



The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – September 2006 Edition

In a flash it is already the end of September! It has been a month of going back to school. A month of returning back to reality from a (hopefully) relaxing vacation. The month where the beautiful fall colours start to appear. Oh, and of course it has been the month of getting back to those large To Do lists at the office. So to help you return to your solid and always productive working routine, we present another information-packed Connector.

Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

Don't Forget Our AGM!

The date of the Volunteer BC Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. It will be taking place on this Friday, September 29 at Langara College, Vancouver (49th Avenue and Ontario Street). 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. If you are planning on attending, please RSVP to volbc@vcn.bc.ca or 604-873-5877. There are also a limited number of spaces available to participate via Volunteers Now's Elluminate online web-meeting tool. To register your online participation, go to www.volweb.ca/content/Whats%20New/VolBC%20AGM.asp.

Get Your Calendars and Palm Pilots Ready

The VOCBC Steering Committee recently met to brainstorm workshop and learning opportunities for this year and many great ideas came forward. As the committee works on creating a schedule of events that will be both practical and energizing, please feel free to send us any workshop ideas that you'd like to see to volbc@vcn.bc.ca or 604-873-5877.

Back to the Classroom

learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

Come to Our AGM, then Learn to Lead

Just another reminder that our AGM is scheduled in conjunction with the *Learning to Lead* workshop, presented by the Learning and Leading Exchange at Langara College. It begins after our AGM on September 29 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.

An Enterprising Conference with Enterprising Ideas – Register Now!

"Social Enterprise" is definitely a buzz term these days. On January 28 to 31, 2007 Vancouver will play host to the 2nd Canadian Conference on Social Enterprise. The conference aims to provide an opportunity for Canadians involved or interested in social

enterprise initiatives to deepen their understanding of the field, to develop new and tangible skills relating to social enterprise development, and to explore emerging policy and sustainability issues in the field. It will also provide an occasion for sector development through networking and mentorship building. For more information and to register, visit www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/conference.

Building SustainAble Communities

On November 21st - 23rd, come to Kelowna's Coast Capri Hotel to learn about sustainability. We hear it daily, but what does it mean in the community context? What are the social, environmental, and economic benefits of building sustainable communities? What are the barriers to achieving a sustainable community? World-renowned experts in sustainability will use a complementary blend of plenary sessions, facilitated table exercises, and breakouts to help you answer these questions in a meaningful, memorable, and motivational way. For more information contact Joanne de Vries at 250-766-1777 or at jdevries@silk.net.

Centre Stage

news from the volunteer centre movement

Better Together

Recently, Kelowna Community Resources announced that two of their flagship programs - Volunteer Kelowna and Information Referral have joined under one new name: Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC). For the past 30 years, the two programs have been a critical link between the community and nonprofit organizations in the Central Okanagan. This change will mean simple and easy to remember access to community information. Contact the new combined program at 250-763-8008 or civc@kcr.ca (their new email address). Visit Kelowna Community Resources online at www.kcr.ca.

Give Someone A Well-Deserved Pat on the Back

Volunteer Victoria, in partnership with CFAV Radio, has introduced the *Coordinator of Volunteers Recognition Awards*. The purpose of these awards is to highlight the valuable contribution that Coordinators of Volunteers make each day, not only to their own organization, but to our community as well. The award will be given each month to a local Coordinator of Volunteers, and will culminate in a celebration event during National Volunteer Week. This unique initiative provides a wonderful opportunity to profile the achievements of individual Coordinators of Volunteers, the programs they manage and the agencies for which they work. This award is open to all Volunteer Victoria member agencies. Download a nominations package at www.volunteervictoria.bc.ca or contact Lori Elder at 250-386-2269 or lori@volunteervictoria.bc.ca for more information.

This Survey Is Short, We Promise

The Canada Volunteerism Initiative BC (CVI BC) is looking for your help in identifying the most relevant resources to improve the ability of nonprofit organizations to involve volunteers and the best way to increase access to these resources, including training. They've put together a short 5-8 minute questionnaire that we encourage you to complete. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=669732478547 to provide your opinion or contact Maria Williams at 604-875-9144 ext. 235 or mwilliams@volunteervancouver.ca for more information.

Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

news from across the voluntary sector

Values Added Initiative Material Now Available

The Values Added Initiative has now released their promotional material for any voluntary organization to incorporate into their own communications and promotional collateral. The Values Added material represents the culmination of a nationwide process of discourse and consideration on how all the divergent organizations that make up the voluntary sector can speak with one voice about our collective value. These common messages and images have been created, and now it's time to take them to Canadians. Order or download Values Added information at www.valuesadded.ca.

Blue Ribbon Panel Submission

In partnership with a leading group of community nonprofits, Imagine Canada has presented a submission to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Grants and Contributions. The panel is part of the Federal Government's accountability efforts. Download the submission at www.imaginecanada.ca/Files/publicaffairs/final_blue_ribbon_panel_aug_2006.pdf.

Plugging In

navigating what's new or hot online and in technology

Imagine Canada Updates Their Online Library Again

New resources have been added to their online library. They include: 1) *Strengthening the capacity of nonprofit and voluntary organizations to serve Canadians: recommendations based on the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSVNO)*, which is a new roundtable report from communities across Canada; 2) New regional reports and sub-sector fact sheets from the NSNVO; and 3) *Building blocks for strong communities*, which is a new series of reports from that compares the structure, development and supports for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small- and medium-sized community organizations (SMOs) in Canada and internationally. To find these resources, and many more, please visit www.imaginecanada.ca.

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