



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

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**Canadian CED Network – National Policy Council**  
Meeting Minutes-May 1st, 2008

Attending: Lynne Markell, Marcia Tait, Roz Lockyer, Joe Valsavori, Ethel Côté, Shauna McKinnon, Norma Strachan, Norman Greenberg

Regrets: David LePage, Ed McKenna, Robyn Webb,

Staff: Brendan Reimer, Rupert Downing, Elizabeth Morrison

**1. Welcome and Announcements:**

The group noted that Raymond Desrochers has resigned.

**2. Conference Update**

Registration for the conference is high and according to schedule. Currently registration stands around 270, with plans for a push in the next three weeks. Policy Council were reminded that they should circulate promotional materials as much as possible over the next few weeks.

The Policy Council meetings are scheduled for Wednesday at 3:00pm to discuss a conference action plan, and immediately after the AGM on Saturday.

Policy Council will also be facilitating the Friday afternoon session. It is important that as many participate in the guided dialogue as possible. The session will start in Convocation Hall for a group introduction. Participants will break in to four groups where they will be led in facilitated discussion around the policy questions. The

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discussion will take place in table groups. This information is compiled in a one-page document and will be circulated to the PC.

**Action:**

**All members** will facilitate the Friday afternoon session

**Liz** will circulate the presenter's kit, Friday afternoon script and questions, and the list of policy council activities at the conference by May 5<sup>th</sup>. PC members will respond with any questions or changes.

**3. Vacant Policy Council Positions:**

The Policy Council wished Marcia luck on her travels, and thanked her for her participation as co-chair.

There are two open spots on the council. It was noted that a few people are not attending regularly and should also be checked in on to determine if they want to participate further with the policy council.

Discussion around recruitment for these positions will occur at the CCEDNet conference.

Roz has offered to co-chair with Ethel. This is a good working relationship, as they live in the same province and they will find opportunities to meet as much as possible in person.

**Action:**

**All members** will think about the recruitment process.

**4. CCEDNet and the Coalition at the Canadian Federation of Municipalities Conference:**

With the four coalition members CCEDNet will have a booth at the Canadian Federation of Municipalities conference. Over the two days they will actively network and distribute materials. This is a strategic move designed to show people engaged on the municipal level some of the tools and strategies that CED has to offer, and to educate about the breadth of the social economy movement.

Lynne and Ethel reported that they will be sending a letter to organizations inviting them to visit their booth. It was noted that it might be more effective to target directly those who have registered. They will see if they can access the registration list.

For this it would be good to have the following materials:

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1. A one-page document representing the perspective of all four organizations. **Paul Chamberlain is working on this.**
2. A three-four page document from CCEDNet All policy council members could submit examples, and work together to make a short document. Staff could edit.

Action:

**All policy council members** will submit to Brendan or Elizabeth examples of an effective municipal CED policy.

**Lynne and Ethel** will continue target marketing.

#### **4. Report on HUMA committee**

Rupert reported that the Human Development committee has launched an investigation in to federal poverty reduction tactics.

Questions raised included how we could participate, how we could get involved, and how we could capitalize on provincial gains in Labrador/Newfoundland, PEI, New Brunswick, and Ontario. It was agreed that we need hearings across Canada to get our members before the Committee. We need to discuss this with all parties, especially the Bloc and the NDP.

Action:

Rupert will approach the Clerk and opposition parties.

**All policy council members** will keep an ear out for an announcement of hearings and will report any information they have.

#### **6. Sub-Committee Reports**

##### **A) Food Policy Working Group**

Lynne discussed that the Food Policy Working Group has agreed on a Terms of Reference. This group will be focusing on developing supportive food policy for CED. She emphasized that the terms of reference includes collaborating with other organizations, particularly Food Secure Canada. Our working group will focus on the “economic” side of food related issues.

The policy council supports this, and looks forward to the work of the group in the future.

The group is looking forward to the conference when many members will be able to meet in person.

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## **Terms of reference:**

**Type of Committee:** The Food Policy Working Group is a subcommittee of the Policy Council of CCEDNet. It is expected to work toward the implementation of CCEDNet's local food policy as outlined in the policy framework, Strengthening Canada's Communities - Communities Strengthening Canada .

**Purpose:** To investigate and develop food policy that will ensure the local production and distribution of sustainably-produced food in Canada

**Specific Tasks:** The Food Policy Working Group has the following tasks:

1. To work with the CCEDNet Policy Council to advocate for sustainable food policies and support for local food initiatives at the municipal, provincial, and national level.
2. To mobilize the CED voice across the country in articulating and lobbying for a sustainable domestic food policy and local food systems.
3. To develop and promote CED initiatives and strategies to develop sustainable and healthy domestic food systems.
4. To collaborate with Food Secure Canada and other organizations to ensure that support for local food initiatives is an integral part of federal/provincial/territorial policies.
5. To collaborate with Food Secure Canada and other organizations to assemble research and/or resources relating to sustainable food production and distribution.

**Reporting Relationship to the Policy Council:** One Working Group member will provide regular updates to the Policy Council. The assigned member presents issues and recommendations of the Food Policy Working Group for consideration and approval, as well as updates on the group's activities.

## **B) Human Capital sub-committee**

Joe reported that they are getting feedback on their policy paper. They will take this to the conference for additional discussion.

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It was noted that committee members may want to look at the document “Employability in Canada: Preparing for the Future” as it has some great information about human capital and the potential for progressive policy change.

Action:

**Lynne** will circulate the employability document.

## **7. Elections Planning**

Ethel reported on that the Board discussed the goals of the federal election strategy, inclusive of:.

1. Influencing federal parties to include CCEDNet’s policy priorities (as set out in the Communities Agenda) and have similar priorities in their own election platform.
2. At election time, equip our members and use CCEDNet’s material to raise issues in the election campaign.
3. After the election, engage government and Parliament in strategic ways to influence the roll out of the government’s program.
4. It was suggested that the Communities Agenda needed to be developed into a pro-active campaign engaging our members and the board, with a speaker’s bureau of CCEDNet representatives.

The post-conference Communities Agenda can act as a good document for our election strategy. It needs to be updated with the most recent stats released this week from the census.

At the conference we will discuss this further.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 pm at the CCEDNet conference**  
**Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, After the CCEDNet AGM**

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