



New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council **NEWS RELEASE**

New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council strikes new partnership with Fredericton Police Force in hopes to creating better outcomes when an Indigenous person goes missing

Fredericton, May 16, 2019 - The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC), in partnership with the Fredericton Police Force, signed a letter of commitment reflecting a collaboration between the two parties to work together to ensure that risk assessment protocols and tools are responsive to the needs of Indigenous missing persons and their loved ones.

“We are thrilled to add the Fredericton Police Force as committed partners on the Looking Out For Each Other project. Their commitment to work openly with the team to see what has been done and what can be done better is refreshing.” says Amanda LeBlanc, Interim President & Chief of NBAPC. “We commend Chief Fitch for being such a strong supporter of this initiative and we really look forward to working with the police ongoing to ensure Indigenous people are met with respect and the supports they need when a loved one goes missing.”

The signing ceremony took place at the *2nd Annual Looking Out For Each Other (LOFOE) Research Symposium*. The two-day symposium highlighted the academic research confronting the issues of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, cultural sensitivity environmental scan, MMIWG and the media, documenting the disappearance of MMIWG. Bringing together LOFEO’s partners and network, community and academic researchers, stakeholders and the project advisory circle, this symposium opened the opportunity to a dialogue on the activities of the project and discussion of the next steps.

The signing of this letter signifies the Fredericton police’s commitment to reconciliation with its constituents. “On behalf of the Fredericton Police Force, we are proud to be part of this important project. Looking Out for Each Other builds on the years of existing work we have done to build trust with Indigenous communities, including St. Mary’s First Nation here in Fredericton. Specifically, on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls file. Thank you for having us here today, and we look forward to the ongoing partnership.” says Leanne Fitch, Chief of the Fredericton Police Force.

The Symposium, happening May 16 and 17, 2019 in Fredericton, NB, will also present a piece about the National Inquiry and the role NBAPC and our sister organization, the Native Council of Nova Scotia, has taken in the inquiry process as parties with standing.

This letter of agreement is part of the community driven project Looking Out For Each Other: Assisting Aboriginal families and communities when an Aboriginal woman goes missing, led by NBAPC. This is a collaborative project, engaging other Aboriginal organizations, community members, universities and mainstream service providers in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador. The primary goal of the project is to empower Aboriginal organizations to provide well supported services to families and communities of missing people. This includes the recent establishment of a provincial helpline for the families and communities of missing Aboriginal people in New Brunswick.



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For media inquiries:

Yara Smadi
Communication Officer
NBAPC
506 458 8422
communication@nbapc.org

Alycia Bartlett
Public Information Officer
Fredericton Police Force
506 460 2777 | Cell. 506 259 6758
<mailto:alycia.bartlett@fredericton.ca>

The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC) is the voice for Status and Non-Status Aboriginal Peoples who reside off-reserve in the Province of New Brunswick, providing a political voice for our members, services and programs.