

# ACW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thursday, January 9, 2014  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Room 310  
ACWI, 181 Higgins Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB

Good day! My report for January/14.

## **Tripartite**

The next Tripartite meeting is not scheduled as yet. I spoke with Jeff Betker via phone yesterday to get an update on our funding for next year. He did not present any new information. As you may know, we met with Minister Shelly Glover last October and she said she would make an inquiry on our behalf, if requested. I made that request via email to her Ottawa office yesterday. ACW will submit a workplan as usual and I will have a 1<sup>st</sup> draft prepared by the end of this month. I remain hopeful that there will be no significant changes in how we apply for funding i.e. criteria or a cutback. On another front, I do know that the smaller Aboriginal Representative Organizations (AROs) such as MMF were cutback 10%. Our funding is much smaller than that and a cut would seem inappropriate. I will provide updates when new information is available.

## **Portfolio Reports**

Youth: Wade and I are engaging with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples relative to their new youth initiative called "Find Your Voice". This project is focused on educating and raising awareness within youth relative to the entire political system in Canada. We have downloaded all the background information (considerable) that supports workshops for youth in Winnipeg. Wade and I will have a teleconference call with the CAP coordinator tomorrow morning. CAP has some funding available to assist us locally. I have reviewed some of the materials already and they are well prepared and easy to understand. This is very timely as it is one of our priorities going forward.

Economic Development: ACW continues to work with our partners (ACWI and CAHRD) to address operational issues at Mother Earth Recycling, Inc and to diversify the recycling platform. We are working with the City of Winnipeg to achieve this goal. An expression of interest has been submitted and we anticipate a call for proposals in the not too distant future. Anokiiwin Management Consultants are supporting this work.

Education: ACW's Aboriginal School Division Steering Committee is scheduled to meet today to continue our efforts to explore ways and means to increase the graduation rates of Aboriginal children and youth in Winnipeg's school system. ACW played a strong supporting role in establishing the North Star project which is underway relative to RB

Russell Vocational School. This initiative wraps a multi disciplinary team around a group of thirty students in an effort to ensure they will graduate at the end of this school year. This project is now being led by Education Manitoba.

Women: I met with Vanessa Tait, Co-Chair, Manitoba Moon Voices on Tuesday of this week. They are still getting this new organization operational and will be applying for funding from Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Manitoba. They will use these monies to hire a Coordinator to establish an office and to put the basis organizational structure in place. ACW has a positive relationship with this new group and they are willing to work with our organization on women's issues. We will undertake a joint project for women in the new fiscal year.

Building Organizational Capacity: ACW continues to work with Deloitte on the Governance and Administrative project. Deloitte will lead a workshop with the Board in February. They will be conducting interviews with me and two other board members in the next couple of weeks as pre work for the workshop.

### **Term Position**

CAHRD has provided funding to engage Wade Parke to undertake research and policy development recommendations relative to the education and training needs of CAHRD's constituents/clients. He will also do some project work for ACW such as the CAP Find Your Voice initiative. Wade has an administrative background and has been active in politics for several years. He has excellent verbal, writing and is computer literate. He will be a valuable asset and will be with ACW until the end of March/13.

### **Community Plan**

ACW will be meeting with representatives of Thunderbird House in January to finalize their participation as Co Chair of the Aboriginal Community Plan Steering Committee. This agreement will facilitate funding from several different sources. We are anticipating completion of the plan by March 31/15.

### **Restorative Justice Project with Onashowewin, Inc**

This joint research project is now underway. ACW has engaged Celeste McKay Consulting to lead this work. Cora Morgan, Executive Director, Onashowewin, Inc is providing the direct oversight of this project. ACW will receive a copy of the Final Report for submission to our funders. The research is relative to identifying the rate of recidivism amongst Onashowewin clients.