



# The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – March 2005 Edition

It's only March, but things are probably gearing up for National Volunteer Week celebrations. But an extended long-weekend is on the way, so you can catch your breath. So in anticipation, here is some light reading to ensure that your mind doesn't stray too far from work!

## Provincially Speaking

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updates from Volunteer BC

### **Time to Act Roundtable Discussion Summary Report Now Available**

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC (VOCBC), an initiative of Volunteer BC, and the Centre for Non Profit Management convened a roundtable of voluntary sector leaders, board representatives and staff from a cross-section of nonprofit organizations called *Time to Act: Positioning the BC Voluntary Sector*. The roundtable was designed to update the sector on the findings of three recent reports on sector (one being the summary report from the Volunteer BC Provincial Summit) and to use these findings to build strategies to strengthen the entire nonprofit sector and its relationship with government.

A summary report of the roundtable (**please note:** the report is an internal document) is being sent along with this edition of The Connector. Please excuse the duplication in receiving the report. We want to make sure that all VOCBC and Volunteer BC members are updated on this important work and have the opportunity to feed into it at any time.

### **VOCBC Moving Forward on a Nonprofit Sector Strategy**

The *Time to Act* summary report will now act as a catalyst for developing a sector-wide strategy for moving forward in the nonprofit sector, especially with a provincial election on the horizon. This work begins on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a meeting in Vancouver called *Moving On Together*. If you were not able to RSVP in time for the session, contact Volunteer BC (at 604-873-5877 or [volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca)) to find out if there are any last minute seats available or to be put on the contact list to stay directly connected to this important work. The *Moving On Together* session is from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the provincial offices of the Heart & Stroke Foundation (1212 West Broadway, Vancouver).

### **Looking for Sample Funding Applications**

With the growing popularity of our website, we are looking to enhance the content of our site to meet the interests of users. Right now, demand is high for revenue development resources. We are currently asking members for any successful funding applications that they would be interested in sharing on our site as best practices examples. If so, please email us at [volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca).

# Back to the Classroom

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learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

## Only Two Workshops Left!

There are only two workshops left in the *Helping the Helper Non Profit Workshop Series*, from Coast Capital and the Centre for Non Profit Management. Effective communications and board governance and accountability are the topics, both in April. Each workshop costs \$50 and takes place in both the Lower Mainland (Surrey) and on Vancouver Island (Sidney) For more information or to register, please visit

[www.coastcapitalsavings.com/Community/NonProfitWorkshopSeries](http://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/Community/NonProfitWorkshopSeries).

## Ready, Set, Go! Training Sessions Continues with Website Training On the Way

There are still more training opportunities with the IMPACS *Ready, Set, Go!* virtual workshops. The sessions coming up in April will be of special interests for those who were concerned about website writing and development at the Volunteer BC Summit back in September 2004. *Writing for the Web* (April 26) and *Website Facelift* (April 28) sessions will clear up many of your questions. Workshops are \$35 each or bundle three together for just \$95. For more information, visit [www.impacs.org/communications/TrainingSeminars](http://www.impacs.org/communications/TrainingSeminars).

# Centre Stage

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news from the volunteer centre movement

## Global Youth Service Day 2005 is Coming Soon!

It's one day... No it's actually three! Yes, Global Youth Service Day(s) just keeps getting bigger. This year GYSD is from April 15-17. There is a host of information on the GYSD Canada website on facilitating GYSD activities in your organization and in your community. Visit the website at [www.gysd.ca](http://www.gysd.ca).

## National Volunteer Week 2006?

Plans are in full force for National Volunteer Week (NVW) festivities this year. But what about 2006? If your planning is ahead of schedule for 2005 and you have already exhausted every corner of the national NVW website ([www.volunteer.ca/nvw](http://www.volunteer.ca/nvw)), here are the dates for future NVWs:

- NVW 2006: April 23 to 29
- NVW 2007: April 15 to 21
- NVW 2008: April 27 to May 3
- NVW 2009: April 19 to 25
- NVW 2010: April 18 to 24

## Volunteer Victoria Adopts an Adopt-an-Agency Program

Are you looking to build capacity among voluntary organizations in your community? Are you also looking to build and strengthen ties with the business community? Volunteer Victoria has been exploring the concept of matching businesses with nonprofit adoptees in a creative *Adopt-an-Agency* program. Agencies gain much needed expertise and other resources while businesses gain a meaningful connection to the community they serve. To find out more about this exciting community development model, contact Chantal Brodeur at [chantalb@volunteervictoria.bc.ca](mailto:chantalb@volunteervictoria.bc.ca) or 250-386-2269.

# Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

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news from across the sector

## **Donner Canadian Foundation Awards Celebrate Excellence In Social Services**

Each year a total of \$70,000 is awarded to Canadian nonprofit organizations that exemplify excellence in social service delivery. Nine awards, valued at \$5,000 each, are presented in a number of categories, with one of the category winners taking home the prestigious Donner Award for Nonprofit Excellence, valued at \$20,000. The awards are designed to 1) recognize and reward excellence in programs and services of nonprofit agencies across Canada, and 2) provide agencies with useful, pertinent performance information to assist them in improving their service delivery. For category details and to apply for a Donner Award, please visit [www.fraserinstitute.ca/donner](http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/donner). Deadline is Friday, April 29, 2005.

## **The Millennium Excellence Awards**

Millennium Excellence Awards are given to students already in post-secondary undergraduate programs by September 2004 for use during the 2005-2006 academic year. Students must be in their first year of a diplomat or certificate program or their second year of a bachelor degree program. Awards focus on students who excel in academics and community involvement. There may be a young volunteer in your organization that would be a perfect recipient of an award. Visit the website [www.awardforexcellence.ca](http://www.awardforexcellence.ca) for more details.

## **Do You Know What a Mainstream Volunteer Is?**

Imagine Canada, formerly the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, is currently undertaking a study of volunteerism, comparing **core volunteers** (contributing 15 hours or more per month) and **mainstream volunteers** (contributing 4-5 hours per month). As part of this project, in-depth interviews with core and mainstream volunteers are needed. Volunteers willing to participate in an one-hour telephone English interview are needed in each province and territory. If you have volunteers from either volunteer group that are interested in participating, please contact Lesley Gotlib Conn, PhD, Research Associate at Imagine Canada at [lgotlibconn@imaginecanada.ca](mailto:lgotlibconn@imaginecanada.ca) or 416-597-2293 ext. 263.

# Plugging In

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navigating what's new on the web

## **Provincial Training Calendar**

Volunteer BC and the Administrators of Volunteer Resources BC (AVRBC) launched in February the new Provincial Training Calendar, designed to aid in the promotion and referral of training opportunities across the province. Find a training opportunity or submit a listing today by visiting the calendar at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/events/training.html](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/events/training.html).

## **Aboriginal Youth Have their own Space**

The Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (PAYC) of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres has recently launched their own website. Visit [www.bc-payc.com](http://www.bc-payc.com) to learn more about youth volunteerism in the aboriginal community, but stay for energetic site design!

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