

## **Practitioner & Sector Strengthening Committee (PSS) – January 9th, 2007**

**Present:** Diana Jedig, Anne Docherty, Flo Frank, Michele Cherot.

**Regrets:** Bob Annis; Nicole Chaland.

**Unavailable:** Louis Grenier, Barbara Rufo (in France), Melanie Conn.

**CCEDNet Staff:** David Daughton; Catherine Larsen;

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### **Agenda.**

#### **1. Welcome and Member update.**

Diana thanked Catherine for joining the call at short notice.

#### **2. Minutes from Nov 21st, 2007 and December 5th notes.**

Diana “walked us” through the minutes.

#### **3. Conference 2008.**

##### **- Workshop submissions - confirmation of topics**

**[Notes from the Conference committee's December 18<sup>th</sup> call were circulated.]**

Catherine is organizing the submissions under the three major headings. She has only just returned from vacation and will be working to identify any remaining gaps in the choice of workshops before deciding whether to solicit more submissions. Catherine confirmed that the PSS workshop submissions have been received, other than the outlines of the proposed Affordable Housing and Food Security workshops.

In response to the issue of Quality Control for the workshops, Michele and Anne both expressed interest in drafting a brief primer for presenters. All members felt that the quality of workshops needs to be especially appealing this year and the PSS members wondered about the value of Policy as a “drawing card”. The Committee expressed willingness to assist with making this “The Event of the Year!”. Flo suggested several innovative approaches, such as “Take A Stand”, in order to not only exchange content, but also Values and Approaches. “Advocacy” and “Sector Development” both seem to be coming to the fore. It was suggested that the “Intro to CED” section of the conference could benefit from a more active approach.

Catherine invited the committee to include suggestions on possible approaches and different methodologies as part of the Presenter’s Guide. Diana is willing to circulate her own organization’s paper for presenters in order to spark some ideas for the 2008 conference paper.

Discussion about the planning for social events moved into consideration of a Mad Hatter’s party and other fun and frolic. Flo had to leave the call, after sharing various fertile ideas for enjoyable social events.

Concern was expressed about possible shrinkage in conference attendance, given that travel to Saskatoon can be a bit more costly and many organizations are suffering greater than usual budget constraints.

#### **4. HR Council Survey.**

Diana explained the origin of the survey and there was some brief discussion that led to agreement for the survey to be forwarded to Rupert along with the suggestion from the PSS Committee that it would be sent to other CCEDNet Committees.

#### **5. Other Business.**

David explained that the last day of his current CCEDNet contract is Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> January. He noted that CCEDNet has hired three staff from the "Create Action" intern team, and that the new staff will likely play a role in committee support, as well as in conference planning. David mentioned the likelihood of his working part-time in 2008, but was not sure if he'll be continuing to act as the support person for the PSS Committee. He undertook to notify Diana as soon as there is more clarity on new staffing arrangements, and he expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn from the PSS Committee's work over the past few months.

Diana explained that the calls to potential New Committee Members have not been made, but expressed her intention of doing them before the next meeting. David offered to help out if desired.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 13th, 2008 at 12:30 EST**

#### **7. ACTION ITEMS:**

- Diana to send the HR survey to Rupert and suggest circulation to Committees.
- Diana to obtain information about "Take A Stand" from Flo.
- David to contact Noreen Millar regarding the SN3 "Food Security" workshop proposal.
- Diana to circulate Conference Committee minutes.
- Catherine to circulate the workshop gaps for the conference.