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Good Afternoon Everyone,

Please see below for the May edition of our newsletter. If you are interested in sharing news and events about your organization or community group in our newsletter, please be sure to contact Alisha (CED Coordinator) before the 13th day of each month.

Please note that some of the images do not appear in the newsletter if you do not click "display images below" at the top of your email. Thanks for your interest and support in CEDSAC, we hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

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CEDSAC Updates

Highlights from our Social Procurement Roundtable

On April 21st, CEDSAC hosted the first joint social procurement roundtable along with Buy Social Canada during the SFU Hopeful Economics Conference. The roundtable was well attended with various stakeholders across different sectors and regions, some of which included; Mayor Helps from Victoria, SFU's Director of Procurement, representatives from Public Services and Procurement Canada, City of Vancouver, United Way, Parq Vancouver, Tourism Vancouver and various social enterprises. The discussion was lively and proved to be a trending focus for many sectors. The following themes were discussed; barriers and opportunities for social procurement, shared perspectives between suppliers and purchasers, and identifying areas that CEDSAC and Buy Social Canada can support.

Barriers of social procurement across different sectors included the following:

- The bidding process delivered by municipal governments for request for proposals can be a barrier for social enterprises to access and apply for. More time is needed to prepare and

respond appropriately to request for proposals, specifically around capacity building in order to meet the scale of most requirements.

- It is challenging and time consuming for purchasers to source social value based suppliers, a local and national directory are needed.
- There are challenges convincing large corporate organizations to sub-contract and do joint ventures with small organizations to meet bid requirements. It can be challenging and more costly for developments to manage a contract that is split between several small organizations to meet large scale demands.
- Large corporate meeting organizers are experiencing challenges connecting with the right people in the community to meet corporate social responsibility requirements, this is becoming an increasing demand and opportunity for social procurement.
- Unions are creating barriers for social procurement, there is need to educate and inform how social procurement practices can be worked into their procurement policies and strategies.

Opportunities for social procurement across different sectors included the following:

- Meetings need to be set with social value based suppliers before design and development plans are made, as a means to incorporate suppliers into the design plan rather than trying to find ways to fit the suppliers in after the fact.
- An opportunity would be to have sub-contractors be bonded to work as a joint venture with larger organizations to meet large scale procurement demands, allowing small social value based organizations a chance to bid on contracts.
- Many of the employment opportunities in previous procurement demands have been focused around predominantly male based skills and employment sectors. More diverse procurement based employment and training opportunities need to be created that will reach beyond male dominated sectors.
- Purchasers need to look beyond employment and training based opportunities and consider creating cultural, environmental, and social impacts. The purchasing organization needs to determine what type of social/cultural/environmental benefit they are trying to achieve through their procurement strategy first and then include this in their contract requirements.
- It is important to acknowledge champions, success stories, and models of social procurement widely across sectors.

- Large organizations or charitable stewards could consider developing a social enterprise to meet corporate social responsibility demands, beyond donating money to non-profit programs.
- Cultural and socially based community events can be organized and hosted as an opportunity to shift the thinking of purchasers to learn about other social value based organizations that can meet corporate social responsibility demands.
- Buy Social Canada and United Way could be a great partnership to connect purchasers to both social value based suppliers and charitable opportunities.
- A potential opportunity could be that municipal governments require a community benefit agreement under all rezoning and development permit processes.
- A potential opportunity could be that anchor institutions such as universities can require joint venture contracts for large procurement demands which will allow small social value based organizations to bid as well, similar to what is happening with the private sector, such as the Parq Resort Vancouver.
- More awareness is needed for communities to know that governments can be a client. The government cannot reach out to suppliers in the same manner that private sector purchasers can. All levels of government need to work together to coordinate a social procurement strategy.

Sharing perspectives between suppliers and purchasers:

- Purchasers underestimate the capacity of social enterprises and small/medium businesses. It would be helpful for purchasers to speak with these organizations first before assuming that their capacity level cannot meet the demands.
- Important for purchasers to understand the nature and operational structure of individual social enterprises in order for the social enterprise suppliers to develop a timely work plan to meet demands and coordinate operations accordingly.
- SFU needs to know what social enterprises can and cannot meet the scale of their contracts.

How Buy Social Canada & CEDSAC can help:

- Social procurement criteria and bid criteria needs to be evaluated. Buy Social Canada is developing a score sheet for community benefit agreements to measure the outcomes and impacts of meeting social/cultural/environmental requirements.
- Buy Social Canada has a Social Purchasing Decision Making tool that allows purchasers to determine and design criteria for contracts and bids in an unbiased and collaborative manner.
- Buy Social Canada is developing clusters of social enterprise directories to make it easier for

purchasers to connect with the appropriate suppliers.

- Buy Social Canada/CEDSAC can acknowledge the champions and good work that is happening in the community regarding social procurement via their respective communication platforms, working group presentations, and community events.

Changes to CED Coordinator's Community Engagement Drop In

The CED Coordinator will no longer be operating community engagement drop in hours out of Potluck Cafe. Beginning this Wednesday May 17th, you can find the CED Coordinator at different DTES neighbourhood locations every Wednesday between 12:00pm-1:30pm. See schedule below for details.

