



*Strengthening Canada's Communities / Des communautés plus fortes au Canada*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**

**Convocation Hall, University of Saskatoon, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
May 24, 2008, 9:30 AM**

**Minutes**

Voting members present

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
Business and Community Development Consultant	Brenda Richardson
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives MB	Shauna MacKinnon
Canadian Co-operative Association	John Anderson
Canadian Women's Community Economic Development Council	Jessica Notwell
Centre for Community Enterprise	Mike Lewis
Common Ground Consulting Inc.	Flo Frank
Coopérative de consultation de développement La clé	William A. Ninacs
Coop Ventures Worker Coop	April Bourgeois
Haida Gwaii Community Futures	Art Lew
Local Investement Toward Employment (LITE)	Laurene Enns
Lutherwood	Cathy Harrington
North End Community Renewal Corp.	Rob Neufeld
Ontario Association of Community Futures	Diana Jedig
Storytellers Foundation	Anne Docherty
PARO Centre for Womens Enterprise	Rosalind Lockyer
Tools for Humanity	Mohamed Maie
Uniterra – CECI/WUSC	Roch Harvey
Quint Development Corporation	Len Usiskin
	Alex Chernoff
	Barbara Rufo
	Brad Franck

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	Brendan Reimer
	Carol Madsen
	Caroline Lachance
	Chris Perrin
	David Daughton
	Ellie Langford-Parks
	Ethel Côté
	Farrar Brodhead
	Ibrahima Kalil Toukara
	Ifo Ikede
	Jean-Sebastian Dufresne
	Karim Harji
	Leslie Spillett
	Linda Godin Sorin
	Marcia Tait
	Mike Toye
	Monica Juarez Adeler
	Naomi Adams
	Natasha Jackson
	Norman Greenberg
	Patrick Mutumbi
	Raimi Babatoundé Osseni
	Raymond Djmasbe Ngarboui
	Sherry Baxter
	Stewart Perry
	Victoria Morris
	Yvon Poirier

Non-voting member associates and observers were also present.

**1. Call to Order**

Natasha welcomed participants and called the meeting to order at 9:44 am. She introduced Yvon Poirier as Parliamentarian advisor.

**2. Nomination of Recording Secretary**

Alex Chernoff moved and Caroline Lachance seconded that Bianca Mathieu, Lindsey McBain, Matthew Thompson and Alexandre Charron be the recording secretaries for the Annual General Meeting. **Motion carried.**

**3. Verification of quorum**

Natasha Jackson declared that, with the members present, there was quorum.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

Diana Jedig moved and Éthel Côté seconded the motion to adopt the agenda. **Motion carried.**

**5. Adoption of the Minutes from April 18, 2007 AGM**

Marcia Tait moved and Victoria Morris seconded the adoption of the Minutes from the April 18, 2007 Annual General Meeting. **Motion carried.**

**6. Strategic Plan Progress and Priorities**

**6.1 President's Report by Natasha Jackson (in English) and Carol Madsen (in French)**

An Annual Review gives us the chance to evaluate our performance and celebrate the many accomplishments of the Network. It is equally as important to appreciate the energy and passion throughout the organization, by staff, committees, and all CCEDNet members that was focused on our governance and succession.

Changes to CCEDNet's by-laws were directed and approved by the membership during the 2007 AGM. Through the support of staff and monthly board meetings, we were able to operationalize these changes. We now offer our membership on-line voting and a resolutions process. As a result, members have access to this information in both official languages.

With Rupert Downing, Executive Director, giving notice to leave CCEDNet, the Board created a succession planning committee with staff to ensure a smooth transition. It is planned that an appointment be made by July 2008.

**6.2 Report of the Membership Committee presented by Brad Franck**

The Membership Committee went through a dramatic change in 2007, which included a 100% turnover, in committee membership. The Committee has strived to strengthen representation, both in terms of gender balance and ethnic backgrounds, as well as connections to priority areas such as the environment, labour and rural regions. These considerations made recruitment difficult but all vacancies were success fully filled with representatives from across the nation including the northern territories. The Membership Committee will be working with staff to develop an efficient process that will provide members with a renewal invoice without creating excessive account receivables on the CCEDNet books.

