

Canadian Farmers with Disabilities Registry
Report on the Annual General Meeting
Held January 14, 15, 2011
At Toronto Hilton Garden Inn, Airport

This report will give the reader a overview of what CFWDR representatives achieved at the Annual General Meeting on January 14 and 15, 2011. This report is not the minutes of the meetings but a highlight of some of the events. For a copy of the Minutes please contact Bill MacDonald.

The Annual General Meeting began at 9:30 am with representatives from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. Regrets from the Alberta representative. The BC representative joined the meeting via Skype connection. It went very well.

Bill MacDonald's opening remarks as Chair, was directed at moving CFWDR forward. As we are all volunteers, it is important to use our resources wisely. We should not waste time on reviewing past actions, which we know are regrettable, but learn from them and go forward. Use our talent and resources to get the help to the farmer who need it the most. He acknowledged that with such little time to prepare for the role as Chair, some of the events caught him off guard. He apologized to the members for his actions and hoped that together, we could look ahead with a positive view and place our energy on promoting farm safety. Bill said he will do all he can to work together with the provincial representatives in applying for funding to promote farm safety. He will also continue to work with the Board of Directors on improving CFWDR's process in the development of policies and By-Laws.

Important progress by CFWDR:

- Policy Manual – Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors
- In view of the duties of the Board, the Treasurer will be providing quarterly financial reports.
- New Registration Form to be used by Provincial representatives as well as for national use.
- Activity form for each province to complete and send into the Chair for payment of \$3,000 (formula \$50/hr, mileage .48/km) – Must be completed by Feb 15/11.
- Discussion on conduct and accountability issues of CFWDR . To review the By-Laws in light of inserting causes for policies thus allowing more flexibility with Canada Revenue Charity Division and less changes to By-Laws.
- Board will work on the Election Process and succession plan for next AGM
- Make a pamphlet (French & English) to be used by all provinces. To have only the website info.
- Money set aside to update the website. An appointed Director will overseeing the updates.

PROVINCIAL REPORTS

Carl Palmer - Nova Scotia submitted a report on events attended along with expense forms, and outlining where funds were allocated. A letter of support was also read and submitted.

Grant Smith - British Columbia is waiting to see what the funding level will be at the national level, working with Reg Steward, submitting event plans for farm and ranch safety events.

Bob Guest - Saskatchewan reported during the year provincial school presentations were very popular. They find the young are easy to educate about farm safety and presenters should try to keep stories short, about 8-10 min.

Jill Stafford - Manitoba holds 60+ activities per year such as one on one support or in small groups, amputee support groups, safety training, community events, conference speaking and safety days.

Bill MacDonald - New Brunswick held school safety education visits, attended farmers union annual meeting, use provincial marketing boards to spread the word on safety and hold safety days for 4-H.

Janny Arendz - PEI promoted farm safety in school visits, individual peer counseling, using the federation of agriculture to promote farm safety. Also PEI is regrouping within its own organization with new members.

Claude Daignealt - Quebec is organizing its provincial board to be a registered charity with one-on-one counseling, safety days and media releases on success stories.

Billy Woods - Newfoundland is using some new equipment at school and event presentations promoting safety. Bill is a representative on the CASA board and was elected Secretary.

Mike Tomascin - Ontario was short staffed this year as both Ed and himself underwent heart surgery so no provincial safety days were attended.

ELECTIONS were held for the 10 provincial representatives as well as the Executive officers:

New Brunswick	Bill MacDonald, Chair	Saskatchewan	Clint Sira, Vice-Chair
Ontario	Mike Tomascin, Secretary	Quebec	Claude Daignealt, Treasurer
Newfoundland	Billy Woods	British Columbia	Grant Smith
Alberta	Nancy Ebling	Manitoba	Jill Stafford
Nova Scotia	Carl Palmer	Prince Edward Island	Janny Arendz

Guest Speaker, Dean Anderson, Chair of CASA:

Dean Anderson made a presentation on Saturday, Jan 15. He said that governance and By- Laws are very essential to ensuring a stable organization. They are there to protect its members and Board of Directors. It is important to understand your own By-laws so that outside bodies can see you are moving forward. When issues not resolved, there is concern by all levels of government and may ask the question on why they should continue to give money to CFWDR.

Trusting your Board to fulfill their duties is key for working together. There are always new ideas and experiences that get expresses and you should welcome them and not brush them off. In the past, there has been some mistrust of CASA that we were asking too many questions. CASA is answerable to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and they ask us the same questions. If it looks like deliverables don't come in, it doesn't look good on them. The pressure is on CASA to make sure deliverables are completed as agreed upon for every grant application.

Government likes numbers, events, meeting numbers, how many people go by the booth, website hits, visits, calls, and other services. AAFC wants to provide money but CASA needs a strong judiciary control. They have very strict guidelines on how they apply for funding. If they don't get the reports in time the funds won't be available.

CASA wants CFWDR to succeed and we are here to help. Injury prevention can only happen through you. Get your story out! Tell how safety can help. If you can change the way a farm thinks about safety you may save a life, and perhaps many future generations.

CASCADING PYRAMID

In the afternoon there was round table discussion on work plans. Where do we go from here? Chairman Bill encouraged the members that “we must move forward as a national organization” to meet CASA requirements and meet provincial needs. To do this we use the “cascading pyramid” as a 4 year plan.

Year 1

- the base should include projects or items that most require focus in the upcoming year.
- the means and the will to make them happen by detailing actual plans and programs to be pursued and included in year 1.
- This year will likely include structural and administrative or delivery changes that need to be made. (supported by CASA)
- It should indicate how the deliveries will be made, who, what, when and where.
- budgeting is required and a means of obtaining funding at the delivery level.

Year 2

- A slightly less comprehensive plan should determine the areas of focus for year 2.
- These should dovetail or grow out of year 1 as the plan continues to unfold.
- Year 2 plans are often those which require more planning or funding.

Chairman Bill noted the following needs to be added to year 2 of our master plan:

- Review travel guidelines annually
- Resource development (connect with CASA library)
- Establish plan for next AGM
- Encourage more reps, and support provinces where they have none
- Develop contact list for better communication
- Monitor provincial plans
- Provincial accountability to each other as well as nationally

Time was set aside for brainstorming on what we'd like to see CFWDR doing in 2 years, 3 years etc.

Some of the ideas were:

- Help those provinces financially to become a registered charity.
- Build our relationship with CASA so we can better support the provincial farm safety.
- Develop a resource library
- Share resources/videos, and
- Network with local health and safety organizations.
- French translation of resources/website, By-Laws, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm. Some representatives had to leave to catch their flights home, while those remaining met in the hospitality suite for pizza and a time of sharing on what's going on in farm safety across Canada. Some shared about their family, lives and local happenings. It was good! I look forward to the next time we meet to share in the achievements of CFWDR. Till then, I wish everyone a safe and healthy year.

Submitted by Jill Stafford, MB Director for CFWDR