

ACW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thursday, June 13, 2013
Board of Directors Meeting
Room 310
ACWI, 181 Higgins Avenue
Winnipeg, MB

Good day! My report for June/13.

Tripartite

The next Tripartite meeting is Thursday, June 20/13. ACW is hosting in Room 310. Meeting will begin at 9:30am and end by 4:00pm. I will present a final version of this year's Workplan to the JMC.

Portfolio Reports

Youth: ACW will host a youth workshop this year (fall) to review and prioritize actions relative to the recommendations in the ACW Youth Workshop Report developed last year.

Economic Development: ACW is pleased to report that Mother Earth Recycling has been officially approved by the Minister of Conservation to collect, refurbish/res-use, and de-manufacture electronics products in Manitoba. The partnership (ACWI, CAHRD, ACW) can now move forward to grow this social enterprise to create more jobs for Aboriginal persons with mental health illness/issues, persons with disabilities, and persons with criminal records. ACW is participating in meetings with government departments (federal, provincial, municipal), relevant private sector companies and other relevant groups to achieve this goal.

Community Development: ACW will use the Community Planning Report prepared by Harry Finnigan & Associates to guide ongoing work relative to our efforts to bring some positive change to how leaders and organizations work together on behalf of the now 75,000 Aboriginal citizens in Winnipeg. Harry has drafted a letter that I will send to all senior managers of the key Aboriginal leaders and agencies in Winnipeg. This action will kick start the next phase of this initiative.

Education: ACW's Aboriginal School System Steering Committee is continuing efforts to establish a new Aboriginal Charter School in Winnipeg. Work also continues relative to the establishment of an Aboriginal School Authority/School Division. ACW and CAHRD/Neeginan had a productive meeting with the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education last week. As most of you know, the economy in Manitoba and Canada is still

in recovery mode and new funding is in scarce supply. ACW will continue to support CAHRD's efforts to achieve provincial accreditation as a college for Neeginan Institute.

Women: Moon Voices has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Native Women's Association of Canada as the Manitoba affiliate. I spoke with Leslie Spillet yesterday and there is still much work to be done to establish the new organization. She suggested that I speak with Sharon Cormier next week to get more up to date information on their progress and how ACW may work with them and or provide some assistance. I will share this info with the government representatives next week at the Tripartite meeting.

Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry

ACW with the assistance of Wayne Helgason (former President and Board Member) appeared before the Inquiry two weeks ago. Wayne's many years of experience as a social worker, supervisor and Board member in the Child and Family system made him an excellent witness. ACW's primary focus was education and its relationship to the health growth and development of children and youth. How it keeps children and youth out of that system. Wayne also gave examples of educational initiatives that are working such as the Aboriginal Community Campus, Neeginan and the CSI program delivered by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg every summer.

Mother Earth Recycling and the City of Winnipeg

We met with the City of Winnipeg yesterday to discuss how the Water and Waste Department (Recycling Division) could work with MER, Inc. A couple of options have been identified and we will continue to pursue our discussions with them until we have a concrete outcome to report,

Deloitte Project

Deloitte is preparing a new project proposal that will be funded by AANDC this fiscal year. Deloitte will have a draft to me tomorrow. This new project will complete the last phase of our governance and administrative update process.

Tripartite/Powley Evaluation

The evaluation team from Reciprocal Consulting in Vancouver met with AANDC officials in Ottawa last week. I received an email indicating that the officials were very interested in report relative to the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg. This is good news as ACW is working hard to raise the level of understanding and awareness of the Council and the issues of urban Aboriginal Peoples within this federal Department.