

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR NETWORKS

January 7, 2015 Teleconference Call

MINUTES

Participants – Russ Dahms (Chair), Sid Frankel, Cathy Taylor, Gail Joyce, Barb McLellan, Kathleen Flanagan, Tracy Mann, Fimba Tankoano, Katherine van Kooy, Michelle Gautier and Bill Schaper (Imagine Canada), Laurie Portigol (Volunteer Canada)

- 1. Agenda Review** – approved
Sid reported
- 2. Review of Minutes – Dec. 3 call** – No comments
- 3. Counterparts Proceedings** – Sid indicated that work on the proceedings from the 2014 Counterparts gathering in Winnipeg was underway and expected they would be circulated before the end of January.
- 4. Federation Membership** – Russ reminded members that the annual Federation membership fees are due and invoices have been sent. He also raised the question of opening membership to other umbrella groups, particularly umbrella groups for volunteer organizations. There was support for extending membership to these groups and specifically, Russ was asked to follow up with Volunteer Alberta around their interest in joining the Federation.
- 5. Federal Issues Task Group** – Sid reported on the first meeting of the Federal Issues Working Group (Dec. 11, 2014) which involved Michelle Gauthier, Sid, Barb McLellan, Russ and Geoff Braun (CCVO).

Michelle spoke to Imagine Canada's plans for the up-coming federal election which will focus around three themes: informing the development of party platforms; informing charities about party platforms on relevant issues, and helping charities understand the rules about political activity and providing tools and resources to help them engage in federal election issues. Imagine will not be developing a broad-based platform of what charities want, but there is interest from other national organizations in sharing some key messages. There is no expectation that all orgs will engage in all these ways. Michelle asked for, and received, confirmation from the group with Imagine's 3-pronged approach to the election.

Cathy shared ONN's experience in the last provincial election, that organizations generally needed more specific "asks" to use for political gatherings or for op eds; the more general policy positions are too broad to seem relevant on the ground.

Laurie suggested that organizations should be encouraged to focus on building relationships with local MP's; that this would ultimately be more effective than trying to influence party platforms that are set centrally.

Sid will re-convene the working group.

6. **Counterparts 2015** – Cathy will be meeting with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture next week and will inform us of the outcomes of that meeting regarding hosting the next gathering in Ontario.
7. **Report on Dec. 9th meeting convened by Volunteer Canada** – Cathy reported that the meeting turned out to be more of an opportunity to provide input to Volunteer Canada's strategy rather than exploring collective responses to the federal election, data strategy, regulatory issues, etc. The main take-away was to see the potential for collaboration and the possibility for leveraging resources.
8. **Roundtable** – postponed to the next meeting due to lack of time.
9. **Next call – February 4th, 2015.** Please send any suggestion for agenda items to Russ.