**6.3 Report of the Policy Council by Éthel Côté and Marcia Tait**

The Policy Council had the opportunity to meet in person in Ottawa in September 2007 and developed a new policy brochure based on three priority areas of policy: building fairer and stronger local economies, tackling poverty and homelessness and investing in sustainable communities. The Policy Council also designed the 2008 National CED Conference (Waves of Change: Building People-Centred Economies) to build on the new policy framework. They participated in the development of the 2008 Alternative Federal Budget with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, initiated a dialogue on convergence strategies to build on various sectors, initiatives, research, and events occurring at local and national levels and participated in political dialogues.

The Policy Council thanked Marcia Tait for all her dedicated work as she will be stepping down from the committee for a year's sabbatical.

**6.4 Report of the Practitioner and Sector Strengthening Committee by Diana Jedig**

This Committee provides resources, effective tools, learning events and professional development opportunities. This year, they developed a "Presenter's Kit" for the 2008 National Conference that briefly explains CCEDNet members' expectations for the

conference, anticipated outcomes and tips to help speakers create engaging sessions and discussion. The PSS delivered a new “Mentorship” workshop at the 2007 national event that recognises the growing need to bring others into the sector and although academic training is available, there is a gap in terms of sharing the experience of those in the sector with those new to the field of CED. They also refined the “Advocacy” workshop to enhance the capacity of members to support the Communities’ Agenda policy initiative.

Barbara Rufo commented about translation during teleconferences and how it made things complicated having meetings in only one language. *“I think we should take in consideration how we can resolve having committee meetings in English only and to accommodate those who are francophone.”* Alex Chernoff replied that the Emerging Leaders committee was going through the same challenges and offered anyone interested in finding solutions to contact Dini Silveira at the head office in Victoria. *“We have struggled with providing a forum for operating meetings in the language of people’s preferences. We are open to suggestions and feel like we have learned from our experiences this year.”*

### **6.5 Report of the Emerging Leaders Committee by Alex Chernoff and Naomi Adams**

In the past year, Emerging Leaders was elevated to a Standing Committee of CCEDNet and held their first in-person meeting in November. They participated in the 2007 CCEDNet National Conference (Youth Forum & Conference StoryBoard) and actively participated in the 2007 Manitoba CED Gathering (November 2007). The committee represented CCEDNet on various external committees and represented the youth perspective on various CCEDNet committees. They produced a Spring 2007 Newsletter, wrote an “The Emerging Leaders” Story, piloted the use of Skype for some core committee calls and held peer learning dialogue calls.

### **6.6 Other Committee Reports**

#### **6.6.1 Report of the International Committee by Yvon Poirier**

The International Committee originated from the 2006 National CED Conference. Last year, the committee focused on expansion, changes in governance and coordination and also created and engaged a sub committee. The committee grew from 6 members to 15 in one year. They continued their involvement in international networks, developed international partnerships and produced some partnership profiles. A proposal was developed for a 5-year joint VCA public engagement proposal to CIDA. The International Committee researched Latin American policy (fair trade, needs and partnership assessment, social economy experiences) and travelled to Latin America in January 2008.

Mike Lewis commented that for the Luxemburg and New Orleans meetings, we will be looking at expanding the RIPPSS delegation from among CCEDNet’s membership. Annie McKittrick asked if we can connect with International Networks. Yvon replied that the network is in a building stage right now so this research has not been completed yet. The committee will try to build a strategic plan for the network.

#### **6.7 Executive Director’s report by Rupert Downing**

The Network engaged in several national and regional initiatives to further its mission and strategic plan in 2007. In all of these initiatives, members were engaged in the design and development, resources were leveraged to benefit their work, and learning and knowledge was shared. The initiatives also contributed to the ongoing resource

base of the Network to meet the Board's direction on enhancing sustainability of the Network itself. These initiatives include: **Place Based Poverty Reduction, Growing Hope, Social Economy Research Partnerships, Community Development Service Learning, Create Action Work Experience Program, SFU CED Certificate Program, Communities Agenda, Online Community and Media, Regional Networks, Strategic Planning,**

**Succession Planning:** Notice was given in August 2007 for the ED position and a succession plan is now in final stages to ensure an effective handover to a new Executive Director.

Mr. Downing gave a special thanks to our members, committee activists, board directors, and staff for all of the hard work and inspiration they have provided to the work of the Network. He hopes we all continue to join in the Network to do what is surely the most important work in the world today.

