



The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – January 2005 Edition

Welcome to 2005! The energy, excitement (and pure exhaustion!) of 2004 is behind us, and Volunteer BC is looking forward to more of the same for this year! As parts of Asia and here in our own province recover from the wrath of Mother Nature, we continue to be humbled by the mobilization of funds and compassion during this time of need. We share our thoughts and hopes for those who have been directly affected by these disasters and those working to assist those in need.

Before you read all the important information found in the January edition of The Connector, we wanted to draw your attention to the work being done at World Volunteer Web (the successor to the international IYV website) in documenting the amazing volunteer spirit that is assembling in Tsunami ravaged regions. Be inspired or find out how volunteers can be involved by visiting www.worldvolunteerweb.org/dynamic/cfapps/news/tsunami.cfm.

Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

Membership Renewal – Help Build on our Momentum!

There are truly amazing things on the horizon for Volunteer BC, volunteerism in the province and voluntary sector organizations across BC. We are in the middle of it all, acting as an important catalyst for many sector enhancing initiatives, but we cannot be an effective voice for you without a strong, vibrant and varied membership. Membership for 2005 is now due and we remind everyone to renew your membership. We also encourage you to suggest to other organizations who believe and share in our mission to also become members. Please contact us (at volbc@vcn.bc.ca or 604-873-5877) for a renewal form, or download the form online at www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/volbc/member.html. Be sure to include payment when you mail in your completed form.

Preparing for Action

On January 11 over 40 staff, board and leaders in the sector participated in a roundtable discussion, entitled A Time to Act, hosted by VOCBC and the Centre for Non Profit Management. This lively session generated a number of ideas and strategies on establishing stronger relations with the provincial government, positioning the sector for the upcoming provincial election, communicating the value of the work we do, and preparing for the 2010 Olympic games. An action plan is currently being developed based on the outcomes of the day and will be released shortly.

Olympic Update

2010 LegaciesNow is currently in the hiring process for an executive director for their VolunteersNow program, which will be the main conduit for legacy initiatives around volunteerism and the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Once an executive director has been hired, such initiatives will be moving forward. Volunteer BC continues to be very active in ensuring that the sector and the volunteer movement in BC has a strong voice in how Olympic initiatives unfold. We continue to stress the importance to all volunteer centres

to have a seat on your 2010 Spirit of BC Community Committee, to ensure that you are a part of the planning process in your area and that you will hear about funding opportunities first. LegaciesNow can be found on the web at www.2010legaciesnow.com. Contacts for Spirit of BC Community Committees can also be found on the website or by contacting your mayor.

Calls to Action

direct your energy to create a stronger sector

Call for Nominations

Nominations are now open for the 9th Annual FLARE Volunteer Awards. The awards honour six Canadian women aged 18 and up who have made a significant contribution to the lives of people in their communities. Award recipients will be invited to Toronto as FLARE's guests of honour (in the spring of 2005) to participate in an awards ceremony. Recipients will also be featured in a subsequent awards announcement in a national edition of FLARE magazine. For information and nomination forms, please call 1-877-2-AWARDS, email hazel.picco@flare.rogers.com or visit www.flare.com/volunteer. Nominations close on Friday, February 4, 2005.

Nominations for Youth Advisory Members

Volunteer Canada is looking to expand its National Youth Advisory Committee in an effort to properly represent the regional diversity of Canada's youth, and to develop new strategies committed to promoting youth engagement. They are currently seeking applicants from BC to fill the Regional Committee Member position for the province. Application information is available at www.volunteer.ca/volunteercanada/employment.cfm

Call for Submissions: Imagining Public Policy

What kinds of policies will ensure that women's economic security needs are met? The Imagining Public Policy conference (October 14-15 in Vancouver) will focus on defining policies and changes necessary to meet women's economic security needs. Sponsored by the CCPA/SFU Economic Security Project, organizers are particularly looking for submissions from both academic and community-based researchers and activists for either a conference paper or roundtable discussions. For more information, visit the conference website at www.sfu.ca/esconference2005. Closing date for submissions is March 15, 2005.

Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

news from across the sector

Helping the Helper Workshop Series

This workshop series is designed to help nonprofit organizations increase their resourcefulness and adapt to new demands and opportunities. Workshop topics include strategic planning, financial stewardship, effective communication, board governance & accountability, and fund development. Each workshop costs \$50 and will take place in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. For more information or to register, please visit www.coastcapitalsavings.com/Community/NonProfitWorkshopSeries.

Vancouver Community Net (VCN) Hosts Summit on Internet Strategy

If you are interested in communities using the Internet strategically, it is a focus of a conference VCN is organizing with the Pacific Community Networks Association. It will be held in Vancouver from February 25 to 27, 2005. VCN anticipates over 300 people attending, so please register now to guarantee your place. Go to www.2005summit.ca for more information.

Learning Opportunities at SFU

Simon Fraser University's Certificate Program for Community Economic Development (CED) Professionals has a number of learning opportunities in their winter schedule. Course are available across the province, with information available at www.sfu.ca/cstudies/ced.

Welcome Imagine Canada

The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy (CCP) and the Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations (NVO) have officially merged to create a new organization: Imagine Canada. Building on the solid work of both CCP and NVO, the new organization will support Canada's charities, nonprofit organizations and socially conscious businesses, and champion the work they do in our communities. Visit their new website at www.imaginecanada.ca.

Plugging In

navigating what's new on the web

Make your Website Interactive

Interactive websites engage visitors and can help build community but are beyond the reach of many community groups. VCN has a comprehensive package that allows easy updates, visitor participation and simple sharing of site maintenance. Check out <http://www2.vcn.bc.ca/cms> for more details and templates to get you started.

Need a Computer?

reBoot Canada is a nonprofit organization providing computer hardware, training and technical support to charities. Check out their websites at www.rebootcanada.ca (or reBoot Vancouver at www.tradeworks.bc.ca/reboot) to find out how you can get a computer for as low as \$10!

Volunteer Management Software

Sometimes tracking volunteer hours and schedules can be done with just a pen and paper. Sometimes you can make do with a few Microsoft Word documents and an Excel spreadsheet. Many times, however, managing a volunteer program can be so much easier with a dedicated software program. Our website has a TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES section (www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/resources/technology.html) full of information on available software, as well as other tools and useful websites.

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

