



MINUTES

Friday, May 5, 2006

1:00-3:00 PM at the NTAB office in St. Catharines
NTAB is located at One St. Paul Street, Suite 605

Present: Kate Acs, Micheal Bauer, Judith Binder, Miriam Cooper, Deanna D'Elia, Eva Goodyer, Duncan MacDuff, John Jackson, Claire Masswohl, Tracey Meszaros, Catherine Mindorff, Sue Morrison, Janina Olechna, Trudy Parsons, Rick Rochon, Pat Sayles, Lynn Stewart, Nancy Sutton, Lori Watson, Dave Ettinger

Absent: Theresa Anzovino, Troy Brooks, Janet Forfar, Tim Foster, Lucie Huot, Heather Kilty, Claudia Montan, Deb Simpson, David Redmond

Regrets: Fiona Allan, Larry Dolan, Patrick Gedge, Brian Hutchings, Jonathon Jurmaine, Ted Palmer, Michele Tiffney

1. **Welcome – Catherine Mindorff**
New committee members - John Jackson, Job Gym
Guests - Dave Ettinger
2. **Review of Minutes of the February 8, 2006 meeting (5 minutes)**
No changes or additions.
3. **Additions to Agenda**
No additions.
4. **Niagara Newcomer Employment Council Strategy Brief and letters to Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and Minister of Immigration**
- **Discussion re: discussion and draft work plan**

Briefing paper was sent to committee for feedback (including changes re K Acs).

Suggestions/feedback:

Accomplishments to date – include dates

Timelines for Phases

Phase I, point 1 – has this already been done? Similar to work of Information Niagara, Local Boards, IPS – data received is not as accurate as hoped, need more info re specific target groups, outcomes (seems everyone is doing everything for everybody), descriptions of services need to be clearer (due to possible misinterpretation of questions), need more concise questions with target populations.

Phase II, point 2 – analyze what has been done, identify who is funded to provide what services and clearly identify numbers served (not in-kind services), bring back to committee to discuss for presenting information, gather more realistic picture of services in NR.

Paper to be sent to both MTCU and Ministry of Immigration, funding from both if possible.

Phase II, wording – over-promising, under-delivering? Take out “all” use “any”, questioning the word “meaningful”, could use “access work commensurate with skills and experience”, some members did not like that phrasing.

Phase III, sequencing – should summit be first and lead to Phase III activities, more help developing regional employer awareness? Purpose is to bring employers together, build strategy for next steps, committee is making some employer connections already. As strategy moves forward, will there be a (funding) contract, through council or “lead” organization? There will be flow through, possibly NTAB or Region, decision to be made, suitable, larger umbrella organization, need to prepare explanation of how this might work for presentations, discussion of who is willing/has capacity to act as flow through. Need a delegation to speak to Ministers, prepare for negotiation on what organization will act as “lead”.

Need to create a budget (basic) to go with briefing, gather information on flow through organization.

Delegation – maximum of 5 reps, from Economic Development, Region, Employers, Education, Immigration (latter two can switch when appropriate).

Political support - would like letter of endorsement from Peter Partington, Regional Chair. (C Mindorff has met with him.)

Brian Hutchings has met with Minister, will meet with Multicultural organizations, has received calls requesting more information. Letter should be cc: to Ontario ministries.

Have local/regional support, now move on to Provincial.

Need list of involved organizations to accompany briefing, also attach Mind Map, budget, list of organizations, define agency flow through.

Niagara Newcomer Service Alliance – doing same thing as NNES? They have asked for funding to research data. Concern of overlap - R Rochon (Chair, NNSA) said having both committees is positive, shows interconnections, NNES is employment oriented, NNSA is service oriented, good to show how goals complement each other. R Rochon to share minutes of their meetings, also provide letter of support.

Phase II, information sharing – K Acs suggested to meet 2 times per year to keep up with activities of each committee, create a model for community information sharing, this would capture gov't interest, sharing resources, not duplicating, have reps from NNSA and NNES attend meetings. R Rochon will send electronic copy of committee description with minutes to distribute to NNES.

