



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

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Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2009**

Attending: David LePage, Nancy Hartling, Rosalind Lockyer, Ethel Côté

Regrets: Crescentia Dakubo, Sandy Shaw

Staff: Mike Toye (Brendan is away)

**1. Welcome**

- There was some initial discussion about the members who were absent, in particular those who do not participate regularly. With the AGM approaching as a natural time for renewal, we should perhaps review each member's term and confirm their desire to remain on the Policy Council.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- The January 8 Policy Council minutes were approved as presented.

**3. Update of Policy Agenda**

- The difficulty in moving forward over the last year has prompted the desire to re-think how CCEDNet does its policy work. The Council should be a means for members to collaborate rather than setting an agenda for others to do work. We need to use and share what members are doing rather than trying to fit what they're doing into a different agenda. Staff resources are limited but members' capacity is much bigger.
- One option is to send an email to Policy Council members, ask them to look at Communities Agenda, and based on the headings, identify the areas they are working on in their current work. ('Give us examples of what you have done to move the Communities Agenda forward in your community / region / province / federally / sector in the last year.' What are areas of interest where you think you'll be moving forward on in the next year? Are there others that you think should be connected to CCEDNet's work and contribute to policy Council?)
- CCEDNet's greatest asset is the work that the members do to move the community's agenda forward. There will always be a need for core staff to

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facilitate this engagement, but it should be more of an enabling and supportive role than actually doing the work. Consideration of who might be best placed to advance policy priorities on a case by case basis would be furthered once we know what members are doing.

#### **4. Update on CCEDNet National Conference**

- All the policy sessions proposed have been accepted. Who will be presenting in each one has not yet been determined. There will be some support for presenters, depending on available funds.
- Craig Campbell at Industry Canada has expressed interest in contributing to a session on how to get our sector on the policy radar.
- The Government Dialogue should serve as a platform for officials to learn from each other. There should really be dialogue, sharing stories and some way to maintain the dialogue afterwards. Participants should be inspired by good policy making and impacts after 1, 2, or 3 years. Clarify the main objective. The conference theme should be connected to the dialogue, but not the sole focus.
- The Action Planning portion of the conference, at the very end, could be facilitated by Policy Council members as it was last year. It will be based on the Communities Agenda themes. The time should allow for thinking together on how they share and learn. Last year we didn't do a good job of capturing these themes. CCEDNet's strategic plan framework will also need to be integrated in the planning.

#### Action

- Mike will ask Policy Council members who is interested in presenting in each of the workshops. Ethel has indicated an interest in the 3<sup>rd</sup> session.
- Mike will follow up with Craig Campbell regarding his contribution to the 'Yes We Can: Advancing Our Policy Agenda' session
- At the next Policy Council meeting, verify who is willing to take on facilitation roles for the Action Planning session of the conference.

#### **5. Economic and Federal Government Issues (Budget Analysis)**

- Reactions to the budget from a number of partners have been posted on CCEDNet's website. We didn't do our own reaction.
- For the Government Dialogue, it would be useful to have a 1-2 pager with info on the movement, including statistics such as percent of GDP (7.8% GDP, numbers from Imagine Canada). It is with information like this that Québec has been successful: numbers on jobs created, impact on local economy, etc. Also reflect the diversity of the movement and the diversity of issues addressed.
- Enterprise Greater Moncton did survey last year on non-profit presence, Nancy has the document. It outlines the important contributions to the economy and the social fabric in areas such as crime prevention, health, etc. We should build on existing research and Québec's documents – notably their 2006 summit report.

#### **6. National Scene**

*a. Food Working Group*

They are planning for a pre-conference day-long forum in Winnipeg. Some pre-event research is being led by the CCA.

*b. Human capital committee*

Norman & Cathy have been talking and will have a proposal to restart this committee.

*c. CCA-CCC's CDI renewal campaign*

Letters were sent to all MPs in Manitoba from the Manitoba CED Network.

*d. Update on Public Policy Group of the SE Hub*

The Public Policy Committee is meeting tomorrow.

*e. National Summit 2010*

The Concept paper has been finalized and is being sent for translation and distribution. The title has not yet been determined. The Board has approved in principle CCEDNet's support for and participation in the event.

*f. World Social Forum & Lux09*

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum on the Globalization of Solidarity will be held April 22-25 in Luxembourg. 1000 people are expected. Ethel is hoping to have CCEDNet representation beyond her, Yvon Poirier and Mike Lewis.

The World Social Forum was extremely dynamic and a powerfully positive experience. Ethel and Yvon were there. Reports have been circulated. The Social Solidarity Economy was seen as a concrete answer to the current economic and financial crisis. Ethel has suggested a global mapping project that has received a lot of support.

**7. Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be at our regular time, the second Thursday of the month, on March 12 at 12:00 Eastern.