

Cape Breton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations held their second

Leaders Table on April 28, 2014.

Participants were asked to provide written feedback on “3 items for advocacy by CBCVO” and the following was received:

- ✓ The financial and human impact that the sector has on the community be presented to three levels of government
- ✓ Advocacy with **teeth**
- ✓ Education to the community on the impact of what we do via media, etc. Gain support and voice from community to help us pressure government in providing more resources to the sector
- ✓ Volunteerism (meaningful, impactful and how to engage and maintain volunteers)
- ✓ Youth engagement (3)
- ✓ Common voice/organization for sector (how to make the issues known and get results to move forward)
- ✓ Identification of the Chamber’s goals and members made more clear – more education sessions
- ✓ The issue with youth engagement and education of new volunteers
- ✓ The crossover in volunteer threads through different organizations
- ✓ CBRM to be more financially forgiving with non-profit organizations
- ✓ Determine the impact of the sector as if they were not providing services – what would be the consequences
- ✓ How can we increase the public/community willingness to be a volunteer
- ✓ Advocacy at local level (municipal)
- ✓ Continue Leaders Table with focus to identify action items
- ✓ Collaboration with existing groups (i.e., AFP, CSC)
- ✓ Research – current state of the sector in CBRM/CBI in collaboration with other initiatives discussed
- ✓ Taxation of not-for-profits (2) - equitable implementation of property taxes
- ✓ A higher status for the sector with all levels of government
- ✓ Administrative funding for grants and organizations – recognition of role of administration in accountability and effectiveness
- ✓ Multi-year funding for organizations with increased reporting burdens

The discussion on this topic raised the following issues:

- ✓ Municipal property taxation
- ✓ Lack of follow-up on promises by politicians/bureaucrats
- ✓ Need organized voice for consultation
- ✓ Generational considerations of volunteers
- ✓ Concern regarding government created “non-profits”

Feedback as requested from participants on issue of research that is needed and the following items were identified:

- Describe sector and change in sector over a time period
- Identify contribution of sector to the community
- Diversity of organizations/ types of organizations
- Impact on things like poverty and communities
- Fundraising
- Volunteers – what they want to put in and get out of their experiences
- Identify loses in the community such as counselling and legal services for low-income people
- Identify the costs of not providing many services done by non-profits
- Volunteers who serve in more than one organization
- Identify “families”
- Benefits to the community

Possible sources of information to assist this research would include:

- Community Health Boards
- Sector Council
- Churches
- Vital Signs

The group requested that we post this information on our website.