

# ACW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wednesday, August 22, 2012  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Room 310  
ACWI, 181 Higgins Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB

Good day! My report for August/12

## **Tripartite**

Good news! I spoke with Jeff Betker last week and the two extra projects identified in my report last month will proceed. Federal funding is on hold as OFI is awaiting a letter from the Province confirming their participation in the Tripartite process. I spoke with Darren today and he is going to provide me with an update asap.

## **Reporting by Portfolio**

**Women:** ANA has announced that a national Aboriginal Women's Summit will be held in Winnipeg in November. We are awaiting details on who may attend this event etc. The Native Women's Association of Canada has approved the local Moon Voices group to lead a process to establish a new NWAC affiliate in Manitoba. Ka Ni Kanichihk is providing funding and administrative support to Moon Voices. ACW will continue to monitor progress and to provide advocacy support through the JMC table if requested.

**Social/Economic Development:** The establishment of the Mother Earth Recycling Centre is proceeding. An offer to purchase an existing recycling business has been made and we are anticipating a positive response soon. ACW met with ANA and a representative of Entrepreneurship Training and Trades to review the business plan and to answer questions in regard to this document. Karen Keppler and I attended in behalf of the partnership and we were both confident that we had provided all the information requested. Marileen and I will speak to this project this evening.

**Education/Training/Employment:** I made a visit to LEARN Quebec in Montreal to participate in an E Learning session with them using the ZENLIVE software platform developed by their social enterprise arm known as IEDIT. ACW will facilitate a demonstration of these tools in Winnipeg. A date for this event has not yet been confirmed.

**Thunderbird House:** I met with Stephanie Eyeolfson last week and Thunderbird House continues to struggle with funding issues. I explained the ACW's fall project to develop a comprehensive community plan that would bring us all together to tackle these bigger

challenges. I requested an opportunity to meet with her Board of Directors to explain same. I am awaiting their response.

**Downtown Biz:** I have been attending meetings with the Downtown Biz. We had another meeting today at Siloam Mission. CPR, the City and Downtown Biz are working together to improve the Main Street Underpass. New lighting, structural improvements, landscaping, art work etc are all included in these upgrades. We provided feedback on the proposed plans and they are prepared to undertake some of the recommendations we have made. Another issue raised was a need for public toilets in the area as some individuals are doing this out in the open. The City representative is prepared to meet with representatives of the Aboriginal Centre to see if any solutions are possible. Finally, I raised the issue of the unfinished Secondary Plan for South Point Douglas. The City planner at the meeting explained that there are significant technical issues related to transportation (Louise Bridge replacement), flooding of the Red River and riverbank erosion, expansion of rapid transit through the Point etc that are under consideration prior to a resumption of the planning process. We will continue to be a part of these discussions.

**Urban Aboriginal Issues:** I shared some statistics and background information with participants relative to our community in Winnipeg. There was a lot of interest and they are willing to work with us to improve the Urban Aboriginal Strategy initiative. We need the business community to understand this situation in a much better way and to engage them in our efforts to develop a more comprehensive approach with higher levels of funding, particularly in Western Canada.

**Justice:** Onashowewin, Inc is trying to get Manitoba Justice to implement a Gladue Court process in this province. Cora Morgan indicates that there is significant resistance in the system. ACW will work with Onashowewin to support this initiative. There are far too many Aboriginal persons going to jail when they could be diverted to programs that could help them to move their lives in a more positive direction.