



# The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

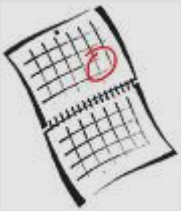
June 2008 Edition

## Welcome to this issue of The Connector

While it's tempting to drift off in daydream of any upcoming holidays, summer is also a time for coordinators of volunteers to seize newly freed up volunteer time. Whether finding the elusive "voluntourists" interested to visit BC this summer, convincing youth to use their new found freedom for community service instead of languishing by the pool, or tapping into the energy of those taking time off over the summer, organizations need to think creatively about finding new recruits to keep programs vibrant over the summer months. But the summer is also an excellent time for taking advantage of professional development opportunities for yourself or for colleagues: check our Provincial Training Calendar regularly for learning opportunities around the province.

## Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC



### Save the Date: September 12<sup>th</sup> for the Volunteer BC AGM

Mark your calendars for September 12<sup>th</sup>, when Volunteer BC will host its AGM once again at the incomparable venue of the Vancouver Aquarium. We will be offering a slate of workshops, including a workshop on the Volunteer Centre Tool Kit from Volunteer Canada, lunch, a resource booth and an inspiring keynote speaker. We will circulate information on how to register later this summer.

## July: BC Workinfontet Youth Site Promoting Volunteerism in BC

BC Workinfontet Youth Site, an initiative striving to assist BC youth in finding and maintaining rewarding careers, will be dedicating the month of July to promoting volunteerism on their site by partnering with Volunteer BC. Each month, they partner with different sector representatives to help them disseminate career information and highlight a hot job sector in BC. The information on volunteering will be featured on the site from July 15<sup>th</sup> until August 15<sup>th</sup> and once the month is over, all information and related articles can still be accessed through their [Feature Career Field](http://www.workinfontet.bc.ca/youth) page: [www.workinfontet.bc.ca/youth](http://www.workinfontet.bc.ca/youth).

## Centre Stage

News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends

### New to Volunteer BC: Kinnections Youth Mentorship

On Tuesday March 25, 2008 the Ministry of Children and Family Development formally introduced the Kinnections Youth Mentorship pilot program. The pilot program looks to establish long term connections between youth in continuing care ages 15 to 19 and an adult mentor. Mentors are supported through training, and funds for travel and youth mentor activities can be provided. Youth-in-care have identified that mentors should be trustworthy, open-minded and supportive people willing to freely share their life experience and wisdom. If you are over 19 and feel this accurately describes some of your more engaging characteristics contact one of our Kinnections program coordinators for more details:

**Vancouver :** Lesley Campbell - Urban Native Youth Association - 604-254-7732

Providing service to Aboriginal youth-in-care ages 15 to 19.

**Maple Ridge :** Rolfe Hilger - PLEA - 604-476-9153

Providing service to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth-in-care ages 15 to 19.

**Surrey, Delta, White Rock & Langley :**

Debbie Verkerk and Nora Gibson - Pacific Community Resources - 604-587-8106. Providing service to non-Aboriginal youth-in-care ages 15 to 19.



## Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Association of BC: Youth In Action Council Opportunity!

Connect with a group of like-minded youth to promote health, wellness, sport and recreation opportunities for Aboriginal youth in BC! A first meeting will be held at UBC June 27-29, 2008 Vancouver. Joining the Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Association of BC Youth In Action Council means a commitment of a one year Term of Service (June 2008-June 2009), participation in two Annual General Meetings, attending the annual Spirit of Excellence Symposium, and bi-weekly check-ins via email or phone. You will receive free travel, accommodation, activities, and food; influence on ASRA programming and governance; personal and professional development; and leadership opportunities. You will have the opportunity to network with other Youth Councils, to become a youth liaison for your community,



and to volunteer hours to put towards your resume portfolio. Contact: [serena.vaillancourt@asra.ca](mailto:serena.vaillancourt@asra.ca), Tel 250.544.8172 ext.107 for an info and application package.

## Seeking Volunteers: Community Corrections Programs in New Westminster and Vancouver

Vancouver Community Corrections and New Westminster Community Corrections are currently in the process of recruiting citizens whom are interested in working with federal offenders on community release. There are opportunities for volunteers to observe program delivery, facilitate community reintegration sessions with offenders at half-way houses, and/or working one-to-one as mentors/support. Initial training and ongoing training sessions are offered. Please contact Mindy Davis, Coordinator of Volunteers: Office: (604) 666-2523 OR Cell: (604) 999-5418 or by email at [DavisMC@CSC-SCC.GC.CA](mailto:DavisMC@CSC-SCC.GC.CA).

