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Meeting Minutes – April, 2008**

Attending: David LePage, Ed McKenna, Sandy Shaw, Shauna MacKinnon, Roz Lockyer,  
Ethel Cote, Stephen Ameyaw, Norman Greenberg, Lynn Markell, Crescentia Dakubo

Regrets: none noted

Staff/Guests: Brendan Reimer, Rupert Downing

**1. Agenda Approved**

**2. February Minutes Approved**

**3. Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (Rupert)**

- Rupert continues to represent CCEDNet as the co-chair (U Vic is the other co-chair) of the national research network, connected to the 6 regional nodes that were created as part of the federal social economy initiative that CCEDNet, le Chantier, and CCA argued years ago. It is in year 4 of a 5-year grant.
- A current project is a national and international review of literature being carried out by a Ph D student under the supervision of Rupert. Research is showing that there is a lot of activity around the world around explicit frameworks for supporting social and solidarity economies as a way to achieve social and economic outcomes. Obama's stimulus has invested \$100 million in CED financing, and significant investment around "green jobs." There is also interesting initiatives in Asia, Latin America, and Europe.
- There is a new Knowledge Mobilization staff person at the Victoria, BC office (Joel Legassie) who will support the work of the national tele-learning and other strategic activities.
- Part of the SERP's role is to pull together the sector around common policy and priorities, and will do this through a participatory action research process to engage people in government and in the sector to create a roadmap for enhancing

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- the policy environment in Canada, learning lessons from research and around the world. More than 300 researchers in Canada working on this. There is still a challenge around getting practitioners involved in the research.
- There are also some strategic and thematic research areas. Food and sustainable agriculture is one area being explored with CCEDNet and CCA, as well as newcomers and settlement, coming up one on procurement.
  - During the next 18 months there will be other activities as well targeting different levels of government: writing discussion papers, engaging government in dialogue with practitioners, etc.

#### Actions

- **Brendan** will circulate the searchable table of social economy research in Canada
- **Ethel** will circulate the Social Innovation documents from Obama's plan
- **Brendan** will send Sandy information on research relating to newcomers

#### **4. Government Dialogue**

- The Provincial Government of Manitoba will host a government dialogue on June 3 in Winnipeg, as a side event of the National CED Conference. Discussions have begun around crafting an invitation list and an agenda. Personal follow-up from the Province as well as Board and Policy Council members might be more effective than simply letters/emails. While the tendency might be toward presentations, the richness will come from real dialogue, so we aim for that.
- It would be good to focus on these economic times and how CED can provide solutions to real community issues, and national goals. We can put forward our Communities Agenda, as well as evidence coming out of the research. We need concrete goals and objectives so that we maximize outcomes and impact.

#### Actions

- **Shauna, Lynn, and Ethel** will join Mike and Brendan on the planning team with Anna Rothney and Ciara Shattuck of the Manitoba Government

#### **5. New Strategic Plan**

- The Board met for 2 days in January in Ottawa, this next stage will involve gathering feedback from the committees. The vision, mission, and values have been revised. Also, there is a Sustainability Committee looking at that issue.
- Feedback: it looks very operational (mostly internal stuff), rather than movement building or oriented to social change. While it is unclear in here what the role of the Policy Council is, Ethel confirmed that the Board sees the PC as a strategic driver for our network.

#### Actions

- **Policy Council Members** will provide feedback on the Strategic Plan to Ethel

#### **6. Advancing Our Policy Agenda**

- Roz, Ethel, Mike, and Brendan met to discuss how to lay out a plan that can be implemented around mobilizing the network to advance our policy agenda

- The idea is to develop a position paper with a few key recommendations similar/building on the Communities Agenda and the Federal Pre-Budget Submission, create a “map of influence” listing MPs in key roles and MPs that we have access to, set out a plan of action at our in-person meeting in Winnipeg, hold a national tele-learning session with those PC/Board/Staff/Members that are willing to make presentations on how to do so, and then co-ordinate and support/mobilize the work with a set timeline leading to a possible fall election. We would look to ensure that examples cover francophone, newcomers, Aboriginal, youth, women, sectors, geography, rural/urban, etc)
- David: rather than looking at what CCEDNet and PC will do, how about looking at what members are already doing and find ways to support that, providing strategic thinking and tools for members.
- Federal/Ottawa strategy is important, and so is the policy work of our members, we should have a thorough dialogue exploring which direction we take if it is one over the other.

#### Action

- **Brendan** will draft a “map of influence,” speak to David about some current member advocacy work, and arrange for our in-person meeting in Winnipeg

### **7. National CED Conference Workshops**

- 4 workshops are being developed by PC members
- Roz and Sandy’s on Advancing our CED Policy Agenda would be a place to discuss and mobilize members around the discussed policy campaign including identifying what members would need by way of supports, training, and coaching to feel confident enough to get involved. Other PC members could be there to support this conversation.
- We need to make sure that we get the notes and data from these workshops; need a PC member to capture the essence of discussions in each workshop.
- The Food Forum is having a hard time raising funds, they will meet to see how to go ahead with a forum at reduced/no costs.

#### Action

- **PC members** requiring travel and/or registration subsidy will contact Roz/Ethel

### **8. PC Membership**

- Lynn and Norman renewed for 3-year terms, David for a 1-year term. Norma resigned, leaving 2 spots open. Rupert will not be joining, but is available to join PC calls periodically to provide updates on the research and policy agenda.

#### Action

- **Brendan** will draft a Call for Expressions of Interest to joining the Policy Council, to be circulated in late April.

### **9. Next Meeting**

- May 14, 2009 12:00 Eastern

