



Manitoba CED Network Annual Member Meeting

CED Policy Forum
November 4, 2008



The Canadian **CE**D Network

Le Réseau canadien de **DÉ**C

Strengthening Canada's Communities

Des communautés plus fortes au Canada

Present: 36 Members and Allies (see Appendix for full list)

Facilitator: Dennis DePape **Recorder:** Lydia Giles

1. COALITION UPDATES

Right to Housing Coalition (Clark Brownlee)

- More than 50 organizations advocating for a National Housing Strategy and federal involvement in social housing, for 300 new units of subsidized social housing units per year from the province, and for an expedient social housing plan to use the houses at Kapyong Barracks.
- Focus of work at this time is at the provincial level where a non-cohesive mix of programs, all under-funded, are not really addressing housing problems.

Raise the Rates Campaign (Brendan Reimer)

- Raise basic assistance rates immediately to their 1992 levels – when they were at their highest – and index annually to inflation.
- Increase shelter rates to reflect average rents and increase annually according to the Manitoba Rent Increase Guideline.
- Increase the earnings exemption to allow EIA recipients to keep their earned income and reach the poverty line.
- Stop taking child support payments from kids on EIA.
- Develop and support a community-government initiative to review Manitoba's Employment and Income Assistance and implement recommendations for reform.
- There have been some increases in some rates over the last year, but much more is required to really begin having an impact on poverty in Manitoba

Anti-Poverty Legislation (Brendan Reimer)

- CCEDNet has worked with federal parties to advance anti-poverty agendas with clear targets and strategies.
- The provincial Liberals have proposed this legislation, there is a local group working to advance this. NDP have resisted, but this could be the foundational legislation upon which much of all our work is focused, and resources and policy in support of our work could be leveraged with it.

Child Care Coalition of Manitoba (Noelle Campbell)

- Advocating for a federal child care strategy. Research and engagement work has been done in rural, francophone, & northern communities.
- Provincial work has started on policy, but there is concern that there is more talk than action. Space needed refers to more green spaces as well as bricks & mortar.

Co-op Visioning Strategy (Vera Goussaert)

- MCA, CDEM, and MAFRI led an intensive process this past summer with many other stakeholders to develop a thorough long-term strategy for co-operative development in Manitoba:
 - Creating a more supportive environment and providing better infrastructure supports and services for cooperatives
 - Fostering better awareness and understanding of cooperatives and their value to members and communities
 - Strengthening organizations to enhance coordination and better identify opportunities for the growth and development of cooperatives

Manitoba Food Charter (Paul Chorney & Stefan Epp)

- The Manitoba Food Charter is both a document and an organization. The Charter itself is a publicly-owned, one page statement about what Manitobans think our food system should look like.
- Currently researching issues around provincial food policy; both the impact of existing policies as well as potential policies. Broad consultations are being done to address needs and influence policy more effectively.

Alternative Municipal Budget (Lynne Fernandez)

- CCPA led project related to the newly formed Citizens' Coalition looking at fiscal and other policy recommendations at the municipal level in Winnipeg. There was also a citizens' guide to understanding municipal budgets and the political processes involved in creating them, noting that budgets are about values that get translated into policy and that current municipal budgets in Winnipeg have nothing to do with community.

2. MANITOBA CED NETWORK POLICY UPDATE

Based on the feedback and prioritization at last year's Manitoba CED Network member meeting where policy was the primary topic of discussion, we have:

- Met with the Department of Conservation to explore how the CED Policy Framework could be integrated with the Sustainable Development Act so that it would become legislation rather than just internal policy. The Minister is very interested in this idea, work is ongoing.
- Proposed a CED Sector Advisory Council that would be a Minister-appointed group of CED leaders who would identify strategy priorities for government policy and programming, and would play a role in holding departments accountable for their implementation/use of the CED Policy Framework.

- Strongly supported the Co-op Visioning process in advocating for provincial involvement/investment with co-op and social enterprise development including policy development in support of this work.
- Participated in a government consultation around the use of the CED Tax Credit in Winnipeg, brought member concerns forward at this forum and in follow-up dialogue with the province.
- Met with senior officials in the Department of Competitiveness, Trade, and Training to discuss support for a Workforce Intermediary Pilot Project, which was well received, but we were unable to mobilize community-based employment development orgs to respond to the invitation for a proposal.
- Met about 10 times with the inter-departmental CED Working Group of the provincial government to present our CED policy and programming priority list including the above as well as sustainable/affordable housing with employment development components, alternative energy with community ownership, and ensuring long-term core capacity for CED organizations including sector infrastructure.

3. POLICY PRIORITIES

Participants were asked to name the top two policy priorities from the whole list of Manitoba CED Network as well as Coalition policy agendas, and then they were asked to identify the two most pressing areas of policy that the Manitoba CED Network itself should prioritize.

