
[Discussion Paper
Version 1.0]

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**A Discussion Paper on the
Formation of Equatoria
Community in Canada
(Rough Draft)**

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[Discussion Paper Version 1.0]

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Introduction

On August 19th 2012 in Edmonton, Alberta, a steering committee with volunteer members from Equatorian communities in Canada was formed to facilitate the formation of a national organization. The organization is intended to bring together Equatorians in Canada and to serve as a unifying body representing all Equatorians in Canada; forging linkages with all states in the Greater Equatoria in the Republic of South Sudan.

This discussion paper presents a preliminary framework to guide further discussions for necessary steps towards the formation of the proposed organization. Themes presented herein, include suggestions for a name, purpose, goals, objectives, vision, values, mission, and stakeholders for the proposed organization.

Proposed Names

- Greater Equatoria Innovative Network in Canada (GEINC)
- South Sudanese Equatoria Community in Canada (SSECC)
- Greater Equatoria Community Association in Canada (GECAC)
- South Sudanese Equatorian Canadian Community (SSECC)
- Greater Equatoria Network Canada (GEN-Canada)
- Innovate Greater Equatoria Network Canada (iGEN-Canada)

Purpose

This proposed national organization/association will operate as a civil society with neutral status of a non-governmental and non-political entity. The ultimate purpose of the organization is to mobilize Equatorians, garner resources and facilitate skills development. More specifically, it will address the following areas:

- Explore constructive ways of networking, to connect Equatorians in various provinces in Canada and different Equatoria states in South Sudan;
- Foster innovation in the areas of education and health infrastructures in the Greater Equatoria in South Sudan;
- Promote harmony that leads to unity amongst the rich cultural diversity and promote the growth of a healthy multicultural society;
- Build a strong support network for business development, promote entrepreneurship and facilitate professional and trade skills development;
- Represent the Equatorian communities in Canada and build connections within the Canadian society to rally resources and support for socio-economic development of our community in Canada and in South Sudan;
- Advocate for the promotion of sharing resources in the region for equitable economic development across the region of the Greater Equatoria.

Goals

- Create opportunities for Equatorians to network and develop stronger connections with fellow community members across Canada, South Sudan and around the world;
- Facilitate professional and trade skills development;
- Promote research to drive effective policy development and facilitate support for business development and entrepreneurship

- Cultivate supportive relationships and partnerships with various stakeholders to rally resources for development and capacity building of Equatorians and Equatoria states in South Sudan
- Advocate for social and economic innovation as well as productivity in all Equatoria States in South Sudan

Objectives

- Organize an annual conference on themes of interest to Equatorian Canadians.
- Conduct periodic educational and social programs for Equatorians in Canada.
- Support projects on arts, music, and theatre that promotes the diverse cultural values of the people of Equatoria in Canada.
- Develop scholarship programs to help educate young Equatorians at Universities based in any Equatoria State.
- Develop emergency response strategies and resources to meet needs during emergencies in all three Equatorian states.
- Promote research and facilitate support for the development of education and health infrastructure in Equatoria states.
- To form a national forum to facilitate resources for small business development and promote entrepreneurship.
- Conduct community dialogues for Equatorians in Canada and in South Sudan to discuss issues of nation building and to collectively identify concrete actions to pursue.
- Build networks to support the development of agriculture and other production sectors in all three Equatoria states.
- Facilitate professional and trade skills development of Equatorians in Canada and in South Sudan.

Vision

Outcomes driven Greater Equatorian community in Canada, where citizens are motivated to network, devoted to strengthening social capital and committed to work together towards social, cultural and economic well-being of Equatorians in Canada, in South Sudan and around the world.

Mission

The organization is committed to empower people and local communities by providing innovative driven opportunities for skills development networking and connections to resources to build sustainable infrastructures to provide fundamental services in Equatorian communities in Canada.

Values

Our Organization and all its executive members will strongly uphold the following values:

- **Transparency**—being open and honest at all times when dealing with community information and assets.
- **Communication**— building trust with members of the Greater Equatoria community and our stakeholders by openly sharing information.

