

Notes from the Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks – Conference call on  
November 4, 2015

**In attendance:**

Bill Schaper, Geoff Braun, Tanara Ferguson, Arlene MacDonald, Marcia Carroll, Russ Dahms, Lawrie Portigal, Gail Joyce, Cathy Taylor, Jann Beeston, Penelope Rowe, Michelle Baldwin

GUEST : David Lasby– Imagine Canada

**Discussion Items:**

**National Research Agenda**

A good discussion was held around what a national research agenda would look like, how information/data would be collected, plotting the data in a framework and what issues need to be researched. It was clear that folks wanted the research to be national in scope but to recognize regional differences. We were in agreement that we need the data so we can make informed decisions on how to move the Sector forward and address national issues. It was also agreed that resources are limited and that the Federation was not expecting Imagine Canada to do this work alone but that a partnership could be formed to support the development of the framework. It was suggested that the Federation would need to identify what the overarching issues are and how they would fit into the framework.

Dave agreed to gather the baseline information at the national level - which will allow the Federation to have national statements that can shape more regional and detailed research. Dave also indicated that the data sources can be a challenge but he felt he had a good understanding of the indicators. Everyone agreed that this is important work and has the potential to shape our plans for the next number of years going forward. It was agreed that we needed the very basic data to help identify gaps and big inter-related issues so we can start to build the framework.

**2015 Counterparts Meeting**

Cathy informed the group that the Ontario Gov't would not be able to host the Counterparts meeting for 2016 but would be open to hosting a 2017 event. Three options were put forward:

- 1) Wait until 2017 to meet
- 2) Have another province to host in 2016
- 3) Have a meeting in 2016 for only Federation members

It was agreed with that option three would work best. There was a discussion around how it would affect the other provinces. It was decided that a two day face to face meeting for Federation members would be organized. That cost sharing might be possible for those having to travel. A working group of Russ, Penelope and Lawrie was struck and Cathy agreed to develop a plan of what the two day meetings would look like.