nova Scotia)

Leslie Anne Christine Grenier, The Bridge Youth and Family Services (British Columbia)

Maura Lawless, The 519 (Ontario)
Mike Tutthill, Rainbow Resource Centre (Manitoba)
Natalie O'Grady, Positives Space Club/Iqaluit Pride (Nunavut)
Quinn Posch, Pride Centre Edmonton (Alberta)
Rachel Loewen Walker, OUTSaskatoon (Saskatchewan)

Denise Spivak, CenterLink (USA)
Lora Tucker, CenterLink (USA)
Joël Dupuis, LGBTQ2 Secretariat (Canada)
Linda Zanzanella, ESDC (Canada)
Tara Yetts, ESDC (Canada)
Grant Peters, Canadian Culture and Heritage (Canada)
Shaylyn White, UofS (Saskatchewan)
Marjorie Beaucauge (Saskatchewan)
Eric Plamondon (Manitoba)

The Summit was designed from start to finish to allow for all centres to have a voice. It was designed as an opportunity for everyone to learn from one another, to share stories, and to work together in building much needed support services, education and belonging for LGBTQ2S people county-wide. We did not wait for the Summit to start the process. Especially considering this was a first gathering of the leadership of LGBTQ2S centres in Canada, and further since the summit was only for one day. A pre-summit survey was sent to all participants, and to those unable to attend. We also asked for video submissions so that it was literally the voices of attendees transmitting ideas and stories to their peers. It was another unique way to reach out to groups that might not be participating in person, while ensuring that they had a chance to offer some insight into the deliberations. There were more than a dozen respondents allowing the emergence of a picture of a diverse group. It did also indicate some preliminary areas of need and desires in terms of what a national network could address.

The survey provided the basis for the Summit agenda, as well as guided the process of deliberation.

III GETTING THINGS STARTED

As this was for many the first time they saw each other, talked to each other, exchanged with each other, it was important to start things off with a social gathering. Thus, the Summit rightfully began with a reception. But even a reception can serve multiple purposes! The reception was held at OUTSaskatoon, allowing for the centre's purpose and programming to be revealed and to permit associated conversations to flow organically. It allowed for comparisons and contrasts, for inspiration and limitations, and for transparent discussions to begin. This was also possible as, by and large, most accepted the invitation. It is evident that relationship building is key for trust in exchanging of information to happen.

The following day, the Summit began with a shared breakfast at the Hilton Hotel. Rachel Loewen Walker and Mike Tutthill offered opening remarks. First they acknowledged that the Summit was taking place on Treaty 6 territory. They also mentioned that for organizations with longer history, the simple fact that this gathering is happening was a huge accomplishment. In fact, the idea to have this Summit was born five years ago, thus underscoring all the needed elements to align for such a gathering to happen. First there needs to be a will of attendees; which was confirmed by everyone assembled. Second, it helps to have government funders; which was generously provided. Third there needs to be a host community that activates local businesses and NGOs; OUTSaskatoon has more then stepped up on this one. These should not be taken for granted, and each should be thanked for stepping forward. Furthermore, as these opportunities are not easily conjured up, it is up to all attendees to lend themselves to the Summit so that concrete outcomes may come out.

In that spirit, attendees' hearts and minds were invited to be opened under the guidance of elder Marjorie Beaucage. She opened the Summit by bringing elements of Cree ceremony; including smudging and an opening honour song on a hand drum. These elements of ceremony were offered as a way to be grounded, but also to open up. Elder Beaucage offered the following advice:

You have to make relations with others if you want to change things; you must open your heart, open your mind to do things differently.

The facilitator helped frame these ceremony offerings by explaining that these may have a prairie form, or specifically a Cree form, but the essence of these elements take various forms in many cultures. The smell of sage is meant to awaken our senses, not just our eyes, and definitely not just our mouths, but also to purify us so that we may offer, but also take in what the day brings. As such, the facilitator offered an Anishinabee greeting, that of Mino gigizheb, which roughly translates to "it's going to be a good day."

