



The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – Summer 2006 Edition

Things have been moving fast and furious at Volunteer BC, making the summer months fly by even faster. We're happy to update you on our activities and share details about these great activities happening in the province. Enjoy the read in between your sun and surf activities!

Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

Building Our Capacity – Carefully and Deliberately

As was announced in the spring, Volunteer BC received funding to grow our capacity and build on the assets we've gained and nurturing over the past few years. We are pleased to inform our members that we have entered into a contractual agreement with Volunteer Richmond Information Services to provide project management and administrative support to assist us during this time of change. Heather Fleming is providing project management support and can be reached at 778-229-1807. Beth Tetzal and Shonee Mendoza are providing administrative support.

PLEASE NOTE: Volunteer BC's mailing address, email and telephone number remain the same. However, our fax number has changed to 604-279-7038.

Dialogues with the Province

Over the past month, we have met with the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts around the shared vision of a strong and vibrant voluntary sector in BC. We welcome the opportunity to dialogue and collaborate on an overarching five-year plan with the province towards this shared destination. We will continue to inform our members and stakeholders as our planning and transitioning work moves forward.

Mark Your Calendars – Volunteer BC AGM Date Announced!

The date of the Volunteer BC Annual General Meeting has been set for the afternoon of Friday, September 29 at Langara College, Vancouver. The AGM will start at 2:30pm (in Room# A122 b) and we are pleased to have John Mills, Assistant Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts as our keynote speaker. For members who are not able to attend in person, an opportunity to attend online is available through Volunteers Now, via their Elluminate online web-meeting tool. Complete information will be emailed to members in the coming weeks and up-to-date information about the AGM and connecting via Elluminate will be posted on our events page at www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/volbc/events.html.

Back to the Classroom

learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

Come to Our AGM, then Learn to Lead

The *Learning to Lead* workshop is presented by the Learning and Leading Exchange at Langara College and begins on September 29 (right following our Annual General Meeting)



and continues on September 30. Join with staff and board members of voluntary/nonprofit organizations in a fun, interactive workshop to learn about the leadership competencies identified by the National Learning Initiative. Assess and reflect upon your own leadership competencies and identify your personal strategy for leadership development. The workshop fee is \$49. To register, call 604-323-5322 and quote course number CRN 70739. For more information, please contact Cheryl Hewitt at 604-733-6186 or cheryl.shra@telus.net.

I'd Like An Overview Please

Volunteer Victoria is pleased to provide their *Overview of Volunteer Management* course, starting in November. Held over four Saturdays this fall: Oct 14, Oct 28, Nov 18 and Dec 2, from 9:30am to 4:30pm each day. The facilitators are Theresa Vogel and Diane Kirby and sessions will be held at St. Margaret's School. For more information and to register, please visit www.volunteervictoria.bc.ca or contact Beth Cougler Bloom at beth@volunteervictoria.bc.ca or 250-386-2269.

Centre Stage

news from the volunteer centre movement

What to Say, What to Say: Key Volunteerism Messages from the CSGVP

The newly released Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP) is the largest survey ever completed that examines how Canadians support each other and their communities. Here are some key messages on volunteering in Canada, adapted from the information provided by Volunteer Canada (download the entire report at www.givingandvolunteering.ca):

- The CSGVP dispels any myth of apathy amongst teens. Canadian teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 are more likely than those in any other age group to volunteer (65%). Teens also support different causes than other volunteers and have different motivations for becoming involved.
- Canadians make an enormous contribution, almost 12 million Canadians volunteered their time in 2004 and contributed close to two billion volunteer hours, an average of 168 hours in a year per volunteer.
- However, the vast majority of volunteer hours are contributed by a small group of Canadians. Only 11% of Canadians contributed 77% of all volunteer hours. In short, there is a very thin and fragile base of support for charitable and nonprofit organizations.
- The presence or absence of children in the household has a measurable effect on giving and volunteering. Canadians with school-aged children between the ages of 6 and 17 years were most likely to volunteer (59% of those with only school aged children volunteered, while 53% of those with both pre-school and school-aged children volunteered).
- Immigrants are slightly less likely to volunteer than native-born Canadians (41% vs. 48%) but immigrants who do volunteer contribute the same number of hours annually (165) as native-born Canadians (168). Volunteer activity does not appear to be related to length of time that immigrants have resided in Canada; those who arrived in the country most recently were almost as likely to volunteer as those who had been here the longest.
- The CSGVP shows that giving, volunteering and participating are highly linked. People who volunteer are also more likely to donate, help others directly and participate by belonging to groups, associations and organizations. A full 69% of volunteers engaged in all four activities; 25% in three forms. A large majority (92%) of volunteers made financial donations (compared to 85% of Canadians), while 91% helped others directly

(compared to 83% of Canadians) and 83% participated (compared to 66% of Canadians).

