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Charitable Registration Number: 83364 2614 RR0001

# Annual Report

## 2016-2017

*The year Canada scrapped its blasphemy law and other happenings to support humanism, skepticism and rational thinking.*

### Centre for Inquiry Canada

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## Message to our members:

***“There is no evidence that chiropractic is effective in treating cancer and autism and any of those things that they are apparently claiming that they can treat.”***

Dr. Alan Katz

Director of the  
Manitoba Centre for  
Health Policy

### Strategic Highlights

Since 2014, Centre for Inquiry Canada has been working towards the repeal of Canada's Blasphemous Libel law (section 296 of the Criminal Code.) This year our members were very active in petitioning the Government of Canada to repeal the law and finally, we saw significant headway. Bill C-51 (2017) was introduced in June which proposed repealing this antiquated legislation. While we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, as of the time of writing Bill C-51 has not yet been passed nor has this law been repealed.

CFIC connects with our members through social media, local branches and newsletters about matters of humanism, secularism and scientific enquiry. Perhaps the need for an organization such as CFIC is greater than ever as we watch developments south of the border where scientists are fired for speaking the truth, where transgendered individuals are barred from the military and where the response to mass shootings is praying for the family.

Here in Canada, some of the specific issues we brought to our members' attention for advocacy, input or education were:

In the field of medicine:

- Debunking chiropractic claims to cure autism and cancer
- Exposing naturopathic doctors who claim to cure cancer
- Highlighting lack of evidence for expensive MS Treatments
- Promoting the American Chemistry Council's campaign for Accuracy in Public Health
- Participating in Health Canada consultations regarding self-care products including "natural health products."



In the field of scientific inquiry:

- Informing members about the "All Trials Campaign" to force the release of the 50% of clinical trials that were conducted but never reported on.



In the field of Secularism:

- Promoting campaigns to eliminate publicly funded religious education.
- Issuing a call for the end to faith based victimization.
- Providing updates on the change to criminal code allowing Medical Assistance in Dying.



## Financial Highlights

CFIC is projecting a small year end surplus.

Thanks to the tireless work of volunteers across Canada, CFIC is able to achieve a great deal with a very small financial investment. This year we tightened the belt and operated without a paid Executive Director. This reduced our overall operating budget. We were able to do this because of a few members of the Board of Directors who took on some executive functions. The Board of Directors felt that an important strategic move at this phase of our operations was to look closely at the issue of sustainability. Moving into the next fiscal year our focus will be on moving Centre for Inquiry Canada to the next phase of its organizational existence, with a focus on revenue diversification, succession planning and organizational development. Stay tuned.

## Operating Highlights

CFIC works in a decentralized model with local branches, in communities across Canada, forming to hold events that are relevant to their members. Many branches held regular CFIC programs such as Skeptics in the Pub, Living without Religion and Kids for Science. The success of these events is due entirely to the hard work of Branch Managers and other Branch Volunteers who plan, promote and execute them.

Some branches offered conferences and workshops; social events and community service initiatives. Branches communicate through websites, newsletters, social media and meet up groups. The strength of CFIC is in the innovation and enthusiasm of its members and volunteers.

# Report from the Chair

Thank you to our branches, and to the volunteers who spend countless hours organizing! In 2016-17 the following communities had branches of CFIC. Any CFIC member can establish a branch in their community. Contact us to see what this involves. (Admin@CFICanada.ca)

- Halifax
- Montreal
- Ottawa
- Sudbury
- Toronto
- Saskatoon
- Regina
- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Vancouver
- Kelowna



## Looking Ahead

In the next year, CFIC will be focusing on cost savings and increasing revenues.

We are very thankful to Richard Thain for his generous donation of office space in which we house our extensive library and other agency resources. Our central office is now located in Embrun Ontario (just outside of Ottawa.)

We are also grateful to the Trottier Family Foundation. Once again, in 2016-17 the Foundation made a sizeable investment in Centre for Inquiry Canada. Their support has been instrumental over our 10-year history.

CFIC welcomes Sandra Dunham our new Executive Director of Development for the upcoming year. Sandra will be working with CFIC volunteers and board members to increase the sustainability and charitable donation revenue stream of CFIC.

As always, we will continue to monitor current news to ensure that our members are kept current on all things scientific, secular and humanistic.

Kevin Smith  
Chair Board of Directors

## Financial Report 2016-17

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We are grateful for the support of the Trottier Family Foundation. Their significant contribution to CFIC was instrumental in sustaining the organization over the past year as we restructured to create a more sustainable organization that will be here for Canadians for years to come.

We also want to express a sincere thank you to our members for their financial contributions in a time where they may have seen less activity than they are accustomed to. Your membership fees and donations are much appreciated.

Finally, a huge thank you to Richard Thain. Richard has generously donated office space near Ottawa Ontario that we use to house our library and agency documents. By providing rent at no charge, we are able to do much more for every community across Canada with our limited resources.

Please see attached, the unreviewed financial statements of The Centre for Inquiry Canada for the year ending September 30, 2017.

Seanna Watson  
Treasurer (Acting)

<b>Centre For Inquiry Canada</b>	
<b>Draft Income Statement</b>	
October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Gifts rec' from other charities	731
Tax-receipted gifts	11208
Rev. from sale of good and serv	3572
Grants	50000
Memb, dues and fees	10524
Proceeds - fundraising & events	7095
Uncategorized Income	4532
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>87662</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administrative Expenses	16049
Office Expenses	4940
Revenue Related Expenses	6400
Staffing Expenses	8916
Other Expenses	25396
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>61701</b>
<b>Net Gain (loss)</b>	<b>25961</b>

## Directors:

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Kevin Smith	Chair
Seanna Watson	Treasurer (Acting) Education Chair
Blythe Nilson	Science Chair
Alex Kenjeev	Human Rights Chair
Jason Lawrence	
Gus Lyn-Piluso	
Christopher Myrick	

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