

## Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks Minutes February 3, 2016

**Participants:** Russ, Cathy, Penny, Tamara, Bill, Michelle, Janet, Kathryn, Lawrie, and Gail.

**HR Council Update:** (Thanks to ONN representatives Lindsay and Ben)  
They are working on a “fuller and broad business plan” but are also concentrating on providing practical HR management tools and resources (11 proposed offerings).

Currently the on-line content is free but they are looking at a user pay model and will also seek funding from corporations. Russ proposed a tiered user pay model possibly with sustaining members and a core advisory team. Participants agreed it was important for us to stay connected with the Council and for the Council to connect with the Federation. The Federation also is invited to provide feedback to the Council.

**Imagine Canada Update:** Bill notes that there appears to be a fair bit of openness in Federal Government interactions and, following up on the Liberal mandate letter, advises that Imagine has sent letters to the Minister of Justice and to the CRA. Imagine has also met with the Minister responsible for Social Innovation and advises that the Minister is hoping to work “with the sector”. Bill notes that the Liberal mandate letter is not entirely clear, and whether or not legislation would have to be revised to provide a modern framework respecting charities and their political and advocacy activities is also unclear. Imagine plans to meet with the Minister of Finance tomorrow respecting pre-budget consultations.

Penny asks if Imagine has developed key Sector messages that it is putting forward in government consultations, and Bill replies that Imagine is still exploring their relationship with government, and will keep the Federation informed of messages concerning the sector. Russ asks that Imagine keep the Federation in mind re Federal Government and Sector consultation. Michelle notes that it would be great to have clarity and a path to connect with the Federal government about “shovel ready” infrastructure projects.

Updates on Imagine Canada and the Federal Government will now be standing items on the agenda.

**Roundtable:** Lawrie, VOCBC, noted that Volunteer BC was hosting workshops on the new Society Act. He noted the importance of improving communication within the sector and the difficulty of connecting with organizations in smaller communities.

Michelle, Pillar, discusses their multi-year granting process with the municipality, Ontario's budget conversation and invites others to contact her if they are interested in learning about community bonds.

Russ, ECVO, discusses the research on the social innovation in Alberta and notes that information by jurisdiction will be available this spring.

Ben, ONN, notes that a shared platform guidebook would be available soon and that ONN would be publishing their policy priorities shortly as well. (Cathy points out that the board is responsible for identifying priorities and from those ONN develops strategies and emergent directions.)

Kathryn, CCVO, notes that they are planning their Connections Conference in April and the response to their most recent sector survey was good. She said that she would share the results via a summary report available on-line.

Janet, Volunteer Alberta, said that they were planning consultation on the new legislation. She also discussed consultation with police services re police information checks.