

2012 LOS Conference Notes

Key discussions from the Social Enterprise workshop

Issues of concerns around social enterprises

- expectations around reaching financial viability over a short period of time
- access to funding
- knowledge and skills in the business sector
- social enterprise is not suitable to all organization
- not all organization have the culture to transition to a business model
- need hybrid organization that brings both business skills and social skills
- partnerships with the private sector – they can bring knowledge and expertise to integrate into a more business model

Do we have a shared vision / shared goal around social enterprise

- need to have a shared definition of social enterprise before we can have a shared vision – who comes up with the definition
- generating enough dialogue around this sector to allow it to grow and thrive
- escalating the dialogue to address policy and legislative changes
- maybe focus on shared goals instead of shared vision

Goals that would motivate me to engage in collective action

- capacity building around business development
- break isolation and enhance profile and share knowledge and information
- from funders and financial institutions perspective, foster broader impact
- building more community impact through joint development and growth of the social enterprises
- showcase social enterprise\
- backbone organization to foster ongoing communication
- centre of expertise
- create opportunities for specific training

Moving forward

- **getting a clearer vision statement**
- **establish a framework to facilitate**
- **need initial leaders to start setting the framework of collective action that people could buy into and respond to**

- **Who is not present in the discussion - City of Ottawa , small business,**