



The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – June 2005

June is an exciting month. The season is changing and the summer months bring time off (hopefully), the energy of summer students (if you were lucky enough to find funding for one), and hopefully nice weather (for that time off). So in preparation for the nice weather, here is some light reading to go with any trashy books you take to the beach. Have a great summer everyone!

Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

Volunteer Centre Information Session

A boring title yes, but the Volunteer Centre Information Session, presented by 2010 LegaciesNow, VolunteerBC and the Spirit of BC Community Committees, will be the first opportunity for our volunteer centre members to hear about and share their insight on the direction of a new and exciting web resource geared around the recruitment of special event volunteers. It will be taking place at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites in Vancouver on Thursday, June 23rd, from 9am to 1:30pm. If you were unable to RSVP to attend in person, we encourage you to consider participating online using the Elluminate virtual meeting function, which will be available for the session. As we are currently in the development stage of this new online partnership initiative, now is the time to share your thoughts so they can be fed into the planning process. Email VolunteerNow@2010legaciesnow.com to get full details on how to e-participate.

Reach for the Stats

As part of the work in preparation for last May's provincial election, the Voluntary Organizations Consortium (VOCBC) created a number of useful informational tools for voluntary sector organizations to help move forward dialogue on sector issues. Even with the election behind us, the fact sheet on the BC voluntary sector and the list of questions around the sector are still very useful resources. Download them from our website at www.volunteerbc/vocbc/activities.html.

Back to the Classroom

learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

CVI-BC Volunteerism Academy

In October of 2005 the British Columbia Network for the Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI-BC) will host a learning opportunity for regional community leaders from around British Columbia. The aim of the CVI-BC Volunteerism Academy will be to strengthen community volunteerism through knowledge building and intergenerational exchange of information. Further information and application forms can be downloaded at www.volunteervancouver.ca/new/cvi_english.asp. Applications are due June 30.

Learnings from the National Learning Initiative

The National Learning Initiative (NLI), partnership of the voluntary and education sectors in Canada, was a three-year project designed to further social development in Canada through a national skills and learning framework for the voluntary sector and to establish the voluntary sector as an employer of choice through a lifelong learning ethos. The initiative included a project here in BC co-sponsored by Volunteer BC (through our VOCBC initiative) and Langara College. Reports that outline the learnings from each project are now available for download from the NLI website. Download them now at www.NationalLearningInitiative.ca.

Centre Stage

news from the volunteer centre movement

Welcome Volunteer Powell River!

Powell River has been in desperate need of structured support for volunteers. With this in mind, key business people in the community successfully approached United Way to be an umbrella agency for Volunteer Powell River. A coordinator has been hired, through seven months funding from the federal government, and a strong volunteer steering committee will oversee the growth of the program. Although the office (which is situated in the same space as the Chamber of Commerce) opened on June 6th, the doors will open to the public on July 7th 2005. Their website, at www.volunteerpr.com, is currently under construction.

Congratulations Volunteer Powell River! Send virtual pats on the back to Janet Alred, Coordinator, at volunteerpr@shaw.ca. Or maybe just call them at 604-485-2132. Gorilla-grams can be sent to 6807 Wharf Street, Powell River, BC V8A 1T9.

Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

news from across the sector

Change is Good, Right?

Leading Change is a series of activities aimed at supporting current and emerging community leaders to identify and lead change to enhance well-being in our communities. The overall goal is to develop and deepen leadership capacity in community service organizations at this time of unparalleled challenge. The United Community Services Co-op launched the *Leading Change Initiative* in April 2005, with an energizing two-day conference. Stepping back from the day-to-day issues and crises in our communities/organizations, what are the big picture strategies and initiatives – the ones with a 5-15 year timeframe that we feel called to engage with? Get connected to this exciting process at www.infoforchange.bc.ca/leadingchange.

How Am I Using the Accord and Codes?

The Government and the voluntary sector have responsibility for creating awareness, disseminating, providing training and reporting on the application of the Accord and Codes within their respective sectors. Since 2003, the Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF) has undertaken training within the voluntary sector and implemented the process using networks of volunteer facilitators across the country. The following report describes the

activities of Ontario facilitators who conducted 33 presentations/workshops in their communities on the Accord and Codes of Good Practice from April 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005: www.vsf-fsbc.ca/eng/accord_and_codes/reports/ontrainers_apr05.cfm.

Funding from Canada Revenue Agency?

The Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) *Charities Partnership and Outreach Program* is looking to fund projects that educate/inform registered charities about the Registered Charity Information Return (Form T3010A), including the requirement to file a return, how to properly complete a return, and when to submit a completed return. Funding is now available to nonprofit organizations and registered charities for innovative compliance-related education and training projects on this topic. Deadline to submit project proposals for funding is July 15, 2005. Find out more at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/charities/funding/menu-e.html.

Plugging In

navigating what's new on the web and in technology

New Economic Value of Volunteers

New information on determining the economic value of volunteers has just been added to the Volunteering Statistics section of the Volunteer BC website. Find out more at www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/aboutvolunteeringstats.html.

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