

Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks Minutes
April 6, 2016 Teleconference Call

Participants: Lawrie, Gail, Kathryn, Jan, Russ, Sandra, Michelle, Bill, Paula, Tanara, Marcia and Penny.

2014 Counterparts Proceedings—Will urge Manitoba to provide minutes / update of Counterpart proceedings to support planning for 2017.

Anti-Spam Legislation-- Penny will be participating in a CRTC administrative review of compliance and will request that a CRTC representative (possibly Lynne Wood) participate on the May 4 or June 1 Federation call. Russ will also follow-up with Cathy on this topic.

Federal Government News—Imagine Canada has identified links to the Federal budget on their website as well as a summary noting non-profit recommendations and budget statements. For example, the Federal government will not be acting on recommendations re tax-sharing, and proposes to clarify regulations re political activity. (They are not precluding the development of new legislation.) Also, the Minister for families will be launching in-depth consultation / roundtable talks re social financing.

HR Council Update—Council is moving forward on outreach and notes that the Federal government has stated that it is committed to working collaboratively with the Council and considers labour market information to be critical for Canadians. The Canadian Institute for Human Resources and the Social Science Research Council is being strengthened. Tanara referred to the HR Council advisory group established by the Federation and although the Council could not fund the work of such a group she would be available to help formalize the conversation. Russ requested that she outline what would be required of advisory group members. For information, Kathryn referred members to their recent Alberta Non-profit Wage and Salary Survey.

Consultation Re: 2018 Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating-- Paula described the survey and informed members that the advisory steering committee (Volunteer Canada, Imagine Canada and various

academics) were faced with the challenge of updating the survey questions. She described challenging areas of the survey such as the fact that the survey only captures information on formal volunteering and does not identify informal volunteering efforts or social networking within families and neighbourhoods. Volunteering numbers have decreased and Volunteer Canada supposes it is because of the absence of informal volunteering numbers.

Federation members discussed the importance of providing input into the survey development and proposed that we arrange a separate teleconference call on the survey to identify topics to discuss with survey authors. Paula proposed that she could provide members with a written document they could consider to aid their discussion and Russ agreed to forward it to members. Members decided that call would be arranged to take place possibly on April 18th or 20th. It will be confirmed by email.

Roundtable-- Lawrie, representing Volunteer BC and VOCBC, spoke about the Volunteer BC training program addressing items in the new Society Act. He said the legislation is generally accepted well and most small non-profits view it as an improvement. The legislation however has opened the doors for public engagement and larger organizations are less comfortable with that aspect. Also some changes that were meant to simplify the law such as the reporting of salaries are in fact complex and have ramifications for smaller societies. He noted that some of the rules re corporate democratization are in fact stronger in the new Society Act compared with the Corporation Act. He concluded that the intentions of the Government are good and that over time non-profits will work out the details.

Jan noted that Volunteer Alberta was working with the Law Reform Institute and will determine next steps after they hear from them. Lawrie pointed out that Government consultation in BC heard from an independent donors society and that many in the sector did not like the proposals that organization was making. He noted that in a broad consultation Government will be listening to many diverse and sometimes conflicting recommendations.