

WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY WANT?

The federal government and the HRDC have broken trust with our community. We are asking them to do three things to start to mend this break.

1. We want HRDC to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community with regard to employment.
2. We want HRDC to keep the CEC open, in the old office, offering full services. We want them to do this on a month-to-month basis until two things happen:
 - a location is found that both HRDC and the BCWG agree on. The BCWG is willing to start looking at options right now.
 - HRDC meets with the BCWG and an independent third party to work out the process of a fair and complete Community Needs Assessment. The BCWG is ready to start these talks immediately.
3. We want the Community Needs Assessment to look at all the options, including both a stand-alone CEC and co-location in another organization or agency.

HOW CAN I HELP?

We need all the help we can get!

- Come in and see us. We're at 2089 Gottingen Street. Our volunteers will be happy to show you around and tell you about the many ways you can help.
- Write, phone or fax you MP and others. Ask them to help save our CEC. Contact:

Mary Clancy, PM Halifax

2126 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS B3K 3B3
Phone: (902) 426-4411
Fax: (902) 426-2036

Geoff Regan, MP Halifax West

1550 Bedford Highway, Ste 408
Bedford, NS B4A 1E6
Phone: (902) 426-2600
Fax: (902) 426-7426

Doug Young, MP

Minister of Human Resources
Development Canada (HRDC)

140 Promenade du Portage
Phase IV, 14th Floor
Hull, Quebec K1A 0J9
Phone: (810) 994-2472 or
1-800-366-3005
Fax: (810) 994-0448

Joanne Toews

Regional Director, HRDC
P.O. Box 1350
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4B9
Phone: (902) 426-2988
Fax: (902) 426-4724

SAVE THE NORTH END CEC!

We will not allow the
Federal Government to
walk away from this
community!

2089 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS
422-9169

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

As of April 1, the Federal government closed the North End Canada Employment Centre (CEC) on Gottingen Street.

For nearly 30 years - since 1968 - the North End CEC has served people living in the community with the lowest income and the highest unemployment rate in Metro.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

Since March 27, community members have occupied the North End CEC. The Black Community Work Group (BCWG) has been part of the occupying group.

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT CLOSING THE CEC?

The Government has been giving two main reasons for closing the North End CEC.

1. They say they are doing it to save money. They say that everyone has to take their share of cutbacks. They say that the Gottingen Street CEC is just another cut.

We say in the long run, how can it save money to take away services that will help people find jobs? How can it help to take services out of the community that needs those services the most?

In the last election, the Government promised "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs." How can closing the North End CEC keep this promise?

2. They say closing the CEC won't make any difference. Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the Government agency that operates the Centre, says it wants to work in "partnership" with the community. They say this will give the North End all the employment services it needs.

We say, the way to find out what services the community needs is to do a needs assessment. In a needs assessment, you look at all of a community's needs and all of the possible ways to meet those needs. HRDC is willing to do a needs assessment, but only if a stand-alone CEC, like we've had for 30 years, is not part of the assessment. In other words, in order to have HRDC do a needs assessment, we first have to say that we don't need a CEC. Does this make sense?

The other part of this excuse for closing the CEC is that HRDC will

"co-locate" - that is they borrow space from a community agency for a much smaller office with less services. This is just a way of dumping a burden onto another group that is already struggling to offer services and is facing its own cutbacks.

Can a "partnership" be fair or equal when one party says "You have to do it my way and you have to bear the cost and the burden?" We don't think so!

WHY DOES THIS CEC MATTER SO MUCH TO OUR COMMUNITY?

For nearly 30 years, the staff of the CEC on Gottingen Street has been the one small service that attempted to address poverty, racism in hiring and discrimination based on class and education levels. The CEC in our neighbourhood allowed us to get services that can help to fight the effects of this discrimination on such a culturally diverse community.

Our community has seen many services close - the post office, the grocery store and many other stores, two movie theatres, and soon, our last bank. Closing the CEC is one more way of saying to the North End "your needs don't matter."