



# The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – May 2006 Edition

With a blink of an eye National Volunteer Week 2006 has passed and the same can almost be said about the month of May. We hope that everyone had and held successful NVW celebrations. We're happy to present to you our latest edition of The Connector to help pass the time while you wait for NVW 2007!

## Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

### Province Provides Grant to Volunteer BC

Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Olga Ilich announced on April 26 that the Province has provided Volunteer BC with \$100,000 to help increase capacity and take on a greater leadership role in BC's volunteer sector. "As a provincial association," said Minister Ilich in her statement, "Volunteer BC is ideally positioned to help government identify issues, priorities and trends so we can effectively support the growth of BC's volunteer sector." Read the full press release at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/pdf/2006TSA0015\\_000485.pdf](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/pdf/2006TSA0015_000485.pdf) and read the attached background at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/pdf/2006TSA0015\\_000485\\_Attachment1.pdf](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/pdf/2006TSA0015_000485_Attachment1.pdf).

### National Volunteer Week and Francophone Radio

In April, the coordinator of a project called Developing French Radio Programming in the Kootenays approached Volunteer BC about recognizing the volunteer efforts of 16 children in Nelson, who produced and hosted two radio shows on Kootenay Co-op Radio. The young radio hosts (an energetic group age 5 to 14), created the radio programs *For Me*, *Fomidable* and *Croque Nature*, some clocking 100 hours of volunteer effort. We were happy to provide special volunteer recognition certificates for these young volunteers, but also wanted make special mention of this creative program of the Francophone Association of the West Kootenays here in the Connector. Congratulations on inspiring the spirit of even the youngest of volunteers. Visit [www.kootenaycoopradio.com](http://www.kootenaycoopradio.com) or [www.afkofranco.org](http://www.afkofranco.org) for more information.

## Back to the Classroom

learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

### A New Round of Ready, Set, Go! Workshops Begins May 25

IMPACS – the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society – is again inviting nonprofits to join another round of their popular *Ready, Set, Go!* workshop series. You can learn more about specific communication tools and techniques conveniently, from the comfort of your office or home. Topic include: developing and delivering clear messages, getting your organization's stories out in the media, building strong relationships with your key stakeholders, and using online tools effectively. Extremely important skills for any organization! For further information, contact Wayne Cullen at [training@impacs.org](mailto:training@impacs.org) or 1-877-232-0122 ext 111. More information is online at [www.impacs.org/communications/TrainingSeminars](http://www.impacs.org/communications/TrainingSeminars).

### **Creating Movements for Change and Collaboration: Getting Past Groundhog Day**

Not only are these great conference names, but also are two important and inspiring learning days from the United Way of the Fraser Valley. Taking place in Abbotsford June 1 and 2, this is your opportunity to learn how to take effective action, and to make the connections to others who share your care and concern for the well-being of our communities. This is a two-day capacity-building leadership summit not to be missed. For more information visit [www.uwfv.bc.ca/unitingcommunities.htm](http://www.uwfv.bc.ca/unitingcommunities.htm).

### **Training Opportunities in Surrey**

Five weeks of professional development workshops and courses being held in June at the Newton Youth Resource Centre in Surrey. The series, called Frontline Worker Cross-Training Series, is targeted at Lower Mainland social, health, educational and enforcement service professionals. Visit [www.leagueofordinarypeople.com/crosstraining.htm](http://www.leagueofordinarypeople.com/crosstraining.htm) for more information or contact Scott Clarke at 604-502-6285 or [Scott.Clarke@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Scott.Clarke@rcmp-grc.gc.ca).

### **June Seminars in Vancouver**

Donald Golob Consulting is facilitating upcoming seminars – *How to Plan Successful Board/Strategic Plan Session for Your Not-For-Profit* (June 5) and *How to Take Mtg Minutes for Your Not-For-Profit & Put Them to Use* (June 6). Both events will be held at Sport BC. Registration deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup> and each seminar costs \$133.75 per person. For more information, visit [www.donaldgolobconsulting.ca](http://www.donaldgolobconsulting.ca) or call 604-988-3273.