Volunteer Centre of Peel Closes Its Doors

Because of unfortunate and difficult financial circumstances, our colleagues at the Volunteer Centre of Peel (ON) informed us that they have regrettably suspended operations until further notice. We share the sadness and concern expressed by the centre's Board of how the closing will impact the community. We hope the doors open again soon.

New Resources on Volunteering

Volunteer Canada recently released three new resources:

1. *The Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement* - a new and revised version
2. *Safe Enough? Reviewing Your Screening Practices*
3. *Volunteering and Mandatory Community Service - Choice, Incentive Coercion, Obligation*

You can access these resources from Volunteer Canada's Volunteering Resource Centre, which is online at www.volunteer.ca/resource (click on the What's New option on the menu on the left).

Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

news from across the voluntary sector

What Our Neighbours Are Doing

Alberta has been a leader in voluntary sector capacity, with the Wild Rose Foundation and exciting initiatives such as the Vitalize annual conference. Now a new council consisting of nonprofit/voluntary sector leaders and the Alberta government has been established to develop a framework to guide and strengthen the relationship between the Government of Alberta and the province's nonprofit/voluntary sector. The goal of the Alberta Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector Initiative is to encourage collaboration to ensure sustainability of the sector and help address current and future challenges including funding, human resources, insurance, and screening. "Alberta's nonprofit/voluntary sector does a great deal to improve the quality of life for all Albertans," said Denis Ducharme, Minister of Community Development. "By working together we can address issues that reduce the ability of the sector to fulfill its vital role in communities across the province."

Federal Government Seeking Online Feedback About Grants & Contributions

The Federal Government's Independent Blue Ribbon Panel on Grants and Contributions has begun online consultations with Canadians that will end on September 15. Visit the Blue Ribbon Panel's website at www.brp-gde.ca to share your feedback about your experiences with the government's grants and contributions process.

Who Do You Call?

Launching in October 2006, the BC211 Initiative aims to develop a province-wide, free, and confidential information and referral service that is effective, efficient, and sustainable. The initiative's partners are: United Way of the Lower Mainland, United Ways across BC, Information Services Vancouver, and the Government of BC. IBM Canada is assisting in putting the technical details in place. Currently in an intensive planning phase, Volunteer BC recently participated in a volunteer centre consultation. Similar consultations have also taken place with various other stakeholder groups and we applaud BC211 for taking this inclusive approach to development. BC211 is modeled after similar systems across the US and Canada. For more information, please visit their website at www.bc211.vcn.bc.ca.

Making Connections: Social and Civic Engagement among Canadian Immigrants

As an interesting juxtaposition to the volunteering statistics reported above in the 2004 CSGVP, the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) has recently published a research report entitled, "Making Connections: Social and Civic Engagement among Canadian Immigrants." The report shows that immigrants give larger donations, on average, than the Canadian-born population but they are slightly less likely to volunteer their time than people born in Canada. It also shows that the rate of volunteering is increasing, particularly among recent immigrants. This report and related material are available online only and not for purchase. They can be downloaded from the CCSD website at www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2006/makingconnections.

Plugging In

navigating what's new or hot online and in technology

VoluntaryGateway.ca

The Voluntary Gateway is a portal that makes it easier to locate information, resources and intelligence, and facilitate collaboration to strengthen communities and social enterprise. The Gateway grew from the Voluntary Sector Portal project of the Voluntary Sector Initiative and has evolved into a high profile hub that enables connections – to people, programs, organizations and new ideas. It is a platform from which users may share assets, dialogue and research and a tool for improved communication. Check out the Gateway at www.voluntarygateway.ca for news, links and resource contacts on key voluntary sector issues.

WorkInNonProfits.ca

www.WorkInNonProfits.ca is a new Canadian nonprofit work site that has just launched. It provides an affordable way to connect nonprofits across the country with job seekers as well as suppliers of services and products. A main goal is to build and strengthen Canada's nonprofit sector, including smaller organizations that up till now have not been able to afford this kind of service. For more information, please visit the site at www.WorkInNonProfits.ca.

TechSoup.org

This US-based website offers nonprofits a one-stop resource for technology needs by providing free information, resources, and support. In addition to online information and resources, TechSoup offers a product philanthropy service called *TechSoup Stock*. Here, nonprofits, including Canadian nonprofits and charitable organizations, can access donated and discounted technology products, generously provided by corporate and nonprofit technology partners. Visit www.techsoup.org for more information, and www.techsoup.org/stock/canada for specifics about the software donation programs available to nonprofits and charities in Canada.

Imagine Canada Library

New resources have just been added to Imagine Canada's Online Library, including new CVI-funded resources on risk management and corporate volunteerism. Download these new resources at www.nonprofitscan.ca.

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