



Voluntary Sector Studies Network

Luther College at the University of Regina

World Kafé Koffee Klatch Proceedings – Jan. 29, 2016

Meeting held at the Saskatchewan Science Centre, Regina, SK

On January 29, 2016, 32 people met at the Saskatchewan Science Centre for a World Kafé style Koffee Klatch to discuss the VSSN. The main goals of the afternoon meeting were a) to share current challenges impacting the nonprofit/voluntary sector and identify research needs; b) to identify learning opportunities and gaps for people in the sector in Saskatchewan, and share information about the new Nonprofit Sector Leadership and Innovation Certificate at the University of Regina; and c) to provide an update and get feedback on VSSN activities since the previous Koffee Klatch, including the conference planned for June 2016. A specific question was addressed at each of the 5 tables. Participants were invited to choose a new table to join every 20-25 minutes, signalled by a bell. Each table included flipchart paper where we invited our participants to doodle, draw and make notes.

Kafé Table

1

What current internal and external forces are impacting your organization (e.g., Syrian refugees, CRA updates and audits, social enterprise development, etc.)? What are current, significant pressure points?

- Limited funding
- Succession gaps in the sector
- How to get youth involved
- Mental health and “burn out” of employees/volunteers in the sector
- CRA restrictions on advocacy
- Politics, e.g., concerns with new federal government’s priorities/requirements
- Lack of knowledge of the organizations that already exist

Kafé Table

2

What specific unanswered research questions do you have about the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan and/or Canada? Further, what research questions/projects specific to your sub-sector do you think should be undertaken (e.g., child care, food security, environmental issues, heritage, etc.)?

Succession planning:

- How can we promote the nonprofit sector as a viable career option?

Retention issues

- Research is needed on burnout and turnover of both paid and volunteer staff.

Funding

- What are the strongest or most reliable streams of funding and how do markets decide who they fund? For example, are decisions based on social movements, money, fads, etc.?



Corporate giving

- What are the implications when corporate giving structure is changed to benefit corporations' strategic plans?

Roles of governments and businesses

- What are the appropriate roles for governments and businesses?

Economic valuation of the nonprofit sector

- What is the cumulative impact of the volunteer sector in Saskatchewan? What are the measurements to use for this?

Motivation

- What motivates governments and corporations to fund/be involved with nonprofits?

Kafé Table

3

We would like to draw a map of face-to-face and online learning opportunities (e.g., weekend courses, block courses, professional development courses) available for Saskatchewan people who work in the nonprofit sector and then identify gaps. What do you know? What gaps appear to exist? Can you add to our map?

Face-to-Face opportunities

Workforce Diversity:

- Creerunner Communications (www.creerunner.com/communication)
- UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity (urpride.ca)
- SaskCulture (www.saskculture.ca)
- Regina Work Preparation Centre (workprep.ca)

Human Resources:

- Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) at the University of Regina (www.uregina.ca/cce)
- SaskCulture
- Creerunner Communications
- Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) (sarcsarcan.ca)

Managing Nonprofits:

- Creative City Centre (<http://www.creativecitycentre.ca>)
- SaskCulture

Leadership:

- Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)
- Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan (www.afcs.ca)

Communications:

- Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)
- Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG): The Toolkit Workshop Series

Risk Management:

- Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)
- United Way Regina

- Museums Association of Saskatchewan (saskmuseums.org)

- Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC)
- United Way Regina (unitedwayregina.ca)

- SaskCulture
- Museums Association of Saskatchewan

- Museums Association of Saskatchewan

Online opportunities (various webinars and resources)

- Charity Village (charityvillage.com)
- Ontario Nonprofit Network (theonnn.ca)
- Pro Bono Australia (probonoaustralia.com.au)
- The Nonprofit Quarterly (nonprofitquarterly.org)
- Sask Sport Inc. (www.sasksport.sk.ca)
- NonprofitReady.org (www.nonprofitready.org)
- Tech Soup (www.techsoupcanada.ca)
- AVR Sask (www.avrsk.ca)
- Volunteer Match (www.volunteermatch.org)

- Volunteer Canada (volunteer.ca)
- Volunteer Management Professionals of Canada (www.vmpc.ca)
- ACHIEVE Training Centre (www.achievecentre.com)
- Canadian Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.ca>)
- Canadian Human Resource Council (hrcouncil.ca)
- Association of Fundraising Professionals (www.afpnet.org)
- Imagine Canada (www.imaginecanada.ca)
- Administrators of Volunteer Resources (AVR) Saskatchewan (www.avrsk.ca)



Free University Level Courses:

- Coursera (www.coursera.org)
- MIT (ocw.mit.edu/index.htm)
- Stanford (online.stanford.edu)

Kafé Table

4

As you know, we're expecting to offer a new certificate at the University of Regina on the nonprofit/voluntary sector comprising 5 courses (Nonprofit Sector Leadership and Innovation (NSLI) Certificate). What suggestions do you have to promote and market this certificate across the province to students, those who work/volunteer in the sector, those who work in government and those who work in the business sector?

Communications:

- Dedicated website that is a conduit for information (e.g., promoting training opportunities) and not just a dumping ground for information

Certificate Courses and Delivery:

- Multiple ways of delivery (face- to-face, online, classes on evenings and weekends, etc.)
- Networking with corporate entities and understanding what they need from the certificate program:

Internships and volunteer activities in the certificate program:

- Student placements at organizations
- Volunteering for credit in NSLI classes



Kafé Table

5

We are organizing a conference for June 2016 and need your suggestions for such a conference. For example, there will likely be mini learning sessions (possibly 1 hour in length); thus, what topics are of interest to you/your organization? Suggestions for speakers?

- Interdisciplinary research projects on living heritage
- Measure the intrinsic social benefits of volunteering
- Examine case studies of what makes some organizations successful and others not
- Researching the needs associated with small rural communities
- Research at Indian Head Theatre (registered nonprofit)
- Global aspect of how nonprofits work in other places (e.g., Sweden)
- Cross-cultural research projects