



COMMITTEE MEETING ACTION SUMMARY

Committee: First Nations and Métis Opportunities Committee

Meeting Date: June 8th, 2015

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Chair: Chris Sicotte

In Attendance: Chris Sicotte, Robert Daniels, Roger Grona, Ranga Ranganathan, Gabe Lafond, Jacqueline Woods, Julian Ovens, Mathew Cey

Staff: Kevin Meldrum, Czarina Catambing

Introductions

*SAPA Presentation in fall

Association of Chinese-Canadian Entrepreneurs and Enterprises (ACCEE)

- Their initial idea of an event was a matchmaking event with Canadian business owners selling their businesses and government representatives giving talks
 - Their purpose is to conduct succession planning processes with them as new partners, but this would be difficult because of the ownership piece
- Kent and Monica suggested to go for partnership with Canadian businesses, as opposed to sale of businesses
- Tentative date of event: August 21-22nd in Delta Bessborough
- Tentative format: Business forum of Chinese investors looking for partnerships for businesses
- Profile of ACCEE members: have capital and experience, but does not know the business culture that well
- Possible part of FNMOC: partnership development with First Nations and Metis business owners
- Suggestions for ACCEE:
 - Need to get perspective of purpose and perspective, since prospective participants don't want to give a wrong impression
 - Questions for organizers:
 - What's the max and minimum threshold of capital investment they can give?



Treaty Relations and Economic Development

- Partnered with OTC
- Audience was half aboriginal
- We need to get the message out to a wider audience

North West College, SIIT, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic Sign Indigenous Education Protocol (Attached)

- Colleges and Institutes Canada (CIC) signed first protocol
- Premise: Indigenous education is important
- Indigenous education protocol ties with student engagement piece
 - Have already contacted Aboriginal student center of U of S

Student Engagement

- Current situation: Education and humanities are the biggest grad population but there are more opportunities for business
- Mark Brown, Jacqueline and Ranga interested to help out
- Possible formats
 - Hosting “lunch and learns” and talk about what committee does
 - Presenter(s): Derek
 - Initiating a program for men to get work clothes
 - Most programs are for women
- Outreach: Need to involve GDI (Gabe and Chris will work with them)
- Jacqueline: Oskayak is also a possibility (only Nutana and Oskayak High Schools are the only ones with business focuses)
 - They already have an event (business course) but our event should not be competing
 - Nutana and E.D. Feehan have the larger aboriginal populations, so they are prospective targets

Letter from Edwards School of Business (Attachment)

- Goal: Improve Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition (PLAR) and credit transfer without deteriorating quality for business degree
- Rationale: There is higher rate of success if they transfer from other institution or traditional path as opposed to direct entry
- Current situation: Edwards is currently conducting reverse co-op program for working/adult students who is given the option of getting part time courses
 - Letter talks about Think Tank last December
 - Committee working on it was formed by Mark Brown, who is working on improving outreach to get more northern students



- U of S is way behind the curve , not Edwards but other colleges (institutional issue, not college issue)
- Mark started with Prof. Daphne Taras, dean of Edwards School of Business, and other deans. When it reached the faculty, they got pushed back
 - Their assumption: faculty of SIIT was not as good as that of university, even though they have the same syllabus
- Output from think tank is brilliant but how to challenge institutional system
 - Chris, Gabe, Kent, and industry people (PotashCorp, BHP, Cameco, Scotiabank, AFOA, Affinity Credit Union) were involved
- Ranga: Start first with U of R and U of S will follow lead

Business Mixer

- Purpose: get message out that FNM is good business
- Topics:
 - Partnerships. In relation to ACCEE
 - Best Business Practices. Suggested by Ranga.
 - HR
 - Top 10 business practices for retention
 - Gabe will look at it, but it needs to be progressive (talk about revenue sharing agreement to raise profile of FNM businesses and community)
- Use the previous format with different topics
 - Have 15-minute opening keynote presentation (learning piece)
 - Networking piece

Revenue Sharing

- Need to consider scale and nature of business
 - Resource revenue sharing has been really political (has political backlash)
- Has been successful on a number of occasions

Aboriginal Business Match

- There were a lot of no-shows
- Overall it's positive
- More business leads this year
- Mathew and Chris were participants (with booths)
- First year in the prairies



Miscellaneous

- Schedule later June for sub-group business mixer
- Next meeting on later August
- Chris may step down as chair, so looking for someone to step in

To-do:

- Need more resources/reading materials in regards to ACCEE (NEED TO SEND TO Monica Brunet and Rob woods used to be one SIEF contact—find one)
- Book venue for event (e.g. Saskatoon Inn)