

Minutes from the Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks

May 4, 2016 Conference Call Notes

In attendance:

Marcia Carroll, Russ Dahms, Michelle Baldwin, Sandra Simpson, Bill Schaper and Barb MacLellan

Minutes from April 6, 2016 – approved with no errors or admissions

2014 Counterparts Report – Sandra to speak with Sid to location the final report. The 2017 Counterparts Planning Committee would appreciate receiving the report to assist with planning the upcoming gathering.

2017 Counterparts:

- Planning committee consists of Kathy, Penny, Lawrie and Russ – others are welcome to join if they like (note : Sid and Katherine have also joined)
- Our planning committee should connect with our Government partners prior to the end of the summer to get started on framing the agenda for the 2017 gathering

Anti-Spam Legislation:

- Bill has fielded questions to his contacts but still no responses. There will be a review of the legislation in 2017 so we could request a meeting or make a formal submission
- We need to identify if the potential for amendments may potentially benefit our sector. And if so – what is our story/case to influence proposed amendments.
- The Legislation limits our ability to build our membership and promote our mandate broadly.

ACTION – Russ to email Kathy and Bill requesting information on timelines, who we should be lobbying and our national narrative on this issue

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Social Innovation Agenda

- Bill indicated that Gov't wants to engage and work with the Sector. But we need to re-frame the work and identify the sector wide issue.
- Michelle felt that Gov't wants to kick start the Social Innovation Agenda, again stating that we need to be clear what our needs are and how the Sector wants to be engaged and how we assist in moving the Agenda forward. Michelle also was concerned that we not allow the Tech and Start Up sectors to get out in front of this before we do!
- Russ wonders what social innovation looks like in Canada – who are the gurus, who is doing the work? Who are the leaders and how do we bring their voices together?
- Michelle asked if Imagine Canada is tracking who is leading the conversation
- Bill is hoping to develop a hub that is live to monitor the conversation

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ACTION – Bill and Michelle to share information on this work

CRA

Russ asked if anyone has received much information from CRA lately - no one had heard any news. However, legal firms are holding webinars to fill the void of information from CRA. And CRA is doing awareness on changes for small business but not the NFP Sector

ACTION – Bill and Bruce to try and get a meeting with the Charities Director to discuss issues and get clarification

Census Canada

Russ had a good discussion with Patrick around volunteerism – is it declining or has social media changed how people volunteer? Is there a rural/urban split? Is there cultural differences?

They also discussed if mandating volunteerism was a good idea and the short answer is no! We need to align their work within a national context and national topics.

Round Table

Michelle

- New project called Project Impact – it's a social innovation space that measures the impact of support, return on investment, evaluates and educates and makes connections
- Pillar is moving and is celebrating their 15th year in operation!

Russ

- Planning a two day discussion on shared spaces, collaboration, and the power in collaborating – hoping to have the Mayor as a “co-promoter”
- Working with the Community Foundation to figure out how we can use indicators and outcomes to tell our story.
- How do we deliver service and evaluate when we have limited experience in this area. \$ should not be why we evaluate
- “Collective impact is truth” – how do we measure changing someone's life and who takes credit!

ACTION: Russ and Michelle to stay in touch on these issues

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Barb

- New Societies Act info sessions are going ok
- New Direction project is finished and the Final Report is on the website and taking on a life of its own
- Good move to create a formal organization

Marcia

- Community Sector Network PEI is making some headway with the provincial Gov't
- CSN members were invited to the dept of Workplace and Advanced Learning's strategic planning sessions
- CSN presented at the provincial Gov't budget consultations
- CSN has make a formal request to Gov't for the sector to be part of the quarterly Labour Market Updates and that the province collected data on the sector's economic impact

ACTION - Marcia to contact Penny to discuss how to get Gov't to value the sector