

ACW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Board of Directors Meeting
Room 310
ACWI, 181 Higgins Avenue
Winnipeg, MB

Good day! My report for March /12

Tripartite

The JMC meeting is scheduled for this Friday, March 23/12. ANA is hosting at their offices on Portage Avenue. I have completed the 1st Draft of the ACW Workplan and Budget for fiscal year 2012/13 as per the board workshop held on February 16/12. These documents are attached with this report and are here in hard copy this evening. At the present time, Marileen and Wayne are joining me at the JMC meeting. Please let us know if anyone else can make it as ANA needs to know to order lunch.

Finally, we will be preparing the year end narrative and financial reports for submission to funders as per the contribution agreement requirements. I am also pleased to report that we have achieved most of the deliverables in the 2011-12 ACW Workplan.

Reporting by Portfolio

Women: ACW has been approached by Barbara Nepinak as the spokesperson for a group of women who want to reestablish an affiliate of the Native Women's Association of Canada in Manitoba. They want ACW to support this initiative. I have contacted the Executive Director of NWAC to get an understanding of the requirements that would have to be met by this group to achieve their goal. I have also confirmed that NWAC will not provide any group with resources to do this work. I have put this issue on the JMC agenda for Friday as OFI and ANA were the funders for the former NWAC affiliate known as Mother of Red Nations (MORN). I will provide ongoing progress reports in this matter.

Social/Economic Development: ACW/CAHRD/ACWI are proceeding with the necessary steps to establish the Mother Earth Recycling Centre as per the business plan developed in this fiscal year. This initiative is on the agenda for the JMC meeting on Friday. ACW will get an update on our capital funding requirements from governments that are outlined in the business plan. The consultants have been meeting/phone calls to the City of Winnipeg in relation to a site for the recycling plant. A preliminary site has been identified on Higgins Avenue East. An agreement is being prepared that would outline City of Winnipeg Waste Department commitments to support our project. I will provide ongoing progress reports on this project each month. We are optimistic that we will be able to start up this venture within the 2012/13 fiscal year.

Education/Training/Employment: Members of the ACW Aboriginal School System Steering Committee met yesterday in the ACW boardroom. A consensus was reached by those present to undertake the exploratory work necessary to establish two Aboriginal Charter Schools in Winnipeg – one elementary and one high school. ACW has submitted a proposal to the Province of Manitoba for funding to undertake this project. We are anticipating approval in fiscal year 2012-13. The Community Education Development Association is a partner in this initiative. More partners will be identified on a go forward and strategic basis.

Youth: Ongoing ACW work with youth was an important part of our Strategic Planning session on Monday, March 12/12. This session was facilitated by Jay Cowan and Nedra Anderson. Although we did not get a majority of Directors at this event, I want to thank those in attendance for the valuable contribution they made to this important exercise. I am sure those of you who were not able to attend had good reasons for same. ACW Youth Committee Chair, Sam Lavallee and I will soon host a meeting of the committee to discuss the Strategic Planning session that ACW will host with various focus groups of youth in Winnipeg as part of the ACW Workplan 2012-13. Our intention is to work with youth to build an improved capacity for youth to work together in Winnipeg. We welcome any input from all board members.

Emerging Issues/Initiatives: ACW continues to be active in a number of coalitions/projects with other community groups. Manitoba Make Poverty History, Right to Housing, Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council, Downtown Biz Homelessness, Canadian Mental Health Association- Aboriginal Mental Health issues, Onashowewin Restorative Justice, Inc – National Conference Organizing Committee, Gang Action Interagency Network (GAIN), North Point Douglas Renewal Initiative- Province of Manitoba, OFI- Urban Aboriginal Strategy Renewal, National Mental Health Summit- ACW participated, Canadian Mental Health Commission – National Mental Health Strategy – to be released in April/12, OURs Coalition- Greenspace preservation/development in Winnipeg, Transit Fare Hike Coalition – joint efforts to prevent a .20 cent increase in transit fare – successful as the Premier announced that the Province of Manitoba would not allow this increase – City Council subsequently voted to deny the increase.

ACW- Fiscal Year 2012-13 Major Goal

Beginning April 1/12, ACW will launch a major effort to reconnect with urban Aboriginal community organizations and leaders. We will attempt to recruit Advisory Members as per the ACW Bylaw amendment approved at our AGM 2011. We have done some preparatory work to support this work and I am confident that we can do this and I sincerely believe that it is vital to ACW's future as an effective voice for urban Aboriginal Peoples.

