

VSSN Action Plan 2017-2019

What are our goals and objectives for 2017-2019?

The following goals will guide VSSN over the next two years:

- continue to strategically, collectively and publicly build the VSSN, its three pillars, and its long-term sustainability (including VSSN administration, partnerships, financial resources and in-kind resources); and
- continue to implement scholarly and practical, innovative learning programs, community-based research projects, and innovations with and for the VSSN's three participant groups – students, nonprofit organizations it and university faculty/staff – that strengthen, enhance, and sustain the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan.

Seven main objectives are our focus for 2017-2019:

1. Communications – to expand VSSN communications with VSSN's three participant groups in order to increase awareness and understanding of the voluntary sector in general and of VSSN and the NSLI Certificate specifically.
2. Sustainability – to continue to build long-term institutional sustainability for VSSN including
 - formal partnerships with the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Network (SNP), the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Masters Certificate in Nonprofit Management, and the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan;
 - in-kind resource sharing (e.g., free meeting space, free experts for learning events, sponsorships);
 - links with governments and businesses; and
 - diverse financial resources that will allow support and expansion of VSSN's activities and programs.
3. Program and curriculum development – to
 - further develop curricula and in-class experiential and community-based learning activities for the NSLI Certificate and courses, and
 - move 2 – 3 NSLI courses to an online platform so that these courses can be taken by anyone, anywhere.
4. Research – to enable the new VSSN Director to undertake new community-based research programs and embark on new sector-wide initiatives, in discussion with the Steering Group, SNP, and the e-network—ultimately to serve the sector.
5. Community development – to continue to bring nonprofit sector organizations together to collectively identify and define issues and solutions, operationalize these in learning and research opportunities, create partnerships for teaching/learning, and identify needs of nonprofit organizations in northern and rural communities, and in rural and urban First Nation's people and communities, that can be addressed through VSSN.
6. Work with the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership (SNP) – to continue to collaborate to identify mutually-beneficial projects, including an annual co-hosted conference devoted to timely updates, emerging trends, and critical needs of the nonprofit sector.
7. Administration of VSSN – to ensure VSSN's administrative work is completed and there is proper co-ordination of the above-listed VSSN activities within a framework of strategic planning and action.

What do we want to accomplish in 2017-2019?

Building on the many successes over the past two and a half years, including the launch of the Nonprofit Sector Leadership and Innovation Certificate (please see our website for more information, www.luthercollege.edu/vssn), we have identified deliverables that we know are important components of VSSN's work as it continues to grow over the next two years. We expect to have the following completed:

July 2017 – June 2018	July 2018 – June 2019
Communications	
Ad campaigns and social media continue to reach all regions of the province; staff/volunteers in nonprofit organizations are aware of VSSN and what it offers.	Ad campaigns and social media have reached northern and rural organizations, and urban and rural First Nations communities.
U of R faculty, staff (including academic advisors) and students are aware of and participate in all VSSN activities in increasing numbers.	VSSN's activities and profile continue to increase at the U of R; Sask Polytechnic and U of S faculty, staff and students are aware of and participate in VSSN and the NSLI Certificate.
Potential students are increasingly aware of VSSN and the NSLI Certificate, and are taking NSLI courses in increasing numbers because of social media presence, VSSN presence at career and volunteer fairs, and VSSN presentations in undergraduate classes.	
The nonprofit sector is well aware of VSSN and the NSLI Certificate and courses through VSSN's e-update list and other events.	
High school guidance counselors and students are well aware of VSSN and the NSLI Certificate and courses through regular recruitment activities of the University of Regina and the Federated Colleges.	
Sustainability	
VSSN has an e-network of 500 practitioners, learners, researchers and supporters.	VSSN has an e-network of 600 practitioners, learners, researchers and supporters.

VSSN meets its targeted funding requirements each year, including funding to continue the VSSN Coordinator position and partially subsidize the VSSN Director position (research, salary).	
VSSN has volunteers from the student population and nonprofit sector that consistently support the work of VSSN, expanded beyond Steering Group membership.	
Program and Curriculum Development	
At least 5 students have completed the NSLI Certificate, some of these are in leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, and their experiences inspire students to undertake the NSLI Certificate.	At least 15 students have completed the NSLI Certificate, some of these are in leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, and their experiences inspire students to undertake the NSLI Certificate.
At least 20 students are enrolled in each of the NSLI courses that are part of the new Certificate. Both undergraduate students and participants drawn from the nonprofit sector who are seeking to enhance their skills and have registered through the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) are enrolled in NSLI courses.	
At least 6 NSLI students are participating in co-op programs at the University of Regina by 2018-2019.	
The VSSN Director is regularly teaching courses in the NSLI Certificate, and in addition is mentoring other instructors who are teaching additional NSLI courses. The VSSN Director has consulted on, identified opportunities for, and implemented cross-listing one or more existing U of R courses as NSLI courses.	
A curriculum advisory group, including representation from Luther College, Centre for Continuing Education, the Faculties of Arts, MAP, Science, Business and Kinesiology and Health Studies, is in place. Under the leadership of the VSSN Director, the advisory group meets annually to assess, offer advice on, and enhance the NSLI Certificate program.	
NSLI 200 is offered online as well as face-to-face in the Fall 2018 semester.	An additional 1-2 NSLI courses are offered online during the 2018 – 2019 academic year. In addition, 1-2 NSLI courses will be offered as intensive “block” courses (for example 1-week courses) to facilitate out-of-Regina participants.
Professional development opportunities and curricula for the NSLI Certificate are further discussed and courses are offered by VSSN if the need indicates (e.g. weekend workshops).	
Collaboration with the JSGS Masters Certificate in Nonprofit Management is implemented, in particular in student advising and streaming, and in offering cross-listed courses that fulfill requirements in both the NSLI Certificate and the Masters Certificate.	
The VSSN Director is a mentor at the U of R, through Luther College and the Centre for Teaching and Learning, for the development and enhancement of project-based, community-involved, and experiential learning in the classroom beyond NSLI courses.	
Research	
The new VSSN Director has consulted extensively with the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan and has identified at least one major research project that VSSN will undertake. The new VSSN Director has continued to develop opportunities for nonprofit sector organizations to participate directly in all NSLI courses that result in research completed within these courses and results disseminated appropriately.	At least one major research project is well underway under the leadership of the new VSSN Director in collaboration with the nonprofit sector and involving at least one graduate student. NSLI students are involved in research projects in NSLI courses and beyond, benefitting nonprofit organizations.
Graduate students are funded by Mitacs Canada to support VSSN-directed research.	
Community development	
A provincial map of professional development learning opportunities has been completed and uploaded onto the VSSN website for public use. The list is regularly updated.	
VSSN continues to build capacity and strengthen the sector through training and resources for students and NPO staff/volunteers beyond the NSLI Certificate. VSSN has developed an active campus community of students and scholars working and volunteering in the nonprofit sector, e.g., through funding from the Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG).	
VSSN and SNP co-host an annual conference that is devoted to timely updates, emerging trends, and critical needs of the nonprofit sector.	
VSSN holds at least one consultation with northern and/or rural nonprofit organizations, including urban and rural First Nations peoples and communities, to identify specific collaborative education, research, and innovation opportunities.	At least one collaborative project is underway as a result of this consultation.
Work with SNP	

VSSN and SNP meet annually to discuss common goals and implement shared initiatives.
Administration
VSSN’s administrative work is completed by the VSSN Director and Coordinator, with guidance from the Steering Group and in-kind administrative support from Luther College.