



Canadian CED Network – National Policy Council

Meeting Minutes – October 8th, 2009

1. Introductions

Attending: April Bourgeois, Crescentia Dakubo, Norman Greenberg, Roz Lockyer, Jeff Loomis, Shauna MacKinnon, Lynne Markell,

Staff: Mike Toye, Brendan Reimer, Kirsten Bernas

Note: We are sharing the chairing of the teleconferences and thank April for volunteering as this month's teleconference chair.

2. Committee Membership

-There are two open spots for membership. There may be a third if Louis Joe Bernard from the Union of Nova Scotia Indians does not join. Roz contacted him by email but has not heard back.

-There was agreement in principle on inviting Lisa Barrett, someone from CANDO, and Morgan Murray to join the membership, in that order.

-Lisa Barrett is from Bowen Island, BC and was the first to respond to us on this. She is a member of BC-CCEDNet, has municipal experience as mayor and councillor, and has been active with the Columbia Institute's Centre for Civic Governance and VanCity Credit Union.

-Mike will send Ray Wanuch's (Executive Director, CANDO) contact information to Roz and she will call him. CCEDNet has a history of collaboration with CANDO and it was agreed that it would be a good relationship to build policy-wise.

-Morgan Murray works with the Good Food Box in Saskatoon. It was agreed that it would be good to have someone from this region on the Policy Council. He has been contacted but has not responded.

-Other names mentioned were William Parody and Brian Hoffert.

3. Recent PC Activities

Update on pre-budget brief and consultations

-The House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance will be in Saskatchewan and Winnipeg the week of the 19th. CCEDNet has put in a submission but has not yet been invited to present in front of the Committee. Mike will send contact information to Kirsten who will then follow-up by phone.

1-pagers

We discussed the one pager on a CED Policy Framework and the Food Policy Working Group's document. The following feedback was provided in terms of key components that should be included in the 1-pagers.

-The 1-pagers should be able to act as backgrounders *and* tools that members can use for outreach and when working with politicians.

-As a backgrounder, each 1-pager should describe the policy issue, why it is important and what the CED approach to it is. It should also explain what CCEDNet is doing about the issue and who it is partnering with.

-As a tool, each 1-pager should clearly outline specific actions that each level of government can take to facilitate a CED approach to the issue so that members can focus on the level of government where they believe they have the greatest opportunity to intervene.

-Each one pager should have a contact person on it.

-Each one pager should describe the value add of CED and also what makes CED unique from small and medium sized businesses

-it was suggested that a 1-pager template be designed

6. Regional Updates

Nova Scotia: Norman, Mike, Brendan, and many other CCEDNet members attended a Social Economy Policy Forum in Halifax last week. There was good policy research presented and good policy presentations, as well as great networking and relationship building opportunities. Tim Brodhead gave an inspiring keynote address.

Ontario: CCEDNet Ontario and partners are doing consultations around the province on the role of government in supporting community based non-profits. Roz will present at the Thunder Bay forum; the power point was developed by CCEDNet staff in what could be a good model for staff facilitating action and volunteering by members. A big policy issue right now is the sudden termination of the Self Employment Benefit program that will be halted Oct 9. This is a very important program for people who want to start their own business, and are EI eligible. This contradicts the Poverty Reduction Strategy that was released recently.

Alberta: There is an anticipated \$6 billion provincial budget deficit and they are looking at up to 20% cuts across all departments and programs. Using 3 key indicators, Momentum has seen an increase in demand for their services and programs by 47%, but programs

across the province will not be renewed despite the growing demand. Alberta did develop a 10-year plan on homelessness, but is resisting a poverty reduction strategy that many groups are working to advance provincially.

Saskatchewan: Regina's new Community Renewal Corporation (Blue Sky) has a new coordinator. April is working with Real Renewal and running for school trustee over the issue of a provincial plan to close 14 schools over 10 years – all of which are located in the inner city. 4 closures have already been halted.

Quebec/National: Mike will be attending and facilitating sessions at an OECD Rural Summit in Quebec City that is being hosted by the Quebec Government next week. The 2010 Summit in Ottawa is still developing. The major objectives include raising the federal policy profile of CED and SE, to use the organizing of it to build relationships with existing and new partners, and to build an action plan for a People Centered Economy. We are in the process of hiring a coordinator in Ottawa to start working on organizing the conference and opening some doors with political and civil service connections. PC suggestions for presenters included Jeff Rubin and Michael Moore.

National: Lynne introduced the Food Policy 2-pager. It comes out of the Food Policy Forum held in Winnipeg at the National CED Conference; a small working group drafted this. The basic premise is that the federal government needs a broad comprehensive food policy as right now different areas of food activity are covered in different departments. This position paper describes needs, objectives and principles, calls for ministry of food or some such structure to oversee food issues, and lists potential program measures. While it might be difficult to bring all angles of food under one department, what Scotland has done is created a centralized policy on food, but it is carried out by line ministries. The Department of Health and Public Health Agency of Canada are really interested in this. The Food Policy Working Group is also planning a 1-day Gathering together with the People's Food Policy project (<http://foodsecurecanada.org/the-peoples-food-policy-project>) aiming for November 2010 in Montreal. On another topic, CCA/CCCM just completed reviewing the CDI proposals and announcements on funding will be released soon.

8. Next Steps

-The PC approved the Food Policy Document; Lynne will send a final version to Roz who will present it to the Board

9. Next Meeting

-The next meeting is November 12. Lynne will be chairing. Kirsten will work with Lynne to develop an agenda for that meeting.