



The Connector

Volunteer BC Newsletter – May 2005 Edition

May is a sort of sleeper month. With National Volunteer Week behind us, it is tempting to take a moment to steal a breath or two. Not so fast! There's just so much to read here first.

Provincially Speaking

updates from Volunteer BC

Welcome to our New Members

Well, the final tallies are just about in for our 2005 membership and we want to thank our many members for their continued support of our organization, our mission, vision and activities. We also want to thank and welcome all of our new members this year (there are fortunately too many to list all of them here!). Our growing membership is a testament to the positive momentum that we are starting to build around volunteerism here in BC and look forward to continuing that work.

Provincial Training Calendar Version 2.0

After receiving feedback on the Volunteer BC/AVR-BC Provincial Training Calendar (found online at www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/events/training.html), we've made some changes to make the calendar more user friendly. The main improvement is the reorganization of training opportunities by subject instead of by month. Please check out the new calendar for training opportunities in your region and please email any training events that you would like posted on the webpage to volbc@vcn.bc.ca.

Back to the Classroom

learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

CAVR Conference in June

BC is playing host to the 2005 Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources National Conference, taking place from June 23rd to June 26th in Vancouver. The event is being co-hosted by AVR-BC. Participants can expect education sessions that will prepare you for today's issues and tomorrow's challenges in the administration of volunteers & volunteer programs. Participants will motivate & rejuvenate their careers with new ideas and renewed enthusiasm. The conference presents a unique opportunity to network with other leaders in the profession and voluntary sector - to build relationships of support from coast to coast. Logon to www.cavr.org/conference2005/home.php for conference and registration fee details. Volunteer centres have also been sent special invitations for the CAVR conference. Please check your inboxes and let us know if you haven't received it. We'd like to see everyone there!

Learn About Social Planning For Your Community

On June 17th and 18th, Richmond plays host to *Strengthening the Network: Building Local Capacity to Promote Community Social Planning in BC Communities*. The conference will address issues such as participating in the municipal election process, building support for

social planning in your community, funding social planning initiatives, building effective partnerships, and other topics of interest. For more information watch the Community Social Planning Network of BC (CSPN BC) website www.sparc.bc.ca/social_planning_network or email gtong@sparc.bc.ca to be included in the CSPN BC information list. Information on registration and possible subsidies for participants representing community social planning organizations will be distributed as details are finalized.

Centre Stage

news from the volunteer centre movement

Volunteer Canada Has a New Vision!

As part of a renewed commitment to volunteerism, Volunteer Canada has announced the release of their new vision, mission and strategic objectives. These will help shape the direction and guide the work of the national body to place volunteerism on the national agenda. Review the new vision at www.volunteer.ca/mission.

What Can you Buy for \$17.55(US)?

One hour of volunteer time in the US apparently. According to the Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofit organizations, the value of volunteer time has risen in the United States. The 2004 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour has increased to US\$17.55 per hour, from US\$17.19 in 2003. Visit www.independentsector.org for more information.

Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

news from across the voluntary sector

Why Can't I Find Anything in my Newspaper?

Ever feel frustrated that you don't read much about the voluntary sector in the media? Want to change that? The Voluntary Sector Forum has written a snappy little article for publication in community newspapers available at www.vsf-fsbc.ca/eng/resources_tools/press/apr05c1.cfm.

Nothing Good to Watch on TV? Watch These Videos.

Hey, want to help spread the word about some pretty important issues? The Voluntary Sector Forum has some new and exciting resources that can help. Check out the Forum's newly released mini-movies. There are ones on financing liability and the Accord, all available at www.vsf-fsbc.ca/eng/resources_tools/index.cfm. The videos are 3 minutes long and very informative. Best of all, they are free to view and download so you can access them any time. Interested? Take a look at a preview!

Directory of Organizations in Public Policy

To fill the gap in knowledge about policy capacity in the voluntary, nonprofit sector, an initial directory (funded by the Muttart Foundation, the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation, the J.W.McConnell Family Foundation and the Maytree Foundation) is being developed of organizations doing public policy work. If you are an organization or coalition that engages in policy work that is: 1) central to the mission of your organization or coalition; 2) pro-active; and 3) on-going, then consider counting yourself in by filling out a

short survey (takes less than 10 minutes, so we're told!) at www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=484431023032 by May 31st, 2005.

It's Not Just Disneyland Turning 50

The BC Association for Community Living is celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. Their 50th Anniversary Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for September 29th to October 1st in Richmond. So mark your calendars! Details about anniversary events and activities are available at www.bcacl.org/BCACL_50th_Anniversary. Please join us in congratulating our friends at the BCACL as they celebrate this important milestone.

Plugging In

navigating what's new on the web and in technology

It's All About the Economics

The Knowledge Development Centre (of the Canada Volunteerism Initiative) has put together an online tool called the Volunteer Value Calculator. This calculator is designed to be an easy to use online tool to calculate the economic value of a volunteer program. Use the calculator online at www.kdc-cdc.ca/vvc.

Find it All on the List!

A lot of fascinating and useful (imagine that!) technology news, tools and information is pulled together on the Non-Profit Technical Information & Support List, managed by Jack Vickery, and sent to email inboxes on a regular basis. Join this made-in-BC list by going to <http://bcyk-tech.net/lists/info/np-tech-info>.

While You're at it, Sign up for This List Too!

Every month Volunteer BC receives eCatalyst, the eNewsletter from our friends at IMPACS – The Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society. IMPACS (Canada's first and only full-service, nonprofit public relations and communication training agency) produces an amazing newsletter full of useful and effective communications, media relations and marketing tips. And who couldn't need that? Sign up for receive eCatalyst by going to www.impacs.org/communications/PubResources/signup.

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