It was also important to get things started by doing a quick overview of the make-up of who is in the room. As such, all were invited to write their names on the table in front of them, along with ideas, questions, and observations, through words or pictures. People had various ways of

communicating and would have various ways of reacting /engaging with conversations had throughout the day. Furthermore, results of the pre-summit survey were shared. It was deemed important to get a sense of who the organizations were in large strokes. This revealed that organizations were as young as 7 months old, and some as old as 45 years. Most were about 10 years old. Some organizations were entirely run by volunteers or by a single person, where others employed about 80 people. Most were near 10 employees, either paid or volunteers. Operating budgets fit on a spectrum of \$5k to \$6.8M, allowing them to reach anywhere from 75 to 536,000 people. Most centre's core activities includes some (if not most) of the following:

- STBBI prevention
- Drop-ins
- Counseling
- Refugee and newcomer settlement services
- Management of space
- Social enterprise
- Re-establishing Two-Spirits within our Nations
- Events and festivals
- Education and knowledge exchange
- Community outreach
- Mentorship
- Advocacy
- Housing
- Grants
- Parenting (queer and foster parenting)
- Assisting aging/elder communities
- Providing access to technology
- Supporting GSAs in schools
- Capacity building in smaller communities

VI NEEDS AND DESIRES

The Summit was designed to bring leaders of LGBTQ2S centres together to discuss opportunities to support communication, exchange best practices, and to build capacity. Part of doing so is to identify both needs and desires, but also to identify challenges. Many conversations were held on these items. It is clear that LGBTQ2S communities have achieved much over the last decade, or two, or four. It's also abundantly clear that many challenges remain and that centres need avenues to be able to face these challenges, to address them, to engage with them.

When asked to draw a list of greatest needs, centres we're quick to identify the following:

- Low-barrier counseling
- Targeted health promotion
- Culturally competent education and health care
- Access to spaces
- Housing and shelter support
- Suicide prevention
- LGBTQ2S awareness
- Group activities
- Core funding
- Assistance for asylum seekers and newcomers
- Monitoring STBBIs
- Improving government monitoring and administration – working to prevent trauma from seeping into policy
- Alienation in the North – youth are cut off from their communities and communities feel cut off from the national conversation
- Better technology to assist with administrative workload
- Improved conflict resolution, both within communities and between centres

As one would imagine there are some direct links between core programming and the list of needs. However it also identifies some gaps and some areas of limited resources despite the demand. From this generated list a conversation ensued on what a national network could offer in terms of strengthening Centres in order to both deliver on core programming and to engage with items from the list of needs.

Perhaps not surprising, but worth stating, there was a strong belief that regular communication would have a positive impact. In large part, because this does not happen right now. Outside of the occasional centre that picks up the phone to call another centre, communication is irregular and not channeled through any developed tool. There was an expressed desire to have expedient manners to communicate, like through a list serve, but also have in person moments of dialogue.

- funding opportunities
- clarifying legislation and regulation
- development of policy
- development of programming
- acquiring the right language
- cohesive advocacy
- common language
- build partnerships
- build capacity in underserved communities
- to break isolation
- to share resources quickly
- to build awareness
- professional development

For both formal organizations and semi-formal organizations, for both small and large organizations, the assets that would be embedded in a national network were clear for all. There was no disagreement on the list above. There was a healthy debate on priorities and best ways of framing these potential assets. For example, for smaller, younger and maybe unincorporated groups, the national network was understood as opening up the change for funding to be directed to their region, in partnership with them. Importantly enough, the Government of Canada departments represented in the room echoed this need and said they need a national network, at minimum to help identify who they can work with in each region, and potentially through the national network. They viewed it as a key to having national programming that reaches every region, and more particularly vulnerable communities such as the queer community. All agreed that a national network would create opportunities to partner with differently-structured organizations.

