



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

January 2009 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

Welcome back! As we make our way back to our desks from the holidays, use this Connector to catch up on what's new with volunteerism in the province, nationally and internationally. Volunteer BC looks forward to a year ahead of renewed commitment and a rejuvenation for volunteerism and community action. We wish you and your volunteers a successful season in 2009!



Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC



Update - Imagine Canada Supports Economic Security for the Sector
The December Connector outlined Imagine Canada's role in uniting the voluntary sector during pressing economic times. Specifically Volunteer BC, in collaboration with over 1000 Canadian charities and non profits, endorsed a [letter to the Prime Minister](#) outlining the economic crisis's impact upon non-profit organizations. Unfortunately, Parliament's Economic Statement for 2009 did not address the challenges Canada's charities and nonprofits are facing in meeting the needs of Canadians in their

communities. Imagine Canada, however, secured a meeting with the Office of the Prime Minister in December as they are committed finding solutions to support Canadians during these difficult economic times. We will keep you posted on the outcomes from this meeting.

How can you get involved?

Raise awareness of the important role that charities and nonprofits play in providing assistance to Canadians and communities:

- **Send a letter** to your government representative (municipal, provincial, federal). You may want model your own activities on our open letter to the Prime Minister initiative,
- **Contact media** in your community. Send them a media release along with your letter, give them a call or submit letters to the editor,
- **Utilize networks**. Inform your constituents through the means that best suit your organization, including newsletters, website updates, email notices and social media networks

Help ensure the survival of Canada's communities by supporting the voluntary sector!

Call for Holiday Volunteer Opportunities: Tell Us the Needs in Your Community

During the winter months Volunteer BC receives countless requests for holiday volunteer opportunities from benevolent BC residents. In fact, 12 million Canadians (that's 45% of the population 15 and over!) volunteer during December to lend a hand with Christmas, Hanukkah, and other holiday celebrations according to the Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating (2008). Volunteer BC wants to hear from volunteer centres and voluntary organizations across the province to know about what volunteer opportunities during the holiday season exist in your community. Whether you recruit volunteers for roles on Christmas day, such as in a soup kitchen, or during the season, we'd like to hear from you. Please email us information about the volunteer opportunities for the holidays in your community, and we will be compiling them into a Resource Sheet that you or your member agencies or partners can use later this year when you begin looking for holiday volunteers. Please email to Shawna Smith at: volbc@vcn.bc.ca.



January's Member Profile: Start the New Year with KidStart



KidStart is a program of PLEA Community Services Society which has been serving Metro Vancouver, Victoria, and Campbell River for over twenty years! The KidStart Mentoring Program is free for children age 6+ who are vulnerable to crime, addiction, abuse and family crisis. Volunteers are recruited, screened, trained and supported by a team of skilled Coordinators of Volunteers. Volunteer Mentors

develop a positive relationship with the youth and engage kids one-to-one in activities that promote success and achievement by encouraging young people to develop their own interests and participate in community life. Who can volunteer? You can! Volunteers are caring responsible men and women, over the age of 19, who come from a variety of religious, social, occupational and cultural backgrounds. Volunteer Mentors must be 19 years or older; be prepared to make a commitment of at least 3 hours per week, for one year; be open and sensitive to socio-cultural diversity; and demonstrate the capacity to be a consistent and positive adult role model and encourage pro-social values. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering visit www.kidstart.ca to contact a Volunteer Coordinator in your region and help serve your community!

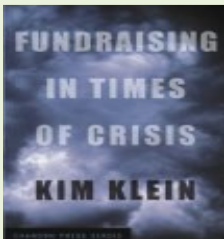


Prince George To Host Northern Economic Summit

On January 22-23, 2009, join Premier Gordon Campbell in Prince George as he brings together business, community and government leaders to highlight the choices, challenges and potential opportunities of the North. This interactive summit, featuring prominent national and international speakers and BC cabinet ministers, will explore the options and opportunities related to a wide range of issues, including the state of the global economy, job-creating green technologies, transportation, productivity and labour mobility, international trade and economic diversification. For summit details and regular updates visit www.TheBCEconomicSummit.ca

In Print / Audio

Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You

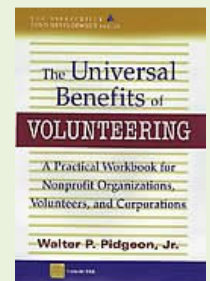


Book Review Fundraising in Times of Crisis, By Kim Klein

With 25 years of fundraising experience, in this book, Klein outlines plans to achieve financial success during vulnerable economic times. Issues addressed include: creating a Crisis Task Force, working with major donors during a financial crisis, long term fundraising strategies, and the pros and cons of various canvassing campaigns. Help your organization thrive with this critical read, more timely now than ever as we enter a gloomy economic period for Canada's charities. *Published by:* Jossey-Bass, San Francisco (2004).

