



# The Connector

*A Volunteer BC Newsletter*

*March 2007 Edition*

## **Welcome to this issue of The Connector**

*It's Spring Training season- time to turn your organization into a well toned, smooth functioning, intellectually charged entity! We'll tell you about some exciting conferences here, but don't forget to check our Training Calendar at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca) regularly for other learning opportunities across the province.*

## Provincially Speaking

*Updates from Volunteer BC*

**REMINDER!** Update your links section: [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca)



Please make sure that Volunteer BC's correct web address is listed in the links section of your website. Some websites still list us under our old website, [www.vcn.bc.ca/volbc/](http://www.vcn.bc.ca/volbc/). The correct address is [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca)

## **February's Diversity Readiness Conference a Success!**

The Diversity Conference held on February 16th was well attended, with 77 participants. Martin Cowling, keynote speaker from People First- Total Solutions in Australia provided a stimulating presentation on volunteering trends as they relate to generational, cultural and gender differences. Break-out sessions featured: Stacy Ashton speaking on Involving Immigrant Volunteers; Carol Dixon speaking on Volunteer Retention & Recognition; Lillian Whitmore speaking on Engaging Entrepreneurial Volunteers; and, Heather Fleming speaking on Volunteer BC and BC's Trends in Volunteering. Throughout the conference, quality networking took place, stimulating new connections in the sector. The Conference closed with Martin Cowling promoting the importance of volunteers being foundational to the mission and work of non-profit organizations. A big thank you to Leadership Richmond (Volunteer Richmond Information Services, and Coast Capital Savings) for sponsoring this conference and to the City of Richmond, Administrators of Volunteer Resources BC, and Volunteer BC for their support and involvement.

## **National Volunteer Week: Spread the Word**

Tell us what you or your organization is doing for National Volunteer Week, taking place April 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> this year. We would be happy to promote your event or project on our website. And don't forget to enter Volunteer BC's photo contest for the chance to win one of three fabulous prizes: see our website for details. You can also register your event on Volunteer Canada's website by visiting: <http://www.volunteer.ca/volcan/eng/content/nvw/events.php?f=add>

## Back to the Classroom

*Learning opportunities to build a stronger sector*

### **Bring Social Enterprise into your Organization!**

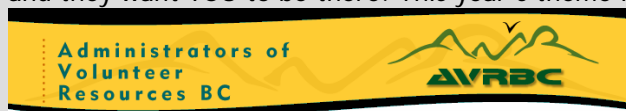
Numerous social enterprise learning opportunities are taking place throughout March and April, including in Vancouver, Cranbrook, Abbotsford and Vernon. For more information on the workshops and to register, visit: <http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/calendar/>. Interested to learn more about the concept of social enterprise and how it can help your organization? Find out more at: <http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/>

## Centre Stage

*News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends*

### **Join AVRBC for their Conference in April**

The Administrators of Volunteer Resources BC (AVRBC) will be holding their annual conference from April 26-28th 2007 and they want YOU to be there. This year's theme is "Oceans '07 -- Exploring the Changing Tides in Volunteer



Management". For more information and for registration forms, please visit <http://www.avrbc.org/>. You can also find conference details at Vol BC's website, in the Training Calendar.

## Closing of the Canada Volunteerism Initiative - BC Local Network

Over the last four years, the Canada Volunteerism Initiative, BC Local Network (CVI-BC) has promoted volunteerism, enhanced the experience of volunteering, and built the capacity of organizations in BC to engage volunteers. The CVI-BC ceased its activities on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. But you can still access CVI-BC resources, by visiting: [www.iwillvolunteer.ca](http://www.iwillvolunteer.ca), as well as other valuable resources on Board Governance and Youth Engagement at [www.volunteervancouver.ca/library/resources\\_home.asp](http://www.volunteervancouver.ca/library/resources_home.asp). You can find other CVI developed resources through Volunteer Canada's Resource Centre at [www.volunteer.ca/resource/eng/](http://www.volunteer.ca/resource/eng/) and Imagine Canada's Nonprofit Information Source at [www.nonprofitscan.ca](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca). Volunteer BC salutes Volunteer Vancouver for their excellent work over the past four years coordinating and managing CVI-BC.

## Inside the Invisible Infrastructure

*News from across the volunteer sector*

### New Imagine Canada Resource: Community Investment

Imagine Canada has released "Business Contributions to Canadian Communities: Findings from a qualitative study of current practices", a new report that looks at how businesses are supporting charities and nonprofits, why and how do they do it, and their challenges. The study reveals a diverse set of practices and motivations for community investment and shows that, for many businesses, community investment has significant challenges. This report is the first phase of a long-term research initiative. Visit [www.imaginecanada.ca](http://www.imaginecanada.ca) to download the full report.

### Canadian Community Economic Development Network Resources Available

Looking for unique resources on community economic development? Check out [http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/resources\\_2.asp](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/resources_2.asp) for a wealth of publications and learning tools.

## Plugging In

*Navigating what's new or hot on-line and in technology*

### Volunteering E-Book: Access Ideas on Recruitment, Training and Recognition

A new e-book is available free of charge on-line at: [www.morevolunteers.com](http://www.morevolunteers.com) with ideas on how to recruit, retain and recognize volunteers. Check it out!

### Data and Profiles on Urban Poverty: Urban Poverty Project On-Line

The Canadian Council on Social Development's Urban Poverty Project has a number of materials available on-line and free of charge, aimed at providing accessible, reliable data on urban poverty. The website, [www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2007/upp/](http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2007/upp/) includes community profiles, a time-series analysis of urban poverty trends over the 1990s, and a detailed snapshot of urban poverty using the 2001 Census data intended to "help communities share information, leverage resources and create solutions to the blight of urban poverty in Canada." Several new resources will be released on the website this spring.

## Going Global

*News from civil society beyond our borders*

### VSO Canada Seeking Canadian Volunteers for Overseas Opportunities

VSO Canada, an international development agency that works through volunteers, is increasingly looking for volunteers with experience in volunteer program development, implementation and management to support their overseas partners to more effectively engage their volunteers in social development. There are exciting opportunities for Canadian volunteers to work with government on developing national volunteering policy, support civil society to develop and strengthen local volunteer programs, or work with the corporate sector to design employer-supported volunteering initiatives. VSO Canada currently has overseas placements ranging from two to nine months in China, Cameroon, Ghana, Mongolia, Nigeria, South Africa, and in other countries. Check out: [www.vsocan.org/nationalvolunteering](http://www.vsocan.org/nationalvolunteering)





**Excellence In Volunteerism To Build A Better British Columbia**

Suite 302 – 207 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7  
Tel: 604-873-5877 Fax: 604-279-7038  
Email: [volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca)  
Website: [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca)

