



Hunger Bytes

The Main Course



It is that time again. I realize that this newsletter is a tad bit late. I have been waiting unsuccessfully to receive information from the Canadian Association of Food Banks concerning their recent AGM. We have been awaiting the actual transcripts that were taken at the AGM. It is stated in the draft of the CAFB AGM minutes: *It was announced that the meeting would also be recorded electronically for accuracy.*

Unfortunately the CAFB Board of Directors has made the decision not to release the transcripts. This column will go forward with the information that I do have.

The CAFB had their Annual General Meeting on May 6, 2006. There were a number of representatives from the Federation that attended to express their concern about the changes brought forth. Amongst those attending were Fred Scaife, Chris Harris, and myself. Sharon Gillespie from the Taber Food Bank and Carol Thomson from the Vulcan Food Bank also attended as they were the lucky winners of the Early Membership draw to attend the AGM.

This AGM was of great importance to all food banks in Canada. Many of you have heard about the changes. This column will be longer than usual as there is the expressed need to explain the facts with no distortion, manipulation, whitewashing or personal interpretations made of the events at the AGM. We believe that Food Banks deserve nothing less than the truth and they need to know how the changes will affect them.

These new By-Laws has resulted in the CAFB completely changing its mandate of representing individual Food Banks to that of representing Provincial associations. The original CAFB mandate as per filed with the CCRA is "to assist Canadian Food Banks in meeting the immediate food needs of recipients while working towards long term solutions to hunger and poverty." Please note that Provincial organizations are not mentioned in the mandate. The change in bylaws has totally restructured the CAFB and their membership.

The following Bylaws are now in effect:

"Interpretation 1.01 (h) "voting member" means any member of the two classes of members who are entitled to vote at annual and special meetings of members, namely Provincial Members and Board Members and **(i) "Non-voting Member"** shall include Affiliated Members and any other person, institution, corporation, company, association, partnership or similar aggregate of persons who have been admitted as Non-Voting members of the Corporation by the Board of Directors. Non-Voting Members shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of members and shall not be entitled to notice of any meeting of members and shall not be entitled to notice of any meetings of the Corporation."

Contrary to information that is being circulated, the Bylaw clearly states that there are **NO** direct Food Bank members in the CAFB and individual Food Banks no longer have a direct vote.

Continued

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Darcie Hofmann

The only vote that you as a Food Bank have, is in the election of the Provincial Representative to the Member Council Advisory Board of which only 2 of those members have a say at Board level as defined in the following:

“Article 4.01 Member Council The Board shall establish a Member Council comprising of two(2) representatives from each Provincial Association of food banks. The Member council shall exercise such powers as are authorized by the Board of Directors and also 4.02 Each Provincial Association of Food Banks shall elect two (2) persons to the Member Council who shall serve as the representatives of that Provincial Association of Food Banks and shall be known as Provincial Members. Provincial Members shall serve on the Member Council for a term of one (1) year. The name of the Provincial Members as elected by each Provincial Association of Food Banks shall be provided to the Secretary of the Corporation in writing as least 48 hours prior to each annual meeting of the Corporation by each provincial Association of food banks.”

It is interesting in that individual Food Banks interests are not represented, only that the Member Council represent the Provincial Associations. Election of the Provincial Members are only by way of the Provincial Association. Individual food banks have no direct connection to the National Organization that is supposed to represent them as food banks across Canada, unless they are members of a Provincial Association. This is not my version of a democratic organization.

Democracy as defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is **1.a:** government by the people **1.b:** a government in which the supreme power is vested the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections **2:** a political unit that has a democratic government **3.** the principles and policies of the Democratic party in the United States **4:** the common people especially when constituting the source of political authority **5:** the absence of hereditary or arbitrary class distinctions or privileges.

