

Canadian Federation Conference call Minutes September 2, 2015

Attendees: Gail, Lawrie, Jan, Geoff, Russ, Tracey, Bill, Michelle, Tamara and Cathy.

Agenda Review: Note that Volunteer Canada is hosting National Dialogue this month and anyone interested in attending please contact Paula Speevak-Sladowski.

Next Counterparts Gathering: The Ontario provincial government will be identifying the two top dates for the next gathering and will be circulating those to Federation members. Two Federation members volunteer planning support – Russ (ECVO) and Lawrie (VOCBC).

National Research Agenda: Imagine is discussing research priorities and housing a national platform / database for that research. Imagine will also be emphasizing research in their advocacy efforts recognizing the importance of sector data and data non-profit organizations need – like the long-form census data. Imagine's Cathy Barr invites input; Russ will invite her to the next call on October 7.

Governance and Leadership: Members note the variety of sources of information supporting the sector, and point out the need to organize it and make it available to the sector. Alberta noted that 30 organizations had come together there to discuss how best to support Alberta's non-profits. 24 umbrella organizations in BC similarly are working together to establish a provincial network organization looking at common terms, resources, etc. (Russ and Lawrie will stay in touch on this topic.)

Members also note it would be great if similar support could be organized nationally, recognizing that it would be a challenge to shape governance support to meet the needs of organizations at all levels in their development.

Members note that the CRA is no longer providing roadshow training for charities, saying that we need to pressure the CRA to continue to educate the charitable sector. We learn that the CRA recognizes the need and may be interested in partnering with networks to provide charity training.

Members also discuss the need to clarify charity advocacy, saying that there may be more clarity after the election and concluding that there is still a need to alert the CRA to issues and ways that they could help.

We decide to have this item on the December call and Bill (Imagine Canada) volunteered to lead the discussion. (This topic could also be a topic for Counterparts.)