K Acs referred to York Region proposal (re social planning) – J Olechna will investigate for more information, send to committee. Also, presentation of Provincial portal (web site), possibly September, date TBA.

Need timeline, ready by end of May, then set up appointments for presentations.

5. Mentoring Group Report

H Kilty not present, deferred to next meeting.

NTAB/YWCA prepared report on model for Women's Employment Mentoring Project, will be posted to NTAB website, link for NNES committee.

6. Employers Group Report

C Mindorff and T Parsons met with HR Executive Leadership Council, John Nichols, Chair – presented information about NNES, to engage employers.

C Mindorff followed up by phone, has been referred to HR Tourism Council (industry still has vacancies for housekeeping jobs).

C Mindorff to meet with Canadian Tire Financial Services and Niagara Health System. Received email from David Redmond, suggestion to amplify specific component, soliciting employers, meet one-on-one to engage. Connections in Toronto and Winnipeg, he is to contact them.

Additional contacts - Sue Reid (now at Immigration, had chaired Business Leadership Council), also Dragon Madovich, Rudy Kroeker – their connections in NR?

K Acs spoke about outcomes/cost of one-on-one meetings, good to attract attention of employers, get champions involved, need realistic expectations of how much actual employment will come out of this type of meeting.

D MacDuff – employer meetings have dual focus, connect with larger employers, also smaller businesses (80% of NR businesses have less than 20 employees). Get them involved through one-on-one meetings, long term vision, build successful relationships/employment connections. Also use existing resources, support organizations that are already working on job development, identify those organizations, where does NNES want to connect?

7. Presentation of “It Takes a Community” document

Communiqué distributed, note actions for considerations, looking at strategy to link workforce development with economic development - NTAB partnership project for 2006-07, will start in September.

8. Report and presentation of website

New link from NTAB home page (www.ntab.org), click on NNES logo, posted minutes, report links, committee contacts, organizations web sites. Additions/feedback – send to NTAB. Possible creation of chat room/forum (TBD re cost). C Mindorff would like to present to council in the fall, show the site.

9. Report on activities of Niagara Integrated Planning Network

C Mindorff – noted social plan lacking, erosion of health services, silo (funders), looking at benefit of social planning council, quality of connections to Region and community services. NIPN did scan of community (Pieds and Associates) re interest, ideas for plan - received 68% response rate, good interest to help with plan. Gathering funding for next level in community, proposal to Trillium (pending – July 2006). Report contains literature review, survey results, review of 5 Ontario models.

10. Report on Provincial Meeting of LTABs

Met April 2006, K Acs facilitated, report sent to EDs, identify what LTABs are doing re integration, immigration. Cornwall held “Trailblazers Awards” to recognize newcomers. *(please see examples in email attachment or NNES website)*

Great opportunity to meet with provincial reps and share information, capture what is happening (similar projects/partnerships e.g. Hamilton, Durham, York, Cornwall).

Communities need to prepare to attract and accommodate future newcomers.

Creating an inventory of efforts (WIP), comparison of community size, % of newcomers, immigration services, Regional strategy, how they are attracting newcomers, LTAB initiatives, other service providers.

Good information to bring to Provincial/Federal entities, shows communities coming together, local solutions, encourage increase of resources and support. Final summary from K Acs in next few weeks, will share with NNES.

11. Evaluation of NNEC process and outcome

Survey tool – good for feedback, how are we doing, moving forward, changes needed, future goals, other needs to identify, a “report card” for past/present/future.

Use Survey Monkey online service, anonymous response, be honest, keep questions specific and short, committee in favour.

12. New business

Community Services Report to Council - May 16th, Sunset Haven one year later, update of NNES, caseload distribution/intake, will be posted on Region website when ready.

Community Services has new delivery model for focused/accurate/streamlined referrals. Staff size is the same, now have Case Manager for pre-employment, Labour force Developer for those who are job-ready, 3:1 ratio.