Many Food Banks will have to make a choice on if there are any real benefits of being an “affiliated member” of the CAFB. What have they actually done for you? National Food Share is the largest national program as administrated by the CAFB and is also undergoing changes. It is unknown the actual amount of food that Alberta receives from National Food Share. The request for that information has always been denied from both the CAFB and the AFBNA as the recognized Provincial association. At the AGM, members of the Federation brought forth concerns of current Provincial representation or lack there of at the AGM. Those concerns were recognized as valid and verbal assurances to address those issues by September, were made by the Chair of the AGM ,Wayne Hellquist. These assurances were to assist in mediating the differences in interpretations of what constitutes support of Food Banks, representation and the sharing of information and resources between SCAFBF and the AFBNA. We have received no information or contact in relation to those assurances and in conversation with Charles Seiden CEO of the CAFB denied that those statements were made. The transcripts would have helped here.

The Federation was strongly against the changes in the Bylaws as there was no input or consultation with individual Food Banks as a whole and were made in haste. The majority members of the previous Board who developed these bylaws were on the Boards of Provincial Associations. Many questions were brought forth: What of those provinces that do not have provincial associations, what will be the effect on NFSS if hubs do not join Provincial Associations, how accurate will the hunger count be? These and other questions were brought forth with no clear answers other than they will see what happens as there was no definitive transition plan in place. A motion was made by Chris Harris and Fred Scaife to address those concerns, **“Motion #6** That the motion to accept the new bylaws at this meeting be suspended and the board be actioned to create mechanisms to consult members in each province. Subject to this redraft the bylaws to reflect the concerns and consensus. Once this done either create a special meeting to adopt the revised bylaws or refer to them at the next AGM” This motion was defeated. We had tried to do what was in the best interest of individual food banks, unfortunately others believed that Provincial Associations are of more importance.

As a Federation our mandate is to provide support to ALL Food Banks who provide food to those who are hungry. Our belief is that regardless of size or affiliation, all food banks should receive services. We believe no food bank should be forced to join a provincial organization in order to benefit from donations made to the CAFB on the mistaken belief that it was for all food banks in Canada. You, as members are the soul of this Federation and **we** are here for you.

Darcie

Fundraising

In my research I often come across some great ideas that are taking place in other food banks. The following program was developed by the North York Harvest Food Bank in Ontario. I thought it was a great idea.

The Donation Nation name and logo were the brainchild of two young teenaged girls and their dad. Lauren and Samantha Weisbarth, twin sisters looking forward to their bat mizvahs. As part of their experience, they were expected to give to their community in a meaningful way. Lauren and Samantha sat down with their mom and dad and talked about finding something that didn't require a lot of supervision and the girls

Did not want to do what their friends were doing, they wanted do something different. And so Donation Nation was born.

Their dad created a logo and baseball caps were made up with the new logo stitched on. The girls created signs that they tacked to their wagon. For the next 12 weeks, after school and on weekends they wheeled their wagon around their neighborhood collecting donations for the Food Bank. In the end they collected more than 140 pounds of food. The North York Harvest Food Bank has built on this single event to encourage a citywide youth initiative of community involvement.

The Donation Nation Youth initiative now encompasses Food Drives, Pack to School

Donation Nation

Project, and a Donation Nation Youth Initiative to provide young people with the skills to act as speakers on behalf of the Food Bank. The "Give a Gift to the Food Bank Project" talks to youth about alternate ways to acknowledge birthdays, bar/bat mitzvahs and other special events by asking that money spent on gifts be donated to the Food Bank.

There is one common factor within the Donation Nation Youth Initiative, and that is youth involvement with the North York Harvest Food Bank. These youth initiated food drives helps build support for the Food Bank amongst the cities younger generation.

Objectives of the Southern & Central Alberta Food Bank

1. To develop a Southern & Central Alberta focus to support food banks in achieving their mission to feed the hungry in their local communities through sharing information and resources between food banks.
2. To create opportunities for Food Banks to collectively represent concerns/issues to government and policy makers.
3. To plan and implement collective approaches and methods to public education and awareness of initiatives concerning poverty and hunger issues.
4. To represent the members collectively in approaches or agreements with food industries or other sources of food.
5. To represent the members in any centralized approaches to donors of funds or resources for the collective benefit of the Food Banks.
6. To provide a positive and timely response to crisis and food emergencies affecting food banks in the region.

HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

HARRY CHAPIN WAS A SINGER & SONGWRITER IN THE 1970'S. NOT ONLY AN ENTERTAINER HE WAS A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR THE HUNGRY AND CO-FOUNDED THE WORLD HUNGER YEAR. HE DEDICATED PROCEEDS FROM EVERY OTHER CONCERT TO BENEFIT HIS END HUNGER CAUSE.

That ugly word - Policy

Brand New

The Federation is very-pleased to be able to offer Food Banks assistance with the development of policies. A policy manual has been developed that is available to all members. We hope that these policy outlines may assist you in developing policies

specific to your Food Bank and its needs.

Clear defined polices assist all involved from Board level to volunteers in understanding the operation of the food bank and define responsibilities of the Board, management and volunteers.

The policy manual may be used in whole or in

Food Bank Policy Manuals

Parts. The manual is very basic and addresses policies varying from employment standards to facilities.

In addition to the manual we are also able to present a 1 day policy development workshop. If this is of interest to you please contact Darcie for further information.

This is the duty of our generation as we enter the twenty-first century - solidarity with the weak, the persecuted, the lonely, the sick and those in despair. It is expressed by the desire to give a noble and humanizing meaning to a community in which all members will define themselves not by their own identity but by that of others.

Elie Wiesel

News to Know

The Federation has available an Insurance Toolkit for the Voluntary Sector. This is a guide for Nonprofits and Charities prepared for the Alberta Voluntary Sector Insurance Council by the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations.

The toolkit was designed as a practical guide developed to help voluntary sector organizations understand their insurance needs and navigate the complex process of finding appropriate insurance coverage.

This Toolkit will provide information to Food Banks to become an informed consumer so you can work with your insurance broker or agent to get the appropriate insurance coverage that will help protect your organization.

This toolkit includes a description of the common types of insurance coverage for nonprofits and charities and as you

Insurance Toolkit

work through the toolkit, you will find information about how to assess you organizations insurance needs and how to choose a broker or an agent and how work with them. You will also find information and tips about how to manage your insurance program and work with your Board on insurance issues. You will also find a glossary of common insurance terms and references for more information. Throughout the toolkit you will find tools such as checklists, sample templates, and resources for more information.

While insurance will never cover everything that might go wrong, it is one way your organization can spread its risk and help protect against financial losses. Although it can be challenging for organizations with limited budgets to find the funds needed for insurance, having the appropriate coverage can help ensure your organization survives any unforeseen losses.

Board of Directors 2005

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Red Deer Food Bank

Vice-Chair-Chris Harris
Calgary Inter-Faith FB

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Paul Van Doren
Three Hills FB

Secretary -
Sharon Gillespie
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The Lords Food Bank
Jock Carpenter
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Les Payne
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Rose Anne Williams
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Food For Thought

Imagine you are eight years old. Its been a long day at the end of the school week but you don't really want to go home. You know that there might not be any snack to eat or much for supper, or for breakfast or not much to eat for the entire weekend.

The Back Pack Program concept was developed at the Arkansas Rice Depot in Little Rock after a school nurse asked for help because hungry students were coming to her with stomach aches and dizziness. The local food bank began to provide the school children with groceries in non-descript back packs to carry home.

According to the Center on

Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, without a healthy level of nutrition, children lack focus; they are more susceptible to pathogens and become lethargic and restless. They perform less successfully on standardized tests and have a higher drop out rate.

There are children in America that rely on resources such as free or reduced-priced school lunch during the school year. The Back Pack program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available such as weekends and school vacations. Many of those children are coming back to school on Mondays without have much to eat over the weekend. The program

Back Pack Buddies

involves giving backpacks to qualified children discreetly on Friday afternoons. These back packs are filled with nutritious easy to prepare food and are vitamin fortified. Some Back Pack programs also provide extra food to share with younger siblings at home. The backpacks are returned Monday morning to be re-filled by Friday.

There are more than 60 food banks in 30 states and Washington D.C. that have successfully implemented Back Pack programs. Nationally food banks distribute as many as 25,000 back packs each week over an entire school year.

Food for Thought