

**VCN Board Retreat and Meeting**  
**Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008**  
**Bowen Island, B.C.**

In attendance: Jim Sayre, Richard Smith, Craig McLachlan, Michael Gurstein, Chantal Iorio, Michael Felczak, Steven Chan, Tom Hansen, Kalia Turdova.

Meeting started at 11:00 AM.

Steven presented an overview of VCN's core services:

- Dial-up Internet access.
- Web hosting and web services.
- Volunteer and staff training.
- Technical help and support.
- Computer donations and refurbishing for non-profits.
- Special projects: CAP, CAPYI, library project.

As a resource to the non-profit community, VCN could put together a booklet/guide that outlines best practices and guidelines to web hosting. This would include an outline of frequently asked questions and key issues related to web hosting options, content management systems, and security.

Tom presented the financial report:

- Donations and subscriptions are slightly down relative to this time last year. Tom suggested the need to ensure that donation reminders are being sent out and received.
- Tom recommended that we conduct a financial review engagement this year.
- Even though CAP and CAPYI have been officially approved, still no funds and no estimation of fund delivery. Tom has contacted Industry Canada but has not received a response. We are nonetheless advancing funds to cover submitted CAP and CAPYI expenses.
- Tom outlined insurance options for VCN. Three types of insurance: directors and officers insurance, general and commercial liability, and professional insurance.
- Insurance broker has renewed VCN's directors and officers insurance.
- Insurance broker is still looking into potential providers for our general liability and professional insurance. Tom will keep the board informed as this process progresses.

Board membership:

- Michael Gurstein will be outside of the city about half of the time, can stay on the board, but effectiveness will be limited.
- Richard will be on sabbatical in 2009 and will likely need to step down from the board.
- Reach out to other community organizations to gauge interest.
- Existing board members can invite potential candidates for consideration.
- Past board members perhaps interested in returning to the board.
- Potential to attract new board members at the upcoming AGM.

Next annual general meeting:

- Perhaps mid-January to ensure everyone has returned from holidays.

The board considered whether VCN should investigate the provision of DSL through the hiring of an

expert to investigate the matter:

- Rather than hire an expert at this point, Richard volunteered to do an initial investigation instead. Richard will be in Ottawa multiple times and will get in touch with the Ottawa freenet to learn how their DSL model operates and is organized.
- If VCN were to provide DSL in the future, our terms of use could require that members open up their DSL connection via a wireless hotspot.
- NetNomad in Toronto was doing something similar to this, but doesn't look like they've been active since 2004.

The board discussed whether Michael Gurstein or Richard should continue to attend W2 meetings.

MOTION: VCN cease investigation of participation in W2 – m/s/c.

The board discussed the potential of hiring additional staff in two key areas:

- One additional staff member to work with Steven on system administration.
- One additional staff member to pursue research, policy, and opportunity objectives. This could be a part-time graduate student that could be under the direction of Michael Gurstein.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.