- **Shared understanding**—sharing personal interests, cultures, education, opinions and experiences.
- **Respect**—understanding and valuing the uniqueness of each member of our community.
- **Caring**—having the best interests of our community at heart.
- **Teamwork**—we are a team of volunteers working together to achieve our mission, and in so doing to support the mission and vision of the Greater Equatoria Community in Canada.
- **Leadership**—recognizing, accepting and embracing our leadership responsibility in the area of community building and networking with members
- **Trust**—fostering an environment where innovation and creativity in pursuit of our mission is accepted and valued.
- **Credibility**—demonstrating professionalism, competence, fairness and integrity in the work we do in our community.
- **Trustworthiness**—delivering on what we promise to our community and stakeholders.
- **Shared Prosperity**—inclusive growth, which creates value, not just for a few, but for all stakeholders and members of the community in both Canada and the Greater Equatoria in South Sudan.
- **Accountable to the actions and decisions we make**

Potential Stakeholders

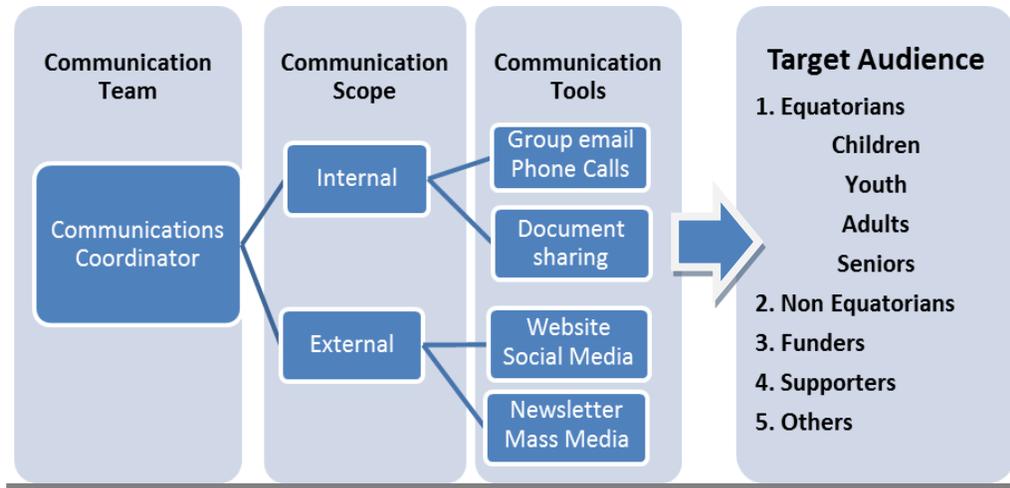
- All Equatorians in all provinces in Canada.
- All registered organizations that may act in the interest of Equatorians in Canada.
- Governments (Municipalities, Provincial and Federal).
- NGOs, Business, Private businesses/companies.
- The academic community
- Church groups

The Way Forward: Engagement Plan

- Profile Equatorian communities in all the provinces in Canada.
- Engage executive members of Equatorian communities or designates in discussions that can shape a shared direction for the formation of the national organization.

Appendix:

Communication Plan:



Appendix XX: Logic Model

| Goals | Activities | Outputs | Outcomes | Indicators |
|---|---|---|---|------------|
| <p>Cultivate supportive relationships Build partnerships with various stakeholders Rally resources for development and capacity building in Equatoria states in South Sudan</p> | <p>Recruit potential investors Develop investment projects Leadership programs</p> | | <p>More foreign and local resources are committed to support development Increased access to Canadian and other foreign businesses and gov't partnerships established to support growth in all sectors in Equatoria</p> | |
| <p>Advocate for social and economic innovation as well as productivity in all Equatoria States in South Sudan</p> | <p>Implement Technology programs/facilities in educational institutions in Equatoria Form a think-tank to advocate for best practices in all sectors Form industry-based consulting forums to provide professional direction to all sectors of the economy in Equatoria</p> | | <p>Increased innovation in developing social and human services, natural resources and physical infrastructure in all Equatoria states More defined industries with increased productivity</p> | |
| <p>Create opportunities for Equatorians to network and develop stronger connections with fellow community members across Canada, South Sudan and around the world</p> | <p>Annual Conference Provincial workshops Exchange visits Develop a Website Newsletter circulation</p> | <p>2-4 Annual events: conference, workshops and exchange visits Website 2-4 issues/newsletter</p> | <p>Connected Enhanced communication Network opportunities</p> | |
| <p>Facilitate professional and trades skills development; promote research to drive effective policy development; and facilitate supports for business development and entrepreneurship</p> | <p>Scholarship programs Internship programs Training Researchers Professional trainings Apprenticeship programs Business link programs Business funding</p> | | <p>Increased access to quality education, professional and trades qualifications, jobs, skills for entrepreneurship and to develop businesses Research gains momentum and more support in all fields</p> | |