Ifo Ikede asked why there were no elections at the AGM. *"I am looking for clarification about voting. The by-laws state that the people cannot be voted on from the floor but this is what happened at the previous AGM in St. John's, NL"*. Natasha explained that CCEDNet had a set of by-laws that allowed for calls for elections and voting by proxy. As a result of feedback by members, the Board drafted by-laws that were brought to the AGM in 2007 and were approved by members. The members wanted to vote in advance of the AGM for the Board of directors. The in person voting situation did not give a chance for people to read the bio's of candidates in both official languages.

## 7. Financial Report

### 7.1 Treasurer's Report

Caroline Lachance reported that the Financial Statements for 2007 were included in the Annual General Meeting Kit. An abbreviated summary is presented in the 2007 Annual Review. The audited financial statements were presented to the membership.

Lisa Caton asked about the goal of having a three month reserve. Caroline answered that the reserve covers core operational costs for three months, in case of a loss of funding. *« L'objectif était pour nous de s'assurer que lorsqu'on met fin aux contrats, il faut être en mesure de couvrir les salaires pour les prochains 3 mois. Nous devons leur donner un avis de 3 mois si on devait terminer les salaires. Nous devons calculer les différents couts de base (salaires, loyer, téléphone) et ça a totalisé un total de \$50 000. »* Lance encouraged the Board to have a bigger fund than \$50 000.

Barbara Rufo commented that there seems to be a problem with fund raising. *"Is it possible to start a sustainability committee?"* Caroline answered that a sustainability committee is in progress to insure that our finances come from different sources. Ethel Côté noted, *"When you talk about sustainability it is not just about funding it is also about being entrepreneurial to make it viable."* Alex Chernoff added, *"I think it is also important that each committee think about sustainability in carrying out their objectives."*

### 7.2 Appointment of Auditor

The Board of Directors recommended that we continue with the firm Mantell Dickson Blades Wiseman (MDBW) as CCEDNet's auditor.

Brad Franck moved and Marcia Tait seconded that a MDBW be the organization's auditor for the next fiscal year.

**Motion carried**

## **8. Resolutions**

A call for resolutions was sent to all members on February 22, 2008. In response, the administrative office received three (3) resolutions.

### **8.1 Civil Society and Effectiveness**

WHEREAS the Paris Declaration adopted in 2005 on aid effectiveness does not recognize civil society as an important actor in the social and economic development of societies, and excluded civil society in the discussions and consultations leading to the formulation of the policies

AND WHEREAS International Development NGO'S and other partners are advocating that civil society be included in future policies and in the discussions leading up to their formulation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CCEDNet supports those leading the discussions, organization efforts and advocacy work of Civil Society Organizations in preparation for the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 3) to take place in Accra in September 2008, and insists that both Canadian civil society and government understand and support civil society as an effective channel of aid delivery.

Yvon Poirier moved and Éthel Côté seconded the adoption of the Civil Society and Effectiveness resolution

**Motion carried**

### **8.2 Make Poverty history**

WHEREAS reducing poverty is one of the main objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);

AND WHEREAS the Make Poverty History Campaign is a global civil society network that is at the forefront of this struggle;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CCEDNet officially joins the campaign and invites its membership to do the same, and asks the federal and provincial governments to put in place policies and programs to eliminate poverty in Canada and in the world, such as the ones recommended by Make Poverty History.

Yvon Poirier moved and Éthel Côté seconded the adoption of the Civil Society and Effectiveness resolution

**Motion carried**

### **8.3 Kyoto Protocol**

WHEREAS the government of Canada has officially adhered to the Kyoto Declaration AND WHEREAS Global warming is affecting communities in Canada and all over the world

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED CCEDNet demands that the Canadian government abide strictly by the Kyoto protocol to reduce the emission of global warming gases and that programs be put forward to help communities meet the standards advanced by the protocol, namely programs that support communities in their development of locally owned renewable energies.

Farrar Broadhead suggested that we also include that CCEDNet should be a leader in moving the Kyoto Protocol forward.

Lynne Markell commented that we need to pass the amendment first, before we pass the motion to for the resolution. *"It is my opinion that this will change the intent of the of the resolution and that we need to clarify whether CCEDNet itself will, as an organization, embody the Kyoto Protocol and whether CCEDNet will push members to so"*.