Job Bus - continuation of 2005 project (NTAB, Niagara College, Port Cares, local employer), transporting workers from Port Colborne to Niagara Falls.

Started April 3rd from Fort Erie to Niagara Falls Hilton. Also Welland/Port Colborne to Marriott and Embassy Suites. Expanding past Hospitality/Tourism sector.

Jobs for \$13/hr (+ benefits), information sessions attracting people 30-40 yrs, Fort Erie Multicultural Centre helping. Also horticultural centres re long term employment and training, good possibilities.

NTAB has 2006/07 funding to document Job Bus project - methodology, lessons learned, process. Report to be shared with province.

Opportunities Niagara has taken on project, N Sutton working with Peter Papp.

Folk Arts Festival - starts May 12th, May 25-27 in Montebello Park. Centre holding a raffle, Transworld Lottery, \$15,000 in prizes, will partner with other organizations to sell tickets, keep 50% of profit for their tickets sold. Contact R Rochon.

Cultural Mapping - Ministry of Culture, federal gov't, municipalities, look at culture as pillar in community development, 5 completed last year. More forums to be held, involvement of leaders/planners, to look at concepts of mapping. Workshop in Caledonia on May 26th, identify importance of culture in communities, description, where people gather, forum re gathering regional/community/municipal support, talking with leaders, other services.

Strategic Plan for YWCA – for next 5 years, focus groups were held, hundreds participated. What is the Y's role, what is missing, connecting with Boards of Education etc, feedback over 1.5 years, develop 5 key initiatives, needs to more in the community, more visual, approaching other organizations, what does each area need, capacity building. Contact Dave Wylie re feedback/needs. Will be posted on their website, D Villella to share with NNES.

Job Connect, Youth - moving in, Niagara College Glendale Campus.

Enhanced Language Program, Niagara College – research done, report to Advisory Committee next week. Talked to 75 people for course, look at alternative delivery, enhancing.

Meeting with Federal gov't next week re curriculum, Ft. Erie Multicultural Centre/Niagara College partnering.

Citizenship and Immigration - consultations ongoing over next 2-3 months re needs, to provide input re budget allocations.

Information flyer – C Mindorff brought to committee, May 30 in Council Chambers of Town Hall, 6-7 pm or 8-9 pm re OSAP information, free event, call to register 905-871-1600, ext. 533.

13. Next meeting

September 22, 2006, 1-3 pm at NTAB. Updates electronically until then, meet after presentations to Ministers, may call meeting during summer to discuss, or other important issues.

NNES Action Chart

Action	Responsibility	Due Date	Status
Make suggested changes to briefing paper.	Catherine, Trudy		
Decide which organization will be the “flow through”, prepare explanation of how it will work.	Committee		
Create profile of “flow through” organization for presentations.	Catherine, Trudy, sub-committee		
Determine who will be part of delegation to make presentations, max 5 reps.	Committee		
Prepare a basic budget.	Catherine, Trudy		
Prepare attachments to accompany briefing paper: list of involved organizations, Mind Map, budget, “flow through” details.	Catherine, Trudy		
Forward minutes of NNSA meetings and committee description to Catherine.	Rick		
Provide letter of support for NNES	Rick		
Obtain letter of support from Peter Partington	Catherine		
Investigate York Region proposal (re social planning) for more information, send to committee.	Janina		
Presentation of Provincial portal (web site), possibly September, date TBA.	Janina		
Meet with Canadian Tire Financial Services and Niagara Health System, also contact Sue Reid, Dragon Madovich, Rudy Kroeker re Niagara connections.	Catherine		
Website additions/feedback – send to NTAB to post, minutes will be posted after each meeting.	Trudy, Lisa		
Possible creation of chat room/forum (TBD re cost).	Trudy		
Final summary of LTABs inventory of efforts (ready in next few weeks, will share with NNES).	Kate		
Survey online for committee evaluation: progress, feedback, changes needed, future goals etc	Trudy		