



POLICE DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

AGENDA

MEETING DATE – January 10, 2018

TIME – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

LOCATION – Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

ADDRESS – 2158 Gottingen Street, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2H1

The PDWG participated in a Blanket Exercise facilitated by Debbie Eisan, Chair of the PDWG.

The exercise started with a smudging. Smudging is a traditional ceremony for purifying or cleansing the soul of negative thoughts of a person or place.

The Blanket Exercise is an interactive teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Blanket Exercise participants take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Standing on blankets that represent the land, they walk through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. They are directed by facilitators representing a narrator (or narrators) and the European colonizers. Participants are drawn into the experience by reading scrolls and carrying cards which ultimately determine their outcomes. By engaging on an emotional and intellectual level, the Blanket Exercise effectively educates and increases empathy.

The exercise was then followed by a debriefing session known as a talking circle, where participants had the opportunity to express themselves with the talking stick to the group.

Approximately 31 participants took part in the exercise, including civilian and sworn police employees, members of the PDWG, and the Board of Police Commissioners.

Next meeting: April 18, 2018
1:00 – 3:00 pm
HRP/RCMP Headquarters
1975 Gottingen Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia