

CIRCLE FOR ABORIGINAL RELATIONS (CFAR) SOCIETY



Meeting Minutes:

January 14, 2009
10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Location:

Suncor Energy
112 - 4 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB
(East tower elevator to the 27th floor reception)

1. Welcome, introductions and opening remarks

Barry opened the meeting and raised two critical items the Board needs to address today:

First is the need for a Board decision for hiring a part time CFAR employee to assist Christine with the bookkeeping and other administrative tasks. Motion made by Barry to proceed with hiring Fernande Comer via a 3 month contract at \$23/hour with parameters around how the hours will be approved / monitored. If successful, move to approve a 6 month contract at \$28/hour once the 3 months is complete. It is a fee for service contract. Also, that training be provided to Fernande for our bookkeeping software. Seconded by Ted. Discussion, all in favour.

Second is the need to recognize and reward Christine for the level of service and great support she provides to CFAR and how valuable she is to the organization in keeping it running smoothly. Also Fernande will be reporting through her and the increase helps recognize her increase in responsibility. Craig moved that Christine be given a \$5/hour raise and CFAR provide her with opportunities for cultural training either indirectly through member company programs or attending the AWN cultural camp.

2. Prayer – Thank you to Bee Schadeck for leading our session in prayer.

3. Review/approve agenda

4. Approve minutes of November board meeting – Tweela
5. Review action items November minutes – will be covered in the items listed below.
6. General updates:
 - a. Office manager update – Christine. (i) Since November there have been 20 new members join CFAR. Some potential members are outside Alberta and asking if we are going to expand? Art is willing to help with this – we are starting to see more of a need to act on the expressed interest. (ii) Computer networking connections for CFAR will now be required with the addition of Fernande. Vivienne suggest Sugar Sync as an option to resolve this need.
 - b. Treasurer update – Ted suggests deferring financial review and have the Board give any feedback from the documents provided before the meeting. Members can respond via email. Craig recommends that a budget be presented to the Board at our next meeting – both overall for the organization and for the upcoming conference.
Action: Ted to present above budgets at the February 11/09 meeting.
 - c. Marketing – Rob. (i) Discussed last 2 years strategy. Suggest students is an area we can improve – there are a couple of groups representing a number of College / Universities called the Edmonton Aboriginal Education Council (EAEC) and Calgary called the Calgary Aboriginal Post Secondary Council (CAPSC) both are excited to be part of CFAR. Rob requested Board attendance at the Calgary group meeting January 28/09. (ii) Discussion regarding if / what fees could be waived or reduced for luncheons and conferences either by CFAR or through sponsorships by companies so that students are able to attend. Conference costs are more of an obstacle than luncheons. Suggestion that CFAR could look for opportunities for sponsor student events and put up a CFAR banner and have a representative to speak to students about CFAR and encourage attendance. It was also noted that students have to see the value of attending and be willing to put something toward it as well.
Action: Recommendations / choices be put forward at the next Board meeting on how to engage students more in CFAR.
 - d. Accreditation – Vivienne and Ben. Ben presented the committee's research proposal to help determine how CFAR should approach accreditation. Ben indicated he is willing and able to manage this research project under one of their students at Calgary Chamber of Commerce at the cost of \$4500. Tweela moves to accept this proposal. Seconded by Bob. All in favour. Mike Jankovich is Ben's summer student assistant and a contract will be set up for him similar to what is being done for Fernande and will be managed by Ben at CCoC.

7. Events

- a. Ft McMurray Mixer date change discussion.
- b. Planning for 2009 CFAR Conference (1 hr. +) – Christine/Janais. See Janais spreadsheet of items.
- c. Sponsored delegates. Some spots available for community members to be sponsored (5-10?).

Action: Events committee to put forward 2-3 options on the “free” attendance spots for the Board to vote on February 11/09.

- d. February 19th CFAR luncheon

8. Governance Policy needs to have an annual work plan.

Action: Discuss at February 11/09 Board meeting.

9. Next meeting: February 11/09 at Husky’s St. Albert Office - 410, 5 Giroux Road, hosted by Jacob Handel.

Thanks to Suncor for hosting and lunch at January 14/09 meeting.