Generally people agreed that it was a strength to be incorporated into the mainstream, as opposed to remaining an outsider organization seeking recognition. In fact, it was felt that organisations gathered were well respected by the communities they serve, and by the public at large. Thus, there is a pressure to maintain this status by being responsive to community needs, to always be progressing, to be professional. This puts pressure on organisations to have professional development opportunities, to share best practices, to share updated policies, and to share acquired knowledge in specific fields. Some even suggested that a national network

could permit older organizations with similar structures/goals to mentor younger organizations. Reciprocally, younger organizations were viewed as an asset to the national network as they were not embedded in a culture of yesterday; they possessed current language and current ways of doing things that would benefit the network at large. This includes concepts of decolonization.

A need for a formal structure was often repeated, as there are concrete requests being asked of this yet to be established network. Two quick examples:

- I) develop some means of tracking demographics – stats, community analysis, etc.
- II) staff and volunteer training - working with vulnerable communities necessitates proper staff and volunteer professional training.

Conversations surrounding needs and desires also raised many important topics that need to be kept front of mind. First, there is a need for the formal structure to be diverse not only in terms of membership, but also in terms of tools, programming, and platforms. There was a strong resonance with the historically used phrase “nothing about us without us.”

Emerging links to Two Spirit and QTPOC communities were identified as particularly important groups that need to be brought into the network. There was sensitivity towards what would be needed to bring in seemingly marginalized groups. This perspective is not restricted to culturally diverse groups, but also for all 'new centres'. There was an expressed desire for the network to be proactive - in other words not only support existing centre, but identify places where there is a need for support and assisting in the formation of a new centre or the stabilization of an emerging group. Having said that, not every needs to be a centre which comes back to recognizing and including groups who are not formal LGBTQ2S centres - and also including/working with organizations offering community-led LGBTQ2S programming.

This may help understand why many enjoyed the idea of having this summit alongside other important gatherings of the queer community, such as Fierté/Pride or Two Spirits in Motion gathering. Nonetheless, there is caution to be clear on the mandate and the intent, so as to avoid duplication, and stay within the tracks of collaboration.

V MOMENTUM

The later part of the summit focused energies on having a framework from which to propel the desire to have a national network forward. As such discussions ensued on what consensus could be created today, and what needs to be understood for tomorrow, as it was recognized that this summit was five years in the making, underscoring how they don't happen by simply flipping a switch. It takes time, resources, and a will.

It is at this point that the LGBTQ2 secretariat expressed a will, a desire, and a capacity to assist in identifying Government of Canada grant streams. They are willing to be in dialogue with any organization willing to lead the grant process. Thus identifying the necessity of having an organization step up in a leadership role; including having an organizations name attached to a grant. It was at this point that everyone became keenly aware of the work done by OUTSaskatoon, its staff and board, in pulling off this Summit. Gratitude was poured out for such an undertaking. It also underscores the importance of properly funding any initiative. Whether this be a second summit or the process of establishing a national network of LGBTQ2S centres. Organizations and Centres do not have existing resources to take this on, on their own. There is a need for outside assistance.

There was a desire to clarify what momentum we are trying to work off. In other words lay out a framework. As such, Summit attendees agreed that:

- * We're talking about LGBTQ2S centres; or in the absence of centres, the community organizations/groups doing work that *would* be done by centres (i.e. AIDS Service orgs, Prides, GSA groups, etc.)
- * That the vision be that all LGBTQ2S Canadians have equitable access to relevant community and supports.
- *That the mandate be to build/increase capacity- through professional development, mapping, hosting a list serve, organizing summits, collecting data, etc.

To achieve unanimous consensus on just these three items is already a big accomplishment for a one day summit. But the ambition of the group is much larger. The group wanted to move towards giving shape to this national network. It is for that reason that CenterLink was invited to present on how they gave shape to a national network in the US 25 years ago, and that has since included international members in Canada, Australia and China. In fact certain organization present are members of Centre Link; specifically four organizations: Qmunity, OUTSaskatoon, Rainbow Resource Centre, and Centre communautaire LGBTQ+ de Montréal. The presentation from [Lora](#) and [Denise](#) demonstrated how the expressed desires, hopes and needs are the same as those of centres in the US and offered how CenterLink is working to address these needs through various platforms and programming. But first, they offered their mission:

CenterLink develops **strong, sustainable LGBT community centers** and builds a **thriving center network** that creates healthy, vibrant communities.