Diana Jedig insisted that we can't vote on this now and that the resolution cannot be amended right away. *"We need to redraft this resolution, translate it, send it out to members, and receive feedback, according to the bylaws"*.

Farrar said that she would be comfortable moving forward to vote on this resolution as it stands and maybe next year amend that resolution to include CCEDNet.

Natasha Jackson: *"in the interest of time that would be nice. In that case we will make note of your recommendation in the minutes and move it forward for the next AGM."*

Yvon Poirier moved and Éthel Côté seconded the adoption of the Civil Society and Effectiveness resolution

**Motion carried**

#### **8.4 Recommendations**

Shannon Henry put forward a recommendation that in the future, there be more Aboriginal inclusion for the annual conference and in CCEDNet's work. The 2009 Conference should consider having indigenous models of CED.

Leslie Spillett supported that recommendation. She would like her working committee to be recognized as a working group for next year's conference. The recommendation also included looking for leadership in the Aboriginal committee.

Natasha Jackson mentioned that at this time, a call for proposals has been issued to host the 2009 annual conference which is available through our website.

Ifo Ikede: *"I would like to echo what my sister and mother said that we need to fundamentally change how we operate. CCEDNet is following the colonialist method of engagement. We need to fundamentally change how we are leading. We are not creating a space that is open. We cannot follow that Canadian by-laws and make up our own. These are not the traditions of CED You do not come up with bylaws on directors and how to vote. Traditionally we have respected our elders and have been matriarchal. You need to approach us and ask us how we organize and how we lead. You cannot say that we practice equality and continue to operate in a way that does not respect our cultures."*

Yvon Poirier: *"I'm making this suggestion to the board that CCEDNet ask the Canadian government to recognise the rights of Aboriginals."*

Ethel Coté is inviting people to take their space in the Network. CCEDNet helps marginalize communities. *"It's a space with a lot of rooms. Please fill in the evaluation form. If not please do it on the Website. Your say is important. Everything needs to be captured."*

Barbara Rufo has a problem how Ifo made his comment. *"How do we acknowledge what Ifo is telling us without looking at our feet and looking white guilty. Maybe next year have a wisdom mixed group that has a thought about his comments."*

Natasha Jackson commented on what Ethel raised. This network is young and evolving and we need to respect the work that has happened to get to this point.

*Crescentia Dakubo "We often run into problems when we speak for the "other". We expect that people in various circumstances are better positioned to articulate their problems in their own voices and should be actively engaged in finding solutions to those problems. We should not discuss these issues through the lens of black/white or men/women or through other categories. What I see going on here is "othering". What needs to happen is to let the South speak for the South, and Africans for Africans, and other can lend the support in various ways".*

*Chantal Dubois: "We should use the right words. CED is not something new. By-laws are not necessary the right way to do things. We should have room for flexibility; we can use both and build bridges. WE ARE ONE PEOPLE."*

## **9. Election Results**

On April 18, 2007, CCEDNet held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in St. John's, NL. Over 50 voting members attended this meeting. At that time, in addition to the regular business conducted at the AGM, members adopted changes to CCEDNet's by-laws. The process of revising CCEDNet's by-laws began in 2005-06 in response to members' call to modernize and democratize the organization's procedures in the following four areas: membership, democratic participation, Board structure and the resolution process.

Changes were made to the by-laws regarding the elections procedure for Board members. At least six months before the AGM, the Board of Directors appointed an elections officer to organize the elections for members at large according to a procedure adopted by the Board of Directors that involved a call for nominations, the translation and posting of the nominations and an election open to all members.

As a result of this process, Yvon Poirier declared Natasha Jackson, Carol Madsen and Norman Greenberg were acclaimed for a three (3) year term to the Board of Directors.

## **10. Appreciations**

Natasha spoke on behalf of the Board and thanked Louis Grenier for his three year dedication to CCEDNet's Board of directors and Marie Baptiste who could not make it to the conference this year.

Naomi Adams thanked Farrar Brodhead who has moved on from Emerging Leaders and Chris Clement and Alex Chernoff for sharing their wisdom and experience in helping them achieve the status of standing committee.

Cathy Harrington thanked Rupert Downing for more than six years of dedication to the development and success of CCEDNet and the sector. Under his leadership, the Network has grown to involve over 10,000 communities, organizations and institutions across Canada

## **11. Adjournment**

Diana Jedig moved and Naomi Adams seconded that the Annual General Meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 12:45