## In Policy and Practice

### *Developments and Insights on the Voluntary Sector*

## Community Learning Index from the Canadian Council on Learning

The Composite Learning Index is the first index of its kind in the world, providing an annual measure of Canada's performance in a number of areas related to lifelong learning. The CLI is based on statistical indicators that reflect the different ways Canadians learn— in school, in the home, at work and within their community. This index has been measured for most BC communities and looks at 4 dimensions of learning and learning readiness developed by the UN. The dimensions are Learning to Know (literacy, numeracy, general knowledge, and critical thinking); Learning to Do (Technical, hands-on skills that are closely tied to occupational success); Learning to Live Together (Respect and concern for others and social and inter-personal skills); Learning to Be (Development of the mind, body and spirit through personal discovery, creativity and achieving a healthy balance in life). Each is measured by a series of indicators, giving a score for the pillar and a rollup score out of 100 for the community. For more information visit <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/CLI2007?Language=EN> There is also an Interactive Map showing details by economic region in BC - click on the area that you are interested in - [http://www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/ica2007cli/map\\_e.html](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/ica2007cli/map_e.html)

## In Print / Audio

### *Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You*

## Website Profile of the Month: Rural Futures

Rural Futures is an innovator in rural community development, leading the way in British Columbia in conservation-based and people-based economic growth since 1998. Looking ahead ten years as always, Rural Futures is now taking the lead in assisting rural communities to prepare for the uncertainties brought on by peak oil and climate change mitigation. Visit them on-line at: <http://www.ruralfutures.ca/>

## **Did You Know?** Volunteering Makes You Healthier!

A growing body of research indicates that those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer. Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have also shown that older volunteers are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering. Other findings suggest that volunteers who devote a considerable amount of time to volunteer activities (about 100 hours per year) are most likely to exhibit positive health outcomes. *Source:* "The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research", published by the Corporation for National & Community Service



### Summer School on Building Community: Langara College

Join others for this unique learning and networking opportunity- all are welcome: community members of all ages and arts, social change, environment, aboriginal, neighbourhood groups, business, government... June 16-20, 2008 at Langara College (100 West 49 Avenue, Vancouver). Contact Leslie Kemp at 604-323-5981 for details or to register. Cost: \$45 in advance for all sessions; or \$25 for students, seniors and low income. Presented by: Langara College Continuing Studies in collaboration with the Be the Change Earth Alliance, Self-Help Resource Association of BC, Learning and Leading Exchange. For the agenda of the week, visit: <http://www.langara.bc.ca/news-events/events/2008/summer-building-community.html>



### Opportunities

#### *Funding, Capacity-Development and More*

### Innovations Program: Funding for Arts, Culture and Heritage Organizations

The Innovations program provides funding for projects undertaken by BC arts, culture and heritage organizations, alone or in partnership, to create new opportunities for communities to engage in arts and cultural activity for a sustained period of time. The Innovations program addresses the following objectives: to increase community engagement in creative activities; to strengthen the arts sector's ability to build artistic excellence; and to strengthen the arts sector's ability to establish strategic alliances. Funding is available in two categories:



A. Creative Ventures: This program category supports projects that expand the range of arts and cultural activity available in a community by presenting or producing new events and exhibitions.

B. Engaging Communities: This program category supports projects and activities that involve artists and cultural workers sharing their knowledge, experience and best practices with community members, resulting in a public presentation of collectively developed work. For more information, please contact: [ArtsNow@2010LegaciesNow.com](mailto:ArtsNow@2010LegaciesNow.com)  
Phone: 778-327-5160 Toll Free: 1-866-427-2010.

### Pilot Project Funding Opportunity: UBCM Community Health Promotion Fund

The UBCM is pleased to announce that the Community Health Promotion Fund (CHPF) will continue in 2008 and that pilot project funding is now available. The Community Health Promotion Fund supports the provincial government's ActNow BC goals of leading the way in healthy living and physical fitness and building community capacity to create healthier, more sustainable and economically viable communities. For details, visit:

<http://www.civicnet.bc.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?PageID=244> Contact Danyta Welch, Policy & Program Officer, at (250)356-5134 or [dwelch@civicnet.bc.ca](mailto:dwelch@civicnet.bc.ca)

### Going Global

#### *News from civil society beyond our borders*

### Canadian International Development Agency Opportunities for Youth

Part of the Career Focus stream of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES), the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) is an employment program for young Canadians between the ages of 19-30, eligible for post-secondary graduates who are out of school and currently unemployed or under-employed. Participants work in a developing country and contribute to Canada's international development goals. Not only will this experience contribute to your personal and professional growth, your sponsor organization will lend a helping hand in your search for employment once your internship ends. Since IYIP began in 1997, about 4,500 young professionals have participated as CIDA interns, sponsored by more than 190 Canadian organizations and their overseas partners. Internships are a minimum six months long and include at least five months working outside Canada. Participants receive a stipend to help cover their living and travel expenses.

For information on how to apply, visit: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/internships>



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