This mission is very much within the same wavelength as the agreed upon vision and mandate stated above by the Canadian centres. They accomplish their mission by focusing on four areas of service:

- I) leadership development
- II) expanding the organizational capacity
- III) building a network
- IV) one-to-one technical assistance, advice, support

This has resulted in 185 Centres becoming active members of CenterLink. Each of these members have access to a vast array of programming, which includes:

- Annual Leadership Summit
- ED Boot Camp
- Webinar Series
- Quarterly Programming Calls
- Youth Programmers
- Seniors Programmers
- Mental Health Providers
- HealthLink
- YouthLink (Q Chat Space)
- ActionLink: Center Action Network
- ResourceLink
- Center Awareness Day
- MyCenterLink
- LGBT Job Board
- Biennial LGBT Center Survey Report

In fact some people in the room have benefited from this programming; the annual leadership summit, the ED Boot Camp, the ActionLink and Resource Link. But much conversation was had on the Biennial LGBT Centre Survey Report and how this would be a critical tool in Canada as it provides much needed stats. Comprehensive information of this nature does not currently exist in Canada. Furthermore, there was conversation on how simply having someone to host a list

serve would dramatically improve the working realities of Canadian Centres. In response, CenterLink offered to create and temporarily host a list serve for Canadian Centres as the group evolves towards having its own national network. This offer was not only wildly embraced, but also applauded.

With all this explored, the question came back to the form that this national network should take in Canada. Should it be simply a Canadian subsidiary of CenterLink? Or could CenterLink incubate a Canadian version? Are there other forms that this network could take? The group decided that it was important to explore all options and to draft recommendations that would be presented to the larger group, perhaps at a second summit. It was deemed important that every province and territory be represented on this study group. Thus, the committee of 13+ was created. Membership to this committee is not fixed nor limited to attendees at the summit. Nonetheless, there was a desire to identify a first 13+ people to ensure that the work could get started as soon as possible.

The Committee of 13+

Prince Edward Island / [Cybelle Rieber](#) / [Peers Alliance](#)

Nova Scotia / [Allison Brewer](#) / [The Elderberries](#)

New Brunswick / [Charles MacDougall](#) / [Rivière de la fierté](#)

Newfoundland & Labrador / [Jade](#) / [Safe Alliance](#)

Québec / [Christian Tanguay](#) / [CC LGBTQ+ de MTL](#)

Ontario / [Haran Vijayanathan](#) / [AASAP](#)

Manitoba / [Jason Fiedler](#) / [Sexuality Education RC](#)

Saskatchewan / [Jacq Brasseur](#) / [UR Pride Centre](#)

Alberta / [Quinn Posch](#) / [Pride Centre of Edmonton](#)

British Columbia / [Heather Wong-Mitchell](#) / [Qmunity](#)

Yukon / [Guiniveve Lalena](#) / [Queer Yukon](#)

NWT / [Chelsea Thacker](#) / [Rainbow Coalition of Yellowknife](#)

Nunavut / [Bibi Bilodeau](#) / [Positive Space Club](#)

Thus, this committee was created with the purpose to create a work plan so that recommendations for a formal national network of LBGTQ2S centres be presented to representatives of Centres at a future Summit.

Part of the reasoning of provincial and territorial representation is that each would also be tasked in thinking how regional consultation (perhaps with others groups/centres) would happen, so that provincial reps could have confidence in adopting the recommended model and adhere to it.

Any such process would necessitate resources; human and financial. There would be a desire for this committee of 13 +, or this study group, to have access to resources to create a work plan, but also implement the work plan, in other words, to do the work. Thus, there is a need for one organization to take the lead in order to submit grant applications. This lead organization has not yet been identified.

