

Resignation as Chair of CFI Edmonton

I am hereby announcing my resignation as Chair of CFI Edmonton. It is for numerous reasons that I must, with great regret, pass on the duties and privileges associated with the position. It has come to the point where I can no longer tolerate the stress and frustration that the position currently carries with it.

Below I will outline my various misgivings. Each of these factors contributed to my resignation, some more than others, and this account prioritizes due to necessity and should not be treated as comprehensive. The organization requires systematic review and serious consideration of fundamental change.

Lack of transparency:

This has been an issue for quite some time at CFI Canada. Despite being the chair of a branch, I have often found that there is a lack of information provided about the activities at the organization's national level. The national board does not publicly provide minutes; I'm told they are available upon request, but as far as I can tell there has been no effort to make this knowledge public.

Lack of democratic accountability:

Associated with the lack of transparency is a nearly complete lack of democratic accountability. In the non-profit world, democratic accountability is a significant asset. Democracy provides a safety valve whereby poor performance is weeded out and exemplary performance is rewarded. Ideas can be vetted and subject to rigorous scrutiny before implementation begins. I have done my best to make CFI Edmonton democratically accountable where possible: judgments are never made arbitrarily; the Edmonton board is frequently consulted and ratifies nearly all decisions made.

Lack of support:

CFI Edmonton has encountered numerous setbacks in terms of receiving support from the national level. Requests for resources such as website space and pamphlet materials/distribution have never been made priorities by CFI national. This lack of commitment to local branches is harmful to the organization as a whole. This brings to light a more fundamental problem: the national executive director position is currently overburdened. CFI Canada has expanded to the point where the needs of each branch cannot be administered sufficiently when just one individual is the go-to person. Responsibility needs to be broken down so that simple requests such as requests for membership pamphlets do not need to be handled by the national executive director.

Qualified management has left:

Derek Pert, the national executive director, recently resigned (for valid and important reasons). He was exceptionally qualified for the position and was a demonstrably competent manager. The position is currently filled by an interim executive director, Michael Payton. It was quite clear that Derek performed his duties admirably, and his departure is of extraordinary detriment to the organization.

Association with Men's Issues Activism:

The interim executive director, along with Justin Trottier, the executive director previous to Derek, is allegedly associated with men's issues activism, a movement that I feel is not even weakly associated with CFI's mandate. I have seen CFIs association with men's issues discourage individuals from involving themselves with the organization.

In conclusion, I feel that CFI Canada is in need of review and broad organizational change. I genuinely hope that CFI Canada will recover and it is my intention to see that the leadership transition in Edmonton runs as smoothly as possible.

Sincerely,

Brent Kelly