

Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks
Monthly Call: January 6, 2016

Attendees: Sid and Sandra (Manitoba), Russ (Edmonton), Cathy (Toronto), Lawrie & Gail (BC), Michelle (London), Tracey (Saskatchewan), Marcia (PEI)

Chair: Russ

Minutes: Cathy

- 1. Volunteer to take Notes:** Cathy Taylor
- 2. Who's on the Call:** Sid and Sandra (Manitoba), Russ (Edmonton), Cathy (Toronto), Lawrie & Gail (BC), Michelle (London), Tracey (Saskatchewan), Marcia (PEI)
- 3. Agenda Review**
 - approved
- 4. Review of Minutes Dec 2, 2015**
 - All federation members subscribed to CRA e-alerts now, thanks Russ
- 5. Counterparts 2014 Proceedings**
 - Sid still needs to review
- 6. Long Forum Census**
 - letter from Imagine to Prime Minister was circulated; Bill is on holidays so no update
 - it was confirmed census has been reinstated by federal government
- 7. Counterparts 2016 Planning**
 - ONN did some research re: costs for holding federation meeting in Ontario in 2016 without government counterparts
 - Average cost \$900- \$1200 per person, 2 nights hotels, average airfare from across the country, meeting rooms, breakfast and lunches
 - Government counterparts interested in hosting in 2017
 - Question: do folks want to get together in 2016 without provincial counterparts?
 - Challenge for many based on cost in 2016 and fiscal realities and two meetings in a row e.g. 2016 and 2017
 - Other 2016 events we could tack onto to meet one another? Eg. Volunteer Canada or Imagine Canada; ONN conference Oct. 19-20/16
 - Agreed priority is for 2017 meeting with government counterparts

ACTIONS:

- Cathy: ask how soon Ontario government can commit to 2017 date for sure
- Russ will talk to Carol, Government of Alberta, who chairs government counterparts, about government interest in 2017
- If 2017 not in the works on government side, then we will revisit meeting plans for 2016
- Consider other opportunities to connect: ask government counterparts to join us on a call; explore videoconferencing/webinar technology

Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks
Monthly Call: January 6, 2016

8. Anti-spam legislation (CASL) Update

- Cathy gave update: ONN met with Industry Canada in late 2015; there will be a review in 2016 of the legislation as it is regulated for a 3 year review; they are interested in stories and impact on the nonprofit sector and there is an opportunity to provide feedback this year
- Cathy noted that it would be timely to create and distribute a survey of the impact of CASL on the sector that we could all share. All agreed a cross country survey would be helpful.
- Cathy will share ONN's briefing note with the Federation (Imagine Canada and Volunteer Canada are interested in next steps). This has opportunity for collective effort.

9. Peter Elson's paper

- Russ shared and said it is worth reading and perhaps future discussion topic

10. Round Table Updates

- Marcia, PEI: new Deputy Minister for Workplace and Advanced Learning made a verbal commitment to be advocate; proposal for one designated department to look after nonprofit sector; pushed for that for many years; feel they are moving things forward
- Russ, Edmonton: looking at panel in new year with diverse representation to discuss impact of global changes, oil prices, etc. on nonprofit and charitable sector to better position our work going forward
- Cathy: ONN publishing a guidebook on shared platforms later this month; it was suggested to deliberately communicate that to municipalities
- Michelle: Pillar was at the table for economic development plan for City of London, 15 year anniversary, nonprofits and social enterprises seen as economic driver – big moment; sold 85% of community bonds for shared space; hearing that Boards really struggling; need infrastructure support (and support from government for capacity building)
- Russ: hiring someone to lead board governance support initiative, half \$ from Edmonton Community Foundation, trying to get other half from City, pending;
- What's needed is customized approach to Board training, issues are not one size fits all

11. Urgent/Emergent

- February call agenda items? Tanara from CFC for update, Bill at Imagine for update re: relationship with new federal government and mandate letters