

Collaboration Debate

Scenario: A new Canadian community foundation

The area (can be a town, city, county or sub-region) next to your community foundation's area is setting up a new community foundation community.

Four attempts have been made by another neighbouring community foundation to set it up and it has failed on every occasion. You understand that they have failed as the other community foundation has asked for up-front costs to do so and this has been rejected.

A new group of people who are not linked to community foundations have come together for the fifth attempt to do this. You have for the first time been asked to help with its potential set up.

Due to economic times and the fact that donations across Canada are down, this is seen by Community Foundations for Canada (CFC) as not the best time to set up a community foundation without neighbouring support. Therefore the new community foundation's steering group is asked by CFC to seriously consider a close collaboration or to create an area fund within a neighbouring community foundation to have the greatest chance of success.

Despite months of discussions and proposals, the new community foundation decides to set up on its own as it is convinced it will only achieve local identity and direction and raise local money for its local community by setting up on its own.

It costs \$150,000 CAD a year for three years to set up a new community foundation in Canada currently. The new community foundation has secured \$30,000 CAD for a feasibility study and the funds for an Executive Director and an Administrator for the next two years. They wish to set up in the next 12 months.

Questions

How would you as the neighbouring community foundation with a positive link with the new community foundation try to support them with their wishes, but also consider the request of CFC to seriously consider a close collaboration??