“Breaking the Silence” Workshop

Wyanne Sandler – Presenter (Tatamagouche Centre)

- Tatamagouche Centre was organized since 1988
- Engagement/advocacy/volunteer organization
- Networking growing
- Maintain grassroots movement re civil society
- Delegation work
- Network not a NGO
- Physical home at Tatamagouche Centre
- Close relationship
- Model of participatory education
- Over 30 years “Breaking the Silence”
- Solidarity network
- Explore – sustaining ourselves, shared struggles, support struggles of Guatemala

Two delegations a year travel from the Maritimes to Guatemala

- Send interns (8 interns in training)
- Sell fair trade coffee
- Raise awareness by speaking tours
- BTS (Breaking the Silence are partners with Tatamagouche Centre)
- Human Rights accomplishments
- 10-12 people go each trip
- Interns go from 7.5 – 8 months
- Predeparture – Leadership - Design
- Jobs – partner organization positions
- 2011 funding through CIDA will be the last group going that are financial funded by CIDA
- Need to look for new methods of funding
- Reunion of past interns (over 60 interns of all ages in total and 40 interns came back for the reunion
- Intergenerational (youth delegations and interns)
- Looking for more elder representative
- Decentralized – 7 local committees in Toronto – Maritimes
- Autonomy in each local committee
- Two staff salaries have helped in terms of support for committees
- Model of grassroots fundraising
- Looking at individual donations
Engaging public? Activities? Engagement?

Joan Campbell mentioned that it is not easy to re-engage people when they come back from internship placements – perhaps need better follow-up.

PowerPoint Presentation

- Six week orientation and 10 day re-orientation when they return
- Meeting in country a couple of times during internship placement
- Re-entry – go to AGM and do presentations
- Integrate what has happened after their return
- Networking – smaller organization
- Interns mentor new interns
- Only send interns to Guatemala (one country)
- What is quality engagement?
- What works to sustain and build on experiences
- Participatory part to play in the internship relating to BTS

Advocacy work

- Speaking tours
- Advocacy committee
- Mining/Feminicide/Food Security
- Linked with indigenous communities both north and south