

Planners Network Event Funding Post-Event Report

Name of Event: “World Cafe” Forum on Progressive Planning, the closing event at the CAPS-ACÉAU 2010 Conference (The Canadian Association of Planning Students – L’Association Canadienne des Étudiants en Aménagement et en Urbanisme)
Place: Science Atrium, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
Date: February 6, 2010
Time: 3:30PM-5:30PM
Chapter Name: PN Guelph
Contact Person: Morgan Boyco
Contact Email: pnguelph@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.caps-aceau.org>

From February 4-6, 2010 graduate students from the Rural Planning and Development program at the University of Guelph hosted the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Planning Students – L’Association Canadienne des Étudiants en Aménagement et en Urbanisme (CAPS-ACÉAU). CAPS-ACÉAU is a non-profit and entirely student-driven organization that hosts an annual conference at a different university each year. The theme of the 2010 CAPS-ACÉAU Conference in Guelph was “Progressive Planning.” The three-day event featured student presentations and an impressive line up of speakers from across Canada including planners, academics and provocative thinkers from related sectors. All were tasked with sharing their progressive ideas for the future of planning with students on the verge of becoming professionals themselves. Session themes included planning in First Nations, multiculturalism, climate change, healthy communities, sustainability and transportation, local food and agriculture, and international planning. The conference culminated in a special “World Cafe” forum, a uniquely participatory student-led conversation event that created a space for reflection, an exchange of experience and the generation of knowledge from lessons and inspirations during the three-day conference. Generous funding from the Planners Network helped support this event.

Nearly 200 students from coast to coast across Canada attended the 2010 conference and approximately 70 took part in the World Cafe event. The event was held in the University of Guelph’s Science Atrium and students were seated at small tables of four or six. Participants were encouraged to sit with colleagues from different universities that they had not already met. Each table was covered in blank paper and students were able to transcribe or illustrate their conversations with the crayons and markers provided as they saw fit. Two broad questions guided the free-flowing conversations: *What did you learn about progressive approaches to planning at this year’s conference?* and *How do you envision applying these lessons to your own research or professional practice?* The result was intimate, engaging and creative conversations all around that were linked up to a broader dialogue connecting dozens of participants. New connections were forged and knowledge was shared. The event was a fun and

inspiring close to a great conference. All of the writing and drawings from the tables were collected and will be photographed and transcribed to be posted on the CAPS-ACÉAU website at <http://www.caps-aceau.org>.



Over 70 World Cafe participants line up for a event-opening warm-up exercise



Participants make their way to the conversation tables