Summary of “Dotmocracy”

MB CED Network

- Strengthen CED Policy Framework (20)
- Strengthen CED Infrastructure (18)
- Access to Capital for Social Enterprise (15)
- Procurement (10)
- Employment Development (10)
- Sustainable Housing (8)
- Alternative Energy

Policy Partnerships

- Right to Housing Coalition (11)
- Poverty Reduction Legislation (9)
- Co-op Visioning Process (6)
- Raise the Rates Campaign (5)
- Child Care Coalition (5)
- Manitoba Food Charter (4)
- State of the Inner City Report (2)
- Citizen’s Coalition (Alternative Municipal Budget) (1)

- Alternative Federal Budget (I)

Comments

- We need CED representation at the Premier's Economic Advisory Council, CED policy priorities should be presented to Caucus, and find champions inside to advance policy. However, while policy is good, we need mechanisms to make sure they are implemented
- Need more knowledge on effective strategies for advancing policy and provide training for members on how government works as well as how to develop policy, advocate, communicate with political people, etc. Could be Fast Facts formats, or regular updates. Could get into scrums at the leg, prepare to comment and contribute, get on the public record, and use return on investment evidence to make the point
- A funding stream for food programs is required
- Need secure ongoing funding for CED in general; move current provincial funding (lottery \$?) into a community-controlled foundation as done in Ontario. But also need to prepare ourselves in solidarity for the impending funding crunch resulting from the current economic context
- Need to embed CED support from the province so that it survives potential change in government
- Housing shortage is a crisis, and creates tensions between community groups. Government uses "CED" to offload its responsibilities; don't let this happen.
- Immigration should be driven by long term needs rather than short-term market demand; access to training and employment is critical, and accreditation is a major barrier, and appropriate housing is now available and access is difficult
- Having a good job is a fundamental piece of a person's/families well being; more workplaces are needed for people who require different working conditions
- Capital pool for child care development requires a 3:1 match and results in under-use in poor communities
- Poverty issues are key and are a core component of much of our work; Poverty Reduction Legislation could be a foundation to advance many of our goals
- Recognize that barriers are interconnected; therefore our work needs to be as well and policy needs to reflect that.
- Recognize systemic barriers, racism, power dynamics, colonial legacies and current realities, stereotypes and prejudice in our minds, and what we are "conditioned" to think about ourselves and others in communities
- Need to make sure that we use a "values lens" by which we prioritize our work. Can't find solutions with thinking of and including people

- In rural communities, it is sometimes difficult to find partners for the social development components
- CCEDNet is well positioned to advance policy in support of social enterprise. Need access to both capital grants as well as patient capital
- Be aware of the advantages that CED provides in these economic times and be prepared to articulate them to governments. Make sure we know how to leverage resources for maximum impact
- Need a continued emphasis on ecological consideration in our work
- Engage the media to pressure politicians, gain support beyond our circles, build broader coalitions and gain public support. Consider a shared PR person for the sector
- Consider the effectiveness of leading the development of an Alternative Provincial Budget with community consultations to get communities engaged in the process

Appendix – Participant List

Kemlin Nembhard – Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association
Lynn Fernandez – CCPA, Alternative Municipal Budget
Derek Pachal
Sara Piercy – United Way of Winnipeg
Carly Duboff – United Way of Winnipeg
Patrick Mutumbi – EnviroSafe Cleaning Worker Coop
Roger Guy – Community Futures Westman
Christine Landry – Community Futures Manitoba
Noelle Campbell – Child Care Coalition of Manitoba
Jennifer Neufeld – West Broadway Development Corporation
Clark Brownlee – Right to Housing Coalition
Jacob Carson – Canadian CED Network
Janielle Brooks-Smith – Canadian CED Network
Robyn Webb – CEDTAS
Kate Sjoberg – Spence Neighbourhood Association
Julio Rivas – CEDTAS
Monica Juarez Adeler – LITE, University of Winnipeg
Vera Goussaert – Manitoba Co-operative Association
Duane Nicol – Assiniboine Credit Union
Tammy Klos – West Broadway Development Corporation
Mollie McCracken – West Broadway Development Corporation
Noelle DePape – IRCOM
Allan Wise – CEDA, Citizens’ Coalition
Leslie Spillett – Ka Ni Kanichihk
Cindy Coker – SEED Winnipeg
Nathan Sawatzky – LITE
Lindsey McBain – Canadian CED Network
Farrar Brodhead – West Broadway Development Corporation
Paul Chorney – Manitoba Food Charter
Stefan Epp – Manitoba Food Charter
Sandra Leone – Spence Neighbourhood Association
Glenda Knoll – St. Matthews Community Ministry
Jason Andrigh – Harvest Moon Society
Jackie Hogue – West Central Women’s Resource Centre
Lydia Giles – Canadian CED Network
Brendan Reimer – Canadian CED Network