

Practitioner & Sector Strengthening Committee (PSS) – November 21st, 2007

Present: Diana Jedig, Carol Madsen.

Regrets: Anne Docherty, Nicole Chaland, Michele Cherot, Melanie Conn.

Unavailable: Flo Frank, Louis Grenier, Bob Annis, Barbara Rufo.

CCEDNet Staff: David Daughton (in Ancaster, ON)

1. Welcome and brief update

David gave a brief oral report on his recent tour of the Maritimes with Rupert Downing. Rupert had also circulated a written report to Board Members.

2. **Approval of Minutes** – Postponed to next meeting due to lack of quorum.

3. Conference 2008 Workshop Sessions

Diana gave a brief update on the Conference workshop process and commented on the RFP that was circulated. She noted that the PSS Committee will have to submit a proposal for consideration by the workshop selection committee, prior to December 21st. Diana also reported on the outcomes and inputs of the recent Conference Planning teleconference. Diana referred to the following communication from Nicole:

- INPUT FROM NICOLE CHALAND (via E-MAIL):

- A. I will not be attending the call this week to report on SFU CED courses. I'm not sure what to tell the committee other than we have two courses running this weekend: Sustainable Development, in Vancouver with 12 students and Social Enterprise in Victoria with 8 students. We're applying to ENP for a grant to develop some serious business planning for this lovely little entrepreneurial initiative CCEDNet is undertaking.
- B. The research committee will not be organizing an EVALUATION workshop for next years conference. This is because of limited capacity. They are focussing their energy on building authentic practitioner engagement in social economy research or more broadly—building capacity of our movement for the co-production of research questions that would strengthen social economy. I've attached a slew of past evaluation presentation stuff. One related item to take note of is that one outcome of last years evaluation workshop was that participants wanted to engage in a critical discussion about evaluation—i.e. when it can hurt us and when it can help us.
- C. Finally, during our staff meeting today we discussed the need for a stream or series of introductory workshops, many of which the PSS committee has taken care of in the past: mainly mentorship, advocacy and 'intro to CED.' I can handle the intro to CED workshop no problem; hopefully that will free up time and resources. Jaie could tell you more.

- Diana is inclined to take Nicole up on her offer to cover the “**Intro to CED**”.
- **Mentorship** (Carol & Melanie will work on updating the workshop).
- **Advocacy** (Diana will work with Bob & Flo on updating the workshop).

BRAINSTORMING:

- [Page 4 of the RFP document] - **Social Enterprise** try to get a Social Entrepreneur to lead it, perhaps the “Potluck Café” - Ms. Loughheed-Green? Have

- a Social Entrepreneur speaking to their own experience (including barriers that policy might overcome).
- On a similar theme, the innovative & co-operative **Childcare** social enterprise model pioneered in Philadelphia could possibly be presented by SEED Winnipeg's Cindy Coker. Cindy could present an alternative to the current trend towards offshore-run childcare "warehouses". Having Cindy present in the context of the national childcare strategy? Maybe a panel approach that would include a Québec perspective. Carol is comfortable contacting Cindy Coker (could also touch base with Brad Franck).
 - Wonder if Barbara Rufo might be interested in developing something.
 - **Food Security:** Frank Moreland & Sandra Mark from BC – Maybe have some presenters from Eastern Canada (Patty Williams? Omer Chouinard? Gary Clausheide?) + reps from Central Canada.
 - Carol's dept at SFU (formerly CED) is now called Sustainable Community Development. She's interested in highlighting **Climate Change & Eco-issues**. There was some discussion of diversification of farm & forestry income, particularly through Community-Based Energy Development initiatives, that could tie in Carbon sequestration and Renewable Energy to Food Security and Rural Prosperity issues. Mention of a possible presenter role for Rupert (reference to Paul Hawken (Ecology of Commerce)).
 - Carol met recently with Pascale Lavoie-Scott and Nicole Chaland and discussed the housing co-op that they created in Victoria, BC. It would make an interesting, current case study that combines **Co-op Development and Affordable Housing**.

4. Next Meeting. [changed from Dec. 12th.]

Wednesday, December 5th, 2007 at noon EST

5. ACTION ITEMS:

- Diana to check with Jaie/Catherine re multiple approaches by different Committees to the same speaker. Response received indicating that all proposals will be reviewed (after the December 21st. deadline) for duplication of presenters. Any overlap will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, considering such matters as expertise in different topics, opportunities for cost savings etc. (DONE)
- Carol to contact Melanie to gauge her interest re Mentoring. (DONE)
- Diana to contact Bob & Flo re Advocacy. (DONE)
- Diana to contact Nicole, accepting her offer re the Intro to CED. (DONE)
- David to contact eastern food security folk once Diana gives the go-ahead.

6. ACTION ITEMS from previous calls/Follow-up:

- Diana to draft work plan and review with David.
- Diana to circulate Conference Committee minutes to Anne, Mel & Michele. (DONE)
- PSS members to let Nicole know their preference for content in the SFU report.
- David to share his Planning Tool. (DONE)
- Melanie to do some workshop material revisions.

- CCEDNet recognition awards. Diana will follow up with Brad Franck & Membership Committee.
- Diana requested that members review the contact spreadsheet and complete any missing info (including terms of members) before sending it back to her.
- Talk to Carol about Board stuff and then edit Strategic Direction paper and include points from PSS Committee calls.
- David flyer edits – with help from Anne and Diana.
- Diana follow-up with new members (Linda, Rachel, Blanca, Aubrey & Nunavut).
- Terms of Reference (TOR) – Diana will send to CCEDNet Board for their June 27th meeting. (DONE)
- Flyer - Diana will fix based on feedback and send revision. (DONE)
- Blanca's contact info will be sent to Diana. (DONE)
- David will send Aubrey Cormier's vCard. (DONE)
- *Mentorship* - Gather the feedback and consolidate. (DONE)
- Diana will prepare a package and send to the Committee for comment. (DONE)
- Diana will tell Conf Planning that PSS will help with min. standards (DONE)
- David to check with Jaie about availability of evaluation summary. (DONE)
- Nicole to send details of the 8 SFU courses (DONE)
- WSI Proposal – David to prompt Paul. (DONE)

- **Language issues:**
- Barbara expressed concern about following the “rapid-fire” business in English. She feels a bit uninvolved and is hoping to find ways to feel more engaged and informed (plus au courant). Barbara undertook to speak with Diana about ways that she can feel more comfortable with the Committee's process.