

Canadian Farmers With Disabilities (CFWDR)

Business Plan and Budget

April 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005

Canadian Farmers with Disabilities (CFWDR)

Our Vision:

Every family in all rural communities is farm-accident free and provides ongoing compassion and support to anyone affected by an accident

Our Mission:

To organize, educate, and encourage people in every province to promote farm safety and support families affected by severe accidents.

Our Business Plan

The CFWDR envisages a stable business plan which can assist its volunteers to deliver a more comprehensive package of services to the farming community in recognition of the high cost of serious farm accidents - both mentally, and financially. Members of the CFWDR believe that the human disasters in agricultural risk management must be given a higher priority. The new plan hopes to zero in on the following:

1) Before An Accident Happens - Agriculture has been revolutionized in the last 10 to 20 years with rapid changes in mechanical, chemical, electrical, biological and transportation aspects of farming practices. This has resulted in a work-place which has become increasingly complex, high speed, time sensitive and stressful, thus, making the likelihood of human error even greater. Large farming operations require a huge learning curve to meet labour requirements. In many cases people are recruited without experience or training which can result in serious injury or death.

Many farmers feel that they are not eligible for Workers Compensation coverage or that they cannot afford it. Disability insurance is not widely available at a reasonable cost. There are gaps in the services currently available to farmers and government needs to be made aware that there is need to do something about this. At one point it was felt that the Renewal pillar of the proposed new Agricultural Policy Framework might assist in this area, but, at this point there are still no defined programs to be offered. We note that the Renewal pillar is about on-going education and feel that farm safety is one important aspect of agricultural education.

Our proposed business plan will provide dollars for development of key promotional materials, adapt the materials to the French language, and provide for postage, courier, etc, for distribution. The plan will also reimburse travel costs for members of CFWDR to attend agricultural meetings, 4-H clubs, conferences (could range from agricultural to health professionals), etc. to spread the message and urge each group to do what it can to assist in the effort to provide better resources to disabled farmers.

2) Services to Disabled Farmers - Once the CFWDR hear of a serious farm accident, the group will arrange for one of their volunteers to visit the injured farmer either in the hospital or at home. The main purpose of this initial visit is to provide "hope" that there can be a future for this farmer and that his/her future can still be agriculturally based. As the farmer recovers, and if there are continuing disabilities, the organization will next make recommendations and provide information on how the farm can be adapted to meet the needs of the disabled farmers.

Our plan will provide travel cost reimbursement to the volunteers for travel to whatever sites are necessary to assist the disabled farmer. The plan will also provide a limited amount of dollars to farmers with long term disabilities to assist in retrofit of equipment which hopefully will enable them to continue to farm.

3) Information and Services to Government - It is widely known that farms are a great generator of wealth to our country. Products raised on farms serve as the raw products or basic building blocks for many other industries and businesses. It is in the best interests of all Canadians to retain an active and viable farming industry.

Through our proposed plan we hope to retain farms that might otherwise be lost. Statistics will be supplied to government and lobbying efforts will take place to advise government where its dollars can be spent for the greatest return. CFWDR is prepared to make recommendations as to how some of the basic programs available to other business could be adapted to meet the needs of farmers. Some of these proposals could, no doubt, be made a part of the new Agricultural Policy Framework.

Valuable recommendations may also be developed that could be made available to advisory bodies and other groups working towards making agricultural equipment safer for the operators and others in the farm workforce.

Administration

The CFWDR will form an Advisory Committee which will be responsible for handling the drafting of project outlines for consultants to be employed for various tasks and to oversee the handling and disbursement of funds. Flexibility will be the key to running a successful program across Canada as several factors must be taken into account in distribution of limited program dollars:

- The differences in farm numbers per province

- Some areas do not have a provincial organization in place

- The differences in farm accident numbers per province and the seriousness of the accidents.

A part-time manager will be employed to assist the Advisory Committee in these duties and to provide the leg-work on the various projects.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will provide the physical structure and accounting functions for the organization. The funding handled will be accounted for as "Project Funds In Trust" held by the NSFA. An annual audit is carried out and will be supplied to all funding businesses/agencies.

Volunteers - the Pillars of our Plan

The volunteer efforts of farmers who have already suffered crippling disabilities is amazing in light of the fact that it takes many of these people so much extra effort simply to move from one location to another. Their efforts deserve to be supplemented by programs which will enable them to provide more concrete and direct assistance to those farmers who are in need of modifications in order to be able to continue to earn a living from their chosen profession - farming.

Services are provided to all Canadian farmers, and are carried out through provincial organizations where feasible. At present there is not a provincial organization in British Columbia or the Territories, however, farmers in these areas are serviced by the national organization to the best of our ability.

Budget

Income:

Corporate Funding	30,000.
AAFC - grant	100,000.
Projects	10,000.

Total \$140,000.

Expenses:

Web site modifications	2,000.
Office expenses (share of existing facilities)	1,200.
Administration services	3,000.
Printing and supplies	10,200.
Audit	500.
Postage	500.
Advertising & promotion	5,000.
Peer counseling training	3,000.
Peer counseling service delivery	5,000.
Delivery of financial assistance to newly disabled	20,000.
Development of media kit	1,000.
Management services (time and expenses)	10,000.
Project expenses	10,000.
Annual meeting and conference	12,000.
Facilitator for planning session	8,000.
Boardroom and meeting rentals	10,000.
Translation services	10,000.
Representation at national/inter meetings	7,500.
Directors expenses	10,000.
Partnership and network development	10,000.
Miscellaneous	1,000.

Total \$139,900.

Net Profit (Loss) \$ 100.

Key Elements

The delivery of the Business Plan for the Canadian Farmers With Disabilities Registry in the 2003/2004 year will include the following elements:

- Formation of an Advisory Committee to oversee and direct activities
- Hiring a part-time manager to work with the Advisory Committee and handle program details
- Re-modeling of the web-site
- Preparation of a media promotional package

Delivery of counseling training to those working with the disabled
Provision of expense reimbursement to volunteers providing counseling
Development of a program to provide financial assistance for modifications to farm equipment used by recently disabled farmers
Development of promotional materials in two languages
Sponsorship of a facilitated planning session for future years= programs
Hosting an annual meeting/conference for educational purposes
Enabling representation at national or international meetings in regard to services for disabled farmers
Solicitation of major businesses to become partners in the delivery of services
Applications for funding for various project opportunities, and
Any other projects or opportunities which might benefit disabled farmers.

Long Term Impact

It is imperative that the human disasters in risk management in agriculture be recognized and assisted so that these farmers are able to return to become contributors to our industry and economy after recuperation from their accident or illness. This proposed program is envisaged as a basic necessity under any agricultural policy which is being designed to provide long term stability to the farming industry.