



The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – April 2005 Edition

It's National Volunteer Week! We hope that everyone is out yelling it from the rooftops! For those spare minutes in between recognition breakfasts and volunteer fairs, here is some information to keep you in the loop on all things volunteerism in BC.

Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

Are the Olympics Really Only Five Years Away?

Over the last month, Volunteer BC has had constructive conversations with both VANOC (the organizing committee in charge of staging the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic games) and 2010 LegaciesNow (the organization tasked to leverage the Olympic momentum into legacies for the entire province). The volunteer program for the games itself is currently at the conceptual stage, while the work around volunteerism at LegaciesNow (called VolunteersNow), is moving ahead nicely. We are pleased to report that both groups have a thorough understanding of volunteerism and know of the amazing assets that the Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC (VOCBC) and the network of BC volunteer centres are to their work. Volunteer BC, VANOC and VolunteersNow have committed to continue dialoguing in order to ensure that the efforts around the 2010 games affects all of us positively.

VOCBC Moving Forward on Election Material

In late March VOCBC hosted *Moving On Together*, where an energetic group representing a cross-section of voluntary sector organizations came together to continue working on a cohesive set of goals for a meaningful relationship between the provincial government and the entire sector. This important work has lasting implications and will continue far beyond the provincial election this May. In the short-term, expect some useful election tools to be distributed soon. These tools will help you bring voluntary sector issues to the attention of candidates from all parties. If you would like further information, or to participate in this important policy work, please contact us at 604-873-5877 or via email at volbc@vcn.bc.ca.

Bus Ads for Lower Mainland Volunteer Centres

Nine volunteer centres in the Greater Vancouver area (Burnaby, Coquitlam, Langley, The North Shore, Richmond, Delta, Surrey, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Vancouver) have come together with the support of the United Way of the Lower Mainland and Volunteer BC to produce the *Volunteer Centre Promotion Poster*. The poster has been designed to fit in transit bus advertisement spaces and directly relates to a colorful bookmark that was produced by this same group of centres for National Volunteer Week 2004. For information, please contact Lee Faurot at Volunteer Burnaby by phone at 604-294-5533 or by email at lee@volunteerburnaby.ca.

Back to the Classroom

learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

Still Time to Catch IMPACS Training

There are still a few more training opportunities with the IMPACS *Ready, Set, Go!* virtual workshops left. We know how important and in demand affordable training on technology and websites are, so be sure to sign up for *Writing for the Web* (April 26) and *Website Facelift* (April 28). These sessions will help to demystify the website process. Workshops are \$35 each or bundle three together for just \$95. For more information, visit www.impacs.org/communications/TrainingSeminars.

Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

news from across the sector

Find Funding For Your Technology Project

Looking for tools to assess technology projects and funding applications? IMPACS has developed a number of tools to help advance the strategic use of technology in the sector. Resources include presentations that you can customize to make smart and compelling cases to grantmakers on technology funding support, as well as a series of tools to analyze your technology funding needs, plan ahead for technology upgrades, determine the "total cost of ownership" of technology, and build comprehensive technology plans that support the mission work of any organization. All these materials are available on the Voluntary Sector Initiative website at www.vsi-isbc.ca. The materials are also being distributed in a CD-ROM format. For a copy, send an email to tech@impacs.org

Voluntary Sector Initiative Seeks Evaluator

Social Development Canada, the department responsible for the Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI), is required to develop an evaluation framework and methodology report for the summative evaluation of the VSI. The estimated value of the contract is \$101,000 - \$250,000. Further details on the RFP, including the Terms of Reference and the contracting process can be accessed through Public Works and Government Services Canada at www.merx.com. On the home page of the MERX website, go to the "Free Search to Public Tenders" box in the upper left-hand corner and key in the number 108871. This will take you to the abstract for the RFP and instructions to purchase the RFP documents. Interested bidders are encouraged to submit proposals, by May 5, 2005, in accordance with the instructions provided in the Terms of Reference document.

Voluntary Sector Forum Restructuring

The Voluntary Sector Forum is evolving. The Forum has developed a renewed structure and mandate so that it can continue to work collaboratively on issues that concern the sector. A short description of the re-structured Forum is available at www.vsf-fsbc.ca/eng/about_us/structure05.cfm.

Plugging In

navigating what's new on the web

Volunteer Opportunities Exchange has Closed

On March 31, 2005, Volunteer Canada closed its Volunteer Opportunities Exchange (VOE) website, which was found at www.voe-reb.org. In its place, Volunteer Canada has enhanced their referral webpage, using a stylized map of Canada to link potential volunteers to the many other online databases of opportunities that exist across the country. When the VOE started in 1999, it was the only online database of volunteer opportunities in the country. Visit the interactive map by visiting the VOE or by going to www.volunteer.ca.

Volunteer Webathon Launch

The International Volunteer Webathon is a Global Youth Service Day project aimed to increase the awareness of youth volunteerism. By making pledges to volunteer, more youth will hopefully be inspired and motivated to get involved in their community. At last year's webathon, over 43,000 hours were pledged from 26 different countries. Encourage youth (from age 11 to a young 44) in your organization and community to pledge by going to www.youthone.com/webathon.

What Operating System Do I Need?

Realizing technology's full potential to increase the capacity and functionality of any nonprofit organization starts with getting the right equipment. Small organizations rarely understand the broad range of technologies, including operating systems, that are available to them. The *LINC Project Guide to Choosing an Operating System* is the first step to empowering groups to make informed decisions about which operating systems to select when getting a new or donated computer system. Start figuring out operating systems by going to www.lincproject.org/toolkit/cos_guide.

Suite 302 – 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7

Tel: 604-873-5877 Fax: 604-873-5802

Email: volbc@vcn.bc.ca Website: www.volunteerbc.bc.ca

25 years of promoting excellence in volunteerism to build a better British Columbia.

