



# The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – National Volunteer Week 2006 Edition

After a few months busily working behind the scenes, we're back (with a bang!) with a special National Volunteer Week (NVW) edition of The Connector. We want to take this opportunity to cheer on BC volunteer centres and the many volunteer-involving organizations across the province that are planning special events to coincide with NVW. There is no better time than Volunteer Week to recognize the powerful and driving force that volunteers are in your community and your organization. To help feed those engines of activity, here is some food for thought from your friends and colleagues at Volunteer BC.

## Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

### **Volunteer Canada Board Election**

The votes are in and congratulations to the newly elected volunteer centre representatives on the board of Volunteer Canada, including our very own Elizabeth Specht, board member of Volunteer BC as well as executive director of Volunteer Richmond Information Services. Volunteer BC was thrilled to see the number of excellent nominees, including our friend Marjorie Driscoll from Volunteer Nanaimo. The other two elected board members are Karen Lynch (Volunteer Alberta) and Patrick Merrigan (Centre d'action bénévole Ouest-de-l'Île [Montréal]). For more information on Volunteer Canada, visit [www.volunteercanada.ca](http://www.volunteercanada.ca). For more information on Volunteer Richmond Information Services, visit [www.volunteerrichmond.ca](http://www.volunteerrichmond.ca).

### **VOCBC Consults with Members**

On February 16 the Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC (VOCBC) convened a meeting of consortium members to discuss next step recommendations as outlined in the VOCBC report, What We Know: A Roundtable for Leaders in the Voluntary/Nonprofit Sector. Five discussion tables were formed, each tackling a theme from the What We Know report – recognition, sector capacity, engagement, education and training, and research and development. Concrete next steps for VOCBC and other sector leaders were brought forward and the VOCBC steering committee is turning these steps into actionable and results-oriented initiatives. For more information or to get involved, contact us at [volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca) or at 604-873-5877.

## Back to the Classroom

learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

### **Learn a New Way: Social Co-ops and Social Care**

Social co-ops are social enterprises based on the principle of reciprocity – the production and exchange of a good or service that provides a benefit to both the community and to co-op members. Find out how social co-ops can address local service issues. Discover the many types of social co-ops and how they can address needs in your community. Forums have taken place across the province, with the Vancouver forum taking place on Wednesday, April 5, from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm at Heritage Hall (3102 Main Street). Contact Langara



College at 604-323-5323 to register for this free event (quote course #50825). For more information about the BC Co-operative Association's Social Co-ops Project, contact Cheryl Hewitt at [c\\_hewitt@bccca.coop](mailto:c_hewitt@bccca.coop) or at 604-662-3906.

### **Have You Been Helped?**

The Centre for Non Profit Management's Helping the Helper series continues until June. There are three sessions left – on HR management, branding, and boards of directors. Get more details on [www.cnpm.ca](http://www.cnpm.ca).

## **Centre Stage**

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news from the volunteer centre movement

### **I Can't Believe It's Not March Anymore!**

Well, it still is March, but not for long! The special look of The Connector is our not so subtle reminder that National Volunteer Week 2006 is indeed coming up (April 23 –29 in fact)! There are plenty of useful resources to download on Volunteer Canada's NVW website ([www.volunteer.ca/nvw](http://www.volunteer.ca/nvw)), including their Campaign in a Kit and the files we used to make our newsletter look all fancy! (*Note: You are viewing the simplified version of this newsletter.*)

### **Volunteer Centre Model Catches Fire**

BC continues to be a hotbed of volunteer centre activity, with a number of centres recently opening their doors or just about to! Two new centres have recently opened their doors: Volunteer Dawson Creek and Volunteer Trail. Welcome both to the volunteer centre family! We want to take this opportunity to congratulate the visionary community leaders and committed volunteers who made it happen and wish them both tremendous success! Take a moment to visit websites, drop an email or pick up the phone to say, "hi." Volunteer Dawson Creek is online at [www.volunteer.peacecountry.com](http://www.volunteer.peacecountry.com) or call them at 250-782-5745. Contact Sue Smith at Volunteer Trail by email at [ssmith@cmhakootenays.org](mailto:ssmith@cmhakootenays.org) or by phone at 250-368-5223.

## **Inside the Invisible Infrastructure**

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news from across the sector

### **Get Your Volunteer Week Event Online**

If you've got an event planned in your community, don't forget to register it on Volunteer Canada's National Volunteer Week website at [www.volunteer.ca/nvw](http://www.volunteer.ca/nvw).

### **HR Perspectives: The Newsletter of the HR Council**

Aside from having a website full of great human resources information, the HR Council for the Voluntary/Non-Profit Sector has just launched its print newsletter: HR Perspectives. It offers the Council's perspectives (as a new HR Council) on the vast and complex sector that we're all in. Stay tuned for a wide range of information and thought-provoking ideas. Download or request a copy of the newsletter at [www.hrcouncil.ca](http://www.hrcouncil.ca) or at 1-866-594-8332.

# Plugging In

navigating what's new or hot online and in technology

## **The Social Economy, What's That?**

The BC Social Economy Roundtable has been working hard researching, dialoguing, storytelling and mapping the social economy in this province. Nonprofits who are looking for different operating and funding models should look at what is being proposed by those championing the social economy, including social enterprises (see the Back to the Classroom section above). Instead of explaining it here, it's better that you check out their newly updated website at [www.socialeconomy.ca](http://www.socialeconomy.ca). You may just get inspired to think more creatively about how you do what you do.

## **Funding Websites Uncovered**

Surfing the Internet has uncovered a few useful websites that we'd like to share. For our friends in rural communities (or urban centres for that matter), the Canadian Rural Partnerships 2006 Funding Source Database is full of links to funding options. Find the database at [www.communityfutures.com/cms/index.php?id=168](http://www.communityfutures.com/cms/index.php?id=168). For anyone working in the arts and culture area, there is a handy online guide to Canadian Heritage Funding Support Programs at [www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/financ/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/financ/index_e.cfm).

## **Making a Website: Step-by-Step**

A few AGMs ago, we did a brief presentation about our then newly revamped [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca). One request that came from the session was to have a How To Guide on how an organization would go about conceptualizing a website and actually going out and creating it. Well, we've recently come across a very useful article about just that, from RealWorld Systems. The article discusses some common design and implementation pitfalls in creating a community-based website (e.g. those sites with discussion boards and other interactive features). Many of the same rules apply to all websites. Find the full article at [http://blog.realworldsystems.net/blog/CharityVillageArticles/\\_archives/2005/3/28/1376706.html](http://blog.realworldsystems.net/blog/CharityVillageArticles/_archives/2005/3/28/1376706.html).

## **Buy Stuff and Help Nonprofits**

That's right - you can shop at your favourite Canadian online store, at regular prices, while having a percentage of your purchase price contributed to the nonprofit organization of your choice. Go shopping or find out how you can get your organization involved in the program at [www.gooddeedshopping.com](http://www.gooddeedshopping.com).

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