## Centre Stage

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news from the volunteer centre movement

### **Welcome Volunteer Salt Spring**

National Volunteer Week marked the public launch of Volunteer Salt Spring, a website-based, virtual volunteer centre first initiated a few years ago and recently revitalized with Salt Spring Island Foundation funding and support from Salt Spring Community Services. Welcome back Volunteer Salt Spring! Visit them online at [www.volunteersaltspring.com](http://www.volunteersaltspring.com).

### **Free Time: Volunteers In Motion**

Our friends at the Volunteer Bureau of Montréal have sponsored a unique and creative project in celebration of volunteerism and National Volunteer Week. *Free Time: Volunteers In Motion* is a photographic series on volunteers, members of the community whose actions are based on compassion and dedication. This series offers a glimpse into the Montréal volunteers that photographer Ariel Tarr has encountered, capturing their energy, commitment and warmth. Visit the photographs at [www.freetimeproject.ca](http://www.freetimeproject.ca).

## Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

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news from across the sector

### **Invisible No More – Awareness Project Report Released**

Over the fall of 2005 the Voluntary Sector Awareness Project enabled the coming together of more than 1,500 representatives of local charities and non profit organizations in a series of 74 Community Conversations. Asked to react to a previously released discussion paper, participants discussed the pros and cons of a unified campaign for the sector. In addition,

150 individuals submitted their thoughts through an online feedback form. The summary report has been released that provides a distillation of the Community Conversations and the comments received. Download the report in PDF format at [www.imaginecanada.ca/Files/awareness/summary\\_report.pdf](http://www.imaginecanada.ca/Files/awareness/summary_report.pdf).

### **Taking a Closer Look at the Funding Numbers**

The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations has released research that offers new insights into how nonprofit organizations in Calgary are financed. The study, *Taking Stock: Examining the Financing of Nonprofit Community Organizations in Calgary*, examines how costs related to programs are financed and the implications when a program's full costs are not met. A full copy of this study (PDF format) is available on the CCVO website at [www.calgarycvo.org](http://www.calgarycvo.org).

### **New Insurance Help for Nonprofits and Charities**

Also on the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations website is a new online toolkit for The Alberta Voluntary Sector Insurance Council (AVSIC). The newly released resource is an easy-to-use guide that offers practical tips, tools and checklists to help charities and nonprofits understand their insurance needs and navigate the complex process of finding the appropriate insurance coverage. CCVO developed *The Insurance Toolkit for the Voluntary Sector: A Guide for Nonprofits and Charities* for AVSIC. Visit [www.calgarycvo.org](http://www.calgarycvo.org) to download an electronic version of the toolkit.

### **May is Asian Heritage Month**

In Canada, the month of May is officially recognized as Asian Heritage Month. This acknowledges the long and rich history of Asian Canadians and their contributions to Canada. The explorASIAN Festival is a vibrant contemporary arts and culture multidisciplinary festival in the Lower Mainland with a twist of traditional culture and heritage. Most of the festival programs are free, family friendly, educational and enjoyable for young and old alike. Visit [www.explorasian.org](http://www.explorasian.org) for more information.

## **Plugging In**

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navigating what's new or hot online and in technology

### **Linking to International Volunteering**

We've just added a series of new links on our website to international and overseas volunteering website. Visit the *Overseas Volunteering* section at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/links/index.html](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/links/index.html) to connect to some interesting websites.

### **Plug In Your Phone and Call...**

BC Seniors' Line and Guide. The BC Seniors' Line assists British Columbians in accessing the network of provincial services. The seventh edition of the Seniors' Guide (in four languages) along with information about the Seniors' Line can be found at [www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/seniors](http://www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/seniors). To access the BC Seniors' Line call 1 800 465-4911 weekdays between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

### **Angels Community Support Network**

Angels Community Support Network has launched its one-stop, direct help website. The site serves three primary purposes: providing a one-stop place to *get help*, *give help* and to *become involved* in the charity world of discovery and recovery. Their goal is to be a prime source of news, information and help to create a united community that includes the public, charities and service providers and corporations to serve the community – much more than just listings! Visit the website at [www.angelscommunity.com](http://www.angelscommunity.com).

Suite 302 – 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7  
Tel: 604-873-5877 Fax: 604-873-5802  
Email: [volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca) Website: [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca)

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