Wednesday May 17th: [Carnegie Community Centre](#), main lobby by the library. Drop in hours will occur at Carnegie every 2nd Wednesday of the month following this date.

Wednesday May 24th: [DTES Neighbourhood House](#). Drop in hours will occur at the Neighbourhood House every 3rd Wednesday of the month following this date.

The first and last Wednesday of the month are still to be determined. If you are interested in having the CED Coordinator provide engagement drop in hours at your space, please let us know! Contact Alisha at cedcoordinator@ledlab.ca.

CEDSAC Website Coming Soon!

We are excited to let you know that we will soon be releasing our very own CEDSAC website! Keep your eyes and ears open to hear about the official release come June!

CEDSAC Working Group Updates & Meeting Times

Advocacy Working Group

The working group heard a presentation from Dan Meades regarding the success and challenges of Newfoundland and Labrador's Poverty Reduction Strategy. The information shared was helpful in demonstrating new ways to engage various levels of government to get involved and support BC's Poverty Reduction Plan.

Moving forward, this working group will be working closely with BC Poverty Reduction's Community Action Network "CAN", to support and provide space for participants from the program to share information and consult with City of Vancouver staff, DTES community police, other key stakeholders groups and residents in the neighbourhood. CAN aims to increase civic engagement for those most disadvantaged or excluded in Metro Vancouver. CAN will provide leadership development for people in poverty through a facilitated and structured initiative, providing transferable skills to participants and

promoting resiliency and empowered involvement in anti-poverty advocacy. Connecting personal experiences to structural issues through targeted training, participants will come out of the initiative with confidence, skills and ongoing support to provide media commentary, give public presentations, engage in consultation processes with government and other decision makers, and connect with other opportunities.

Community Benefit Agreement Working Group

The Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Working group heard a presentation from Parq Resort Vancouver staff regarding the success and challenges they are experiencing while working to meet the project's CBA requirements.

Upon hearing from Parq Resort staff, next steps and action items were suggested for the working group and City of Vancouver, some of which included the following:

- That a series of information meetings be organized by the City and CEDSAC with developers, general contractors, trade groups, and service providers so that everyone knows what the City's vision and expectation is for CBA's.
- The City should consider broadening the catchment basins for residents with barriers for entry to the workforce to include all postal codes with a mean annual household income below "X".
- Parq staff mentioned the the City has the opportunity to take a leadership position on designating and zoning areas of the city for the manufacturing of green building materials - especially a drywall product - which could create significant jobs and revenues if the right inducements are offered.
- The City should considering aligning it's CBA procurement policy with LEED requirements.
- CEDSAC will continue to engage with Parq Resort staff to support them in connecting with various community members and stakeholders as they will be hiring 1200 more staff from the neighbourhood for various positions during the operation of Parq Resort Vancouver.

The working group will also be working closely with City of Vancouver staff as they develop a city wide CBA policy. The next steps for the working group will be to host a design workshop to share information with City of Vancouver for this policy.

Retail Gentrification & Social Inclusion Working Group

The Retail Gentrification and Social Inclusion working group has summarized the community retail research conducted last year to advise and design a neighbourhood inclusion toolkit . The working group is developing this toolkit in collaboration with HxBIA's Community Wise Package for businesses, property owners, and developers to use in the DTES. The group is also developing a DTES Resident Discount Card and is currently obtaining feedback from the community on this idea.

The working group is also going to scope out a possible low income serving retail pilot project, such as a grocery store, and rally support around the project by involving City staff, and various community

stakeholders. The pilot project can also be a means to gain information for the Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES) program and test out the various pieces of the neighbourhood inclusion toolkit. Furthermore, the working group will continue to work with CIRES in developing tenant selection criteria and support the growth of their portfolio.

The Advocacy Working Group

Wednesday, May 24th 9:30am-11:30am
Mezzanine Room at The Amp Office (Mezzanine floor)
425 Carrall St. Vancouver, Buzz 9050

The Retail Gentrification & Social Inclusion Working Group

Friday, May 26th 10am-11:30am
Mezzanine Room at The Amp Office (Mezzanine floor)
425 Carrall St. Vancouver, Buzz 9050

The Social Procurement Roundtable

Friday, May 26th 8:00am-9:30am
SFU Charles Chang Innovation Centre
308 W. Hasting St. Vancouver
Entrance on Hamilton St.

The Community Benefits Agreement Working Group

Friday, June 2nd 1pm-3:30pm
Meeting Location to be determined

DTES Community News & Events

Fair in the Square

CEDSAC will be hosting a booth at the 11th annual Fair in the Square event on Sunday May 28th. Visit us to find out what's new with CEDSAC, learn how you can get involved, and share feedback on our projects and work thus far.

To learn more details about Fair in the Square and who else will be involved, please visit the link below:

<http://www.neighbourcity.ca/fair->



[square-2017/](#)

CED Coordinator's Availability

Do you want to connect with CEDSAC, interested in participating in a working group, have information to share, then please get in touch with Alisha Maxfield, the Community Economic Development Coordinator for CEDSAC.

You can connect with Alisha in the following ways:

- Email: cedcoordinator@ledlab.ca
- Phone: 604-349-1987
- CEDSAC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/dtescedstrategy/?ref=bookmarks>

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