

**Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks  
February 4, 2015 Teleconference**

**Participants:**

|                   |  |                  |
|-------------------|--|------------------|
| Tracey Mann       | Community Initiatives Fund                     | Saskatchewan     |
| Kathleen Flanagan | Community Sector Council of NS                 | Nova Scotia      |
| Sid Frankel       | Manitoba Federation of Nonprofit Organizations | Manitoba         |
| Jann Beeston      | Volunteer Alberta                              | Alberta          |
| Lawrie Portigal   | Volunteer Canada                               |                  |
| Gail Joyce        | Volunteer Organizations Consortium of BC       | British Columbia |

*(joined at 1:20 Eastern Time)*

**Chair:**

Russ Dahms                      Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

**1. Volunteer to take notes**

Kathleen volunteered to take the notes.

**2. Who is on the call?**

Each person on the call identified themselves and their organization.

**3. Agenda Review**

The agenda was approved as read.

**4. Minutes of Jan 7 meeting**

The January 7 minutes were approved as read.

**5. Federation membership dues**

Russ noted that the file on membership dues will be closed out within the next month. Those who have not paid their membership dues will be considered to be no longer participating.

**6. 2014 Counterparts Proceedings**

Sid noted that Anthony Augustine is no longer an employee of the Manitoba Federation of Nonprofit Organizations. Sid explained that the proceedings of the 2014 Counterparts meeting will be completed within a few weeks. **Action: Sid will ensure that the proceedings document from the 2014 Counterpart meeting is completed and disseminated.**

**7. 2016 Counterparts Gathering**

Russ explained that he and Cathy Taylor are endeavoring to identify the government lead for each province and territory for the 2016 Counterparts Gathering. He reminded members that a Call for Steering Committee members will be issued fairly soon. The primary role of the Steering Committee is to identify possible themes and speakers for the 2016 Counterparts Gathering.

**8. Federal Issues Task Group**

Sid reported that the Federal Issues Task Group has not re-convened since the December 11 meeting. He plans to call a meeting soon. **Action: Sid will report on the status of the Federal Issues Task Force at the next meeting.**

**a) Reinstatement of Long Form Census – Bill C-626**

Russ reported that he has asked Imagine Canada - in a message that was circulated to Federation members - if they have taken a position on the initiative to reinstate the mandatory long-form

census. A private member's bill requesting the reinstatement has been supported by a coalition of organizations - [https://cjfe.org/resources/protest\\_letters/canadians-have-right-information](https://cjfe.org/resources/protest_letters/canadians-have-right-information). Russ has not yet received a response from Imagine Canada. He asked the Federation members for their thoughts on this issue. Several members indicated that they felt there is widespread support for the reinstatement of the mandatory long-form census from affected stakeholders. The long-form census is widely viewed as an essential research and planning tool that was unnecessarily weakened by the change from mandatory to voluntary. **Action: Russ will follow up with Imagine Canada on this issue.**

#### 9. National Research Agenda

Russ reported that he had a conversation with Cathy Barr (Imagine Canada) about the lack of movement on developing a national research agenda. Imagine Canada will likely to take a leadership role on this. There was discussion about the possibility of funding the developmental work for this initiative through crowdsourcing methods. Federation members were asked for input on this idea. There seemed to be general support for the crowdsourcing approach. However it was noted that for a crowdsourcing campaign to be effective, it would be essential to develop and articulate a consistent, cogent, and convincing rationale about the importance of research to the voluntary and non-profit sector. Perhaps ANSER (Association of Non-profit and Social Economy Research) could help to articulate the rationale.

#### 10. Urgent/Emergent Issues

No urgent or emergent issues were identified.

#### 11. Roundtable

**British Columbia:** The BC government is centralizing services, which is raising concerns about cut-backs and the delivery of services.

**Alberta:** ECVO is leading an initiative with a host of capacity building partners to establish a commonly shared "songbook" of board development resources that all partners can use.

**Saskatchewan:** The University of Saskatchewan is developing a Voluntary Sector Studies program. This may help to develop governance models and interdisciplinary research interests. Saskatchewan is also looking at developing a network of non-profits, similar to ONN.

**Manitoba:** "Business as usual". The government is committed to an extension of administrative simplification with inflexible multi-year agreements.

**Nova Scotia:** The government of Nova Scotia has approved core funding for the Community Sector Council of NS. Additional revenue streams are being developed to maintain regional hubs.

#### 12. Next meeting

Wed, March 4, 2015