

An Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector

Training Deck

provided by:

The Voluntary Sector Affairs Directorate

Canadian Heritage

and

The Voluntary Sector Forum

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Overview

- The Voluntary Sector Initiative
 - Background
- The Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector
- The Codes of Good Practice on Funding and Policy Dialogue
- Bringing the Accord and Codes to Life

The Voluntary Sector Initiative

June 2000 – VSI launch

- Five-year, \$94.6M joint undertaking
- Aimed at improving the ability of both sectors to better serve Canadians by:
 - ✓ strengthening the relationship
 - ✓ enhancing capacity of the voluntary sector
 - ✓ improving the regulatory framework
- Phase One : joint tables address issues of concern to the voluntary sector and the Government of Canada

The Voluntary Sector

About the voluntary sector

- 180,000 incorporated organizations
- 1.3 million employees
- 6.5 million volunteers
- \$90 billion annual revenues, \$109 billion assets

The Voluntary Sector Initiative

Recent Milestones

December 2001

- Government and voluntary sector sign Accord

September 2002

- Speech from the Throne commitment re: Accord

October 2002

- Clerk of the Privy Council tasks Deputy Ministers with giving life to the Accord
- Prime Minister appoints Minister of Canadian Heritage *Minister Responsible for the Voluntary Sector*
- The Voluntary Sector Forum established
- New governance structures announced

The Voluntary Sector Initiative

New Governance Structures

- Ministerial Consultative Committee
- Assistant Deputy Minister Steering Committee
- Voluntary Sector Forum
- Joint Steering Committee

The Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector

- A solid framework for a renewed relationship
- Purpose is to strengthen the ability of both sectors to better serve Canadians
- Sets out values, principles and commitments
- Signifies “the Government of Canada’s recognition of the invaluable contribution of the voluntary sector to the Canadian way of life”
- Result of extensive community consultations

Codes of Good Practice on Policy Dialogue and Funding

- Launched October 8, 2002
- Concrete tools promised in the Accord
- Provide concrete examples of good practices that can improve the relationship
- Good practices are provided for the government, for the voluntary sector, and for both sectors
- Codes are meant to evolve over time and will require review, evaluation and reporting

Code of Good Practice on Policy Dialogue

Premise:

- The government's policies and programs are better when they benefit from the voluntary sector's experience, expertise, knowledge and ideas.

Code of Good Practice on Funding

Premise:

- Each sector recognizes its responsibility to be accountable to Canadians and the importance of sustainable capacity to enable voluntary sector organizations to serve Canadians.

Why use the Codes of Good Practice?

- Tools to achieve positive and lasting behavioural change
- Live up to the Accord commitment to strengthen the ability of both sectors to better serve Canadians
- Using the Policy Dialogue Code will lead to improved public policies
- Using the Funding Code will lead to strengthened sustainable capacity for the voluntary sector and improved accountability of both sectors to Canadians

Bringing the Accord and Codes to Life

- Goal is to ensure Accord and Codes are well known, accessible, and implemented across the federal government and the voluntary sector
- Voluntary Sector Affairs Directorate at Canadian Heritage and Voluntary Sector Forum supporting overall implementation
- Departments and organizations developing individual action plans

Bringing the Accord and Codes to Life in our Organization

In our own organization

- Current relationship
 - ✓ who do we engage and why?
 - ✓ how do we engage?
 - ✓ what kind of results are we getting?

Bringing the Accord and Codes to Life in our Organization

In our own organization

- Improving the relationship
 - ✓ where can improvements be made?
 - ✓ what tools do we have/need?
 - ✓ what challenges do we face?
 - ✓ what can we learn from other organizations?

Next Steps

- Review and promote the Accord and Codes
- Explore scope and nature of our relationship with the other sector
- Develop a strategic approach to key challenges
- Work with other sector to address challenges
- Stay in touch with the focal point at Canadian Heritage or the Forum
- Report on our progress and our priorities for the future

Websites and Contacts

- Voluntary Sector Initiative:
www.vsi-isbc.ca
- Voluntary Sector Affairs Directorate,
Canadian Heritage: (613) 998-7207
- Voluntary Sector Forum:
www.voluntary-sector.ca
- Voluntary Sector Forum Secretariat:
(613) 238-7555 or 1-800-821-8814