



Anthroposophical Society in Canada

April 4, 2018

Re: Treasurer's AGM Letter

Dear Members of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada (ASC),

An entire year has already gone by and it is once again time to turn to our May 19-21st Conference and AGM. This year we look forward to an interesting conference, and joining our fellow Members in Toronto. Well in advance of that event, I ask for your careful consideration of the Society finances outlined below. It is important that we the Members have a clear sense of the life-blood flow of the Society such that hearts are beating in unison, confident this life-blood is flowing in the right direction in support of that which we *will* in our Society and its activities.

Below we consider the financial journey of 2017, update the previously approved 2018 budget to reflect a refined vision of the year so far, and look towards a budget for 2019. Enclosed you will find a spreadsheet covering these three items along with a comparison to 2016 actuals. Formal 2017 financial statements will be posted on the website shortly.

In addition to your careful consideration, I also ask that you contact me well in advance of the AGM with any thoughts, ideas and questions about our Society finances, so that together we feel informed and aware in order to approve the budgets at that meeting and uphold our statutory obligations.

Membership Contributions

In 2016, 444 members made contributions totalling \$100,308. In 2017, 476 members contributed totalling \$104,419. This was split between the Goetheanum (\$35,700) and the Canadian (National) core activities (\$68,719) in accordance with the Membership Policy.

Core Operating Activity vs. Budget

We are pleased to advise that overall, Core financial activities netted a surplus of \$13,832, starting us on the road to recovering our reserve funds for future activities. "Core" refers to direct National Society affairs and excludes local group funds and Council-sponsored Members' project funds. Significant financial activity this year included saving the cost of the accountant's annual Review Engagement (approx. \$5000) in accordance with the "Non-Soliciting Corporation" status of the Society, Council contributing \$2,500 to the Goetheanum theatre financial recovery, and generous Member donations in response to the call for support. Council extends our heartfelt thanks for your gesture of support in response to the call – truly an example of working together for the benefit of our Society. Finally, please note that Core projects are not budgeted as they are expected to break even. For example, in an activity such as the AGM Conference, the hosting locality strives to collect sufficient conference fees to cover the cost of the event. In 2017 we did carry a Core projects deficit of \$1,903, which is included in the net surplus calculation noted above.

About the Review Engagement, under Charities legislation the ASC is considered exempt from requiring a Review so long as it has received less than \$10,000 in income from public sources in a single financial year. This is the case for our Society, as contributions and donations from Members (and relatives of members, directors and employees) are not considered a "public source". Going forward we will monitor any income (donations) from "public sources" and consider whether accepting them will cause us to incur Review Engagement costs in the future. We are required to officially waive the Review Engagement with a formal

resolution at the AGM, for which we ask your support. In lieu of a Review, the Treasurer will sign the financial statements and file them with Revenue Canada, attesting to their accuracy.

Core revenue, excluding AGM/Projects, was \$17,567 above budget due to:

- - Increased Membership contributions (\$8,154 above budget),
- - Council allocating \$2,500 to the Goetheanum theatre financial recovery,
- - Generous donations to the National Society and School for Spiritual Science (\$5,188 above budget),
- - Donations to Members' travel below budget by \$240, and
- - Interest income \$1,964 above budget.

Core expenses, excluding AGM/Projects, were over budget by \$1,659 due to:

- - The Goetheanum contribution (over \$1,835, made up of additional membership (over \$600), reduced Goetheanum-directed donations (under \$1,265) offset by Council allocating \$2,500 towards the Goetheanum theatre financial recovery),
- - The School for Spiritual Science (over \$2,093)
- - Communication (Under \$325)
- - Office & Library (under \$1,945), made up of no Review Engagement (under \$5,583), Bookkeeping (Under \$1,265), general Mailings (over \$2,822), Insurance (over \$301), Phone/Internet (over \$485), Non-recoverable tax (over \$985) and miscellaneous items (over \$310).

One area to highlight is our collective level of donation support for Members' travel. Typically, Council has more requests than resources received into this fund. There are significant opportunities for Members to take part in worthwhile activities, and Council would like to support this to the extent possible.

Budgets

The updated 2018 budget, and the proposed 2019 budget are shown on the attached spreadsheets. We will continue the strategy of budgeting for a balanced budget, while serving the needs of the Society, and looking for further efficiencies throughout the year. With the 2017 buildup of our reserve fund of Core equity to \$243,337, we are better equipped to weather the unexpected, and to plan for new activities. Please review these important budgets carefully, and let me know of any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have, before we adopt them by formal resolution at the AGM.

Council looks forward to seeing you at the upcoming AGM in Toronto. With warm regards,



John Glanzer
Treasurer, for the Council