Book Review The Universal Benefits of Volunteering: A Practical Workbook for Nonprofit Organizations, Volunteers, and Corporations, By Walter P. Pidgeon Jr.

As more and more non-profits and for-profits pool their resources into volunteering partnerships, the development of an effective approach to the design and management of these programs is essential. This hands-on guide for both nonprofit executives and corporate human resource professionals offers tips for recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers. Checklists and sample forms from non-profit organizations and corporations with strong volunteer programs are included. *Published by:* John Wiley & Sons, New York (1998).



Opportunities

Funding, Capacity-Development and More



Nominations Needed! The Flare Volunteer Awards

FLARE is proud to celebrate their 13th annual Volunteer Awards. Seven awards will be presented to Canadian female volunteers aged 13 and older whose volunteer contributions have significantly impacted individuals from their communities. Recipients will be invited to Toronto to participate in a special awards ceremony in 2009 and will receive a special awards announcement in FLARE magazine.

Help an outstanding female volunteer receive the recognition she deserves - nominate her for a FLARE Volunteer Award today! For more information contact awards@flare.rogers.com. Application deadline is February 6th, 2009.

Nominations Needed! The Courage to Come Back Awards

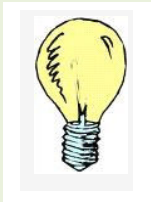
Who inspires you? A friend, a neighbour, a colleague? Share their story and inspire others! Coast Mental Health is proud to host the 11th annual Courage to Come Back Awards to recognize 6 BCers who have triumphed over illness, injury, or adversity and given back to their communities. Awards will recognize volunteers in Medical, Physical Rehabilitation, Mental Health, Social Adversity, Addiction, and Youth categories. Award recipients will have their stories told in The Province newspaper, on Global BC's Early News, and on News 1130 radio. For more information contact Patricia Wiggins at 604-675-2327 or via email at patriciaw@coastmentalhelath.com. Nomination forms are available at any Scotiabank branch in BC by calling 1-877-602-6278 or at www.coastmentalhealth.com. The application deadline is February 16th, 2009.



Need Community Development Resources? Check out the Rural BC Secretariat online

At the 2008 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the creation of the RuralBC Secretariat, which is working hand-in-hand with rural BC communities to ensure they have tools to achieve their unique vision for the future. The RuralBC Secretariat within the Ministry of Community Development provides a direct service and information link between the provincial government and BC's rural communities. Visit their website which offers local governments, regional districts, communities and families access to funding and assistance programs on-line at <http://www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca/>

Did You Know?



- ◆ there are an estimated 161,000 nonprofits and charities in Canada
- ◆ Canada's non-profit and voluntary sector is the 2nd largest in the world
- ◆ half of these (54%) are run entirely by volunteers
- ◆ 2 million people are employed by these organizations representing 11.1% of the economically active population
- ◆ the sector represents \$79.1 billion or 7.8% of the GDP (larger than the automotive or manufacturing industries)

([National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations](#), 2006)

Go Global

News from civil society beyond our borders

Connecting Across Borders: The Universal Declaration of Volunteering

The International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) adopted the Universal Declaration of Volunteering in the Netherlands in 2001. It recognizes that volunteering is a "fundamental building block of civil society" the world over. Read the Declaration on-line: <http://www.iave.org/ResourceView.asp?resourceID=166>

Volunteerism in America - Democrats Inspire Change

An avid volunteer, US President Elect Barack Obama intends to promote volunteerism personally and professionally. The Obama-Biden campaign has put volunteerism on centre stage for its plans for change in the US. Specifically, the volunteer initiative says it will promote volunteering as a means to combat current crises in climate change, health care, academia, and international relations. The PeaceCorps will be doubled in size, and AmeriCorps will be expanded to 250,000 volunteers. Americans of all ages will be recruited as volunteers. High schools and universities are to adopt service-learning programs where youth are required to donate 17 weeks of national service to gain work experience in relevant fields. Diverse volunteer opportunities will also be promoted to working age Americans and seniors. Services to engage people with disabilities in order to advance their education will also be addressed by the plan. Finally, the non-profit sector will create government partnerships in order to ensure the success of volunteerism in the United States. With high standards of achievement set for 2009, Canadians and Americans alike are in for a busy year of volunteering!





Excellence In Volunteerism To Build A Better British Columbia

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