



# The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – December 2005 Edition

Busy, busy, busy! How did it get to be December? Before you know it, it will be 2006! But before the calendar switches over, and as part of embracing December, here are some information to get you geared up for the New Year!

## Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

### Help Build Momentum for VolWeb.ca

It has been over two months since VolWeb.ca launched at a joint event with our Annual General Meeting and the response has been exciting so far. As a joint initiative of Volunteer BC and 2010 Legacies Now – Volunteers Now, we're doing our part in spreading the word and we're asking our members to help out as well. Attached to this edition of The Connector are web banners that you can post onto your website. If you need assistance in using the web banner, please contact Justin Ho, VolWeb.ca Content Administrator, at [volwebsupport@2010legaciesnow.com](mailto:volwebsupport@2010legaciesnow.com).

### It's All Online Now

Two new reports have found their way onto our website. Both the *2004-2005 Volunteer BC Annual Report*, and *Volunteer Centres in BC and the Yukon Territory: A 2004-2005 Snapshot Study* can both be found on [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca) (go to WHAT'S NEW for a quick link). The Snapshot Study is the findings of Erin Barnhart, Canada-US Fulbright Fellow, from her research on the state of volunteer centres.

### VOCBC Continuing Work on a Nonprofit Sector Strategy

In October the Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC with support from the new Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts hosted an event called What We Know with participants from organizations all across the non-profit sector in BC. The session focused on what we know about our sector and what we need to know in order to keep developing and moving forward. Out of the session a number of areas for focusing VOCBC efforts in the coming year are being developed.

A report will be out shortly and a second event is planned for the New Year. Stay tuned!

## Centre Stage

news from the volunteer centre movement

### VolWeb.ca 101 for Volunteer Centres

VolWeb.ca Content Administrator Justin Ho has been getting in touch with every BC volunteer centre to talk about our new joint initiative, VolWeb.ca. He can answer any questions you have, and discuss ways in which your centre and VolWeb.ca can work together to help event-volunteer recruitment efforts in your community. Justin will be calling centres, if he hasn't called you yet and you have any questions or would like to schedule a telephone call with him, you can email him at anytime at [volwebsupport@2010legaciesnow.com](mailto:volwebsupport@2010legaciesnow.com).

## International Volunteer Day – December 5

That's right. International Volunteer Day is upon us. If you have something planned in your community to celebrate, that's great! If not, then check out Volunteer Canada's December 5<sup>th</sup> website, full of tools and information to help and start thinking about how you can be part of this event in the future. Visit the site at [www.volunteer.ca/dec5](http://www.volunteer.ca/dec5).

## Look Who's Blogging Now?

By now you've probably at least heard of a Blog (short for weblogs)? It wasn't long ago that people were flocking to a US-based rogue "news" blog to find any publication-banned information they could find from the Gomery Inquiry. Well, even volunteer centres may start picking up the trend of a blog (which is essentially an online journal). Leading the pack is Larissa Silver, Executive Director of Volunteer Ottawa. Check out her blog at [www.volunteerottawa.blogspot.com](http://www.volunteerottawa.blogspot.com) and post a comment to let her know she has reading from fellow centres!

# Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

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news from across the sector

## A Word or Two About Collaboration

The Voluntary Sector Forum is doing an incredible amount of work on improving collaboration between the federal government and the sector. From that work comes two reports. The first, *Trends in Collaboration: Lessons Learned from Sectoral Involvement in Departmental Policy Development (SIDPD) and Beyond*, has an extremely long title, but provides a relevant analysis of what was learned from the SIDPD projects particularly about partnerships, and collaboration. Find the report at [www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/policy/sidpd\\_final\\_report/index.cfm](http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/policy/sidpd_final_report/index.cfm).

Trends in Collaboration provided the basis for discussion during a March 2005 workshop, convened by the Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Affairs Division (Social Development Canada) and the Voluntary Sector Forum. The workshop report, *Moving Policy Forward through Collaborative Practice* ([www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/policy/sidpd\\_workshop\\_report.cfm](http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/policy/sidpd_workshop_report.cfm)) records the discussions about lessons learned from SIDPD.

## Some PR for the PR Project

The Voluntary Sector Awareness Project's Discussion Paper, *Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts*, is now available for download as a PDF file at [www.imaginecanada.ca/Files/awareness/greater\\_than\\_the\\_sum\\_of\\_our\\_parts.pdf](http://www.imaginecanada.ca/Files/awareness/greater_than_the_sum_of_our_parts.pdf)

The Project's Partners encourage you to read the document and to provide feedback online at [www.imaginecanada.ca/vsap\\_survey](http://www.imaginecanada.ca/vsap_survey).

# Plugging In

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navigating what's new or hot online and in technology

## Need Cheap and High Quality Photos?

Do you ever look at your brochures, posters or website and think they need a little update? Think that a really sharp, classy photo of some kind would do the trick? Well, [www.istockphoto.com](http://www.istockphoto.com) is a Calgary-based website of royalty free photographs and images.

The site literally has a photo to fit any concept you can think of. Web-ready photos are as low as \$1USD! Print quality photos run anywhere from \$2USD to \$5USD! Check them out!

### **Membership Renewal – Stay connected!**

The end of one year and the beginning of another – time to renew your membership with Volunteer BC for the period January 1 to December 31, 2006. Membership with Volunteer BC is open, upon application being accepted, to individuals, volunteer centres, nonprofit organizations, community associations, business and other supporters that value the purposes of Volunteer BC and quality volunteerism in the province. Contact us ([volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca)) for a renewal form, or download the form online at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/volbc/member.html](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/volbc/member.html). Be sure to include payment when you mail in your completed form.

### **Happy Holidays!**

The holiday season is now upon us and we'll all be busy in a variety of ways in the coming weeks. The board, volunteers and staff of Volunteer BC wish you all a wonderful holiday season, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We'll be keeping in touch and will have lots more information and activities to tell you about in the New Year.

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*Excellence in volunteerism to build a better British Columbia.*