Similarly, in the absence of a national network, there would need to be an application made by a lead organization for funding to hold a second Summit. It was not determined who the lead organization to submit this application shall be. Nonetheless, the desire for such a Summit was confirmed by all present. Not only to received and discuss the recommendations of the committee of 13+ but also to have workshops. Some expressed an interest in keeping the model of having the Summit be pre or post another gathering of LGBTQ2S leaders. For example, it could be coordinated in parallel to Fierté Pride or the Two Spirit gathering. It was noted that Fierté Pride is happening in less than a year. Thus raising the question of whether this work can be done in such a short amount of time. The consensus was that it should not take more than a year. There was an expressed sentiment that a yearly summit creates accountability and allows for progress to be tracked, thus assuring continued momentum. This is true for Summit 2.0, but also for future summits. In other words, the idea of a yearly leadership summit seems to have already been adopted into the psyche of Canadian centres.

VI IN BRIEF

This was a very ambitious gathering of leadership from LGBTQ2S centres and groups from every corner of Canada. Not only because it was the FIRST gathering, and not only because it was only for one day, but because it sought to establish a national network. What came of the Summit is clear... there is a long list of needs, desires and hopes that would be well served from a national network. This spoke true for groups in Nunavut as for centres in Montréal. Thus it is easy to understand why there was quick consensus on the following three elements:

- i) we're talking about a national network of LGBTQ2S centres; or in the absence of centres, the community organizations/groups doing work that *would* be done by centres (i.e. AIDS Service orgs, Prides, GSA groups, etc.);
- ii) the network would be tied to a vision be that all LGBTQ2S Canadians have equitable access to relevant community and supports; and that
- iii) the mandate of the national network be to build/increase capacity- through professional development, mapping, hosting a list serve, organizing summits, collecting data, etc.

Following that, it was clear that embracing these three affirmations would necessitate some work as to form recommendations of the form of this national network. A work plan would need to emerge in order to explore all options, to consult appropriate parties, and to craft these recommendations. Thus was born the committee of 13+. Every province and territory would have a seat on this working committee. The task of this committee is substantial. Especially as funders have indicated that it would be best to not miss a window of opportunity that exists prior to the next federal election.

The group seemed to accept that a national network would involve both in person components and online tools. In other words, there is a desire to have a Summit 2.0. The purpose of the Summit would be to receive and adopt the recommendations of the committee of 13+, but also to start building capacity. Speaking to the concrete needs and desires expressed by the people present. Similarly, there is a need for an organisation to take the lead, and be a conduit for Summit 2.0, as did OUTSaskatoon for this first summit. No such organization has been identified. It seemed to be understood that a second Summit should be organized, potentially in conjunction with Fierté Canada Pride being held in February in Ottawa; but no less than a year from the first summit.

The LGBTQ2 secretariat has indicated a willingness to work with all lead organization to identify grant opportunities for both Summit 2.0 and for the study group.

Offers of assistance also came from CenterLink, a US based not-for-profit organization. They have created a structure and extensive programming to respond to the needs of the centres that are members of CenterLink. They have had 25 years of history to develop a plethora of platforms, tools, and services for centres of various sizes and shapes. CenterLink has offered help to incubate Canada's evolution towards a national network. They have also indicated a willingness to explore the possibility of creating a subsidiary in Canada, should that be an option people would want to explore. They also know the power of having a network today! And the more you get to know each other, the more you can empower each other. Thus, they offered to create a Canadian list serve, so that centres can begin talking to each other, easily, regularly, and effectively. CenterLink will host this list serve as Canadian centres work to create a national network.

It is also worth stating that a national network would align with needs and desires of every group present at the Summit, and maybe of some who were not present, as it was expressed many times that there is a diversity of realities in Canada, and thus, any structure needs to be adaptable and multi-faceted. Similarly, it needs to be properly funded, so that it may have the proper resources to act nationally. This includes ensuring there are no geographic, economic or linguistic barriers.

As such, it is appropriate to end by saying **Giga-waabamin menawaa** (see you soon).

