



# The Connector

*A Volunteer BC Newsletter*

**March 2008 Edition**

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

This newsletter is being assembled as a hail storm pours down outside in downtown Vancouver, but we at Volunteer BC are keeping our minds on the eventual coming of sunny spring, and with it, National Volunteer Week 2008 (April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>). We hope you'll take the time to peruse the many tools, ideas, and resources assembled on the sites below as you get into planning your own NVW actions across the province:

**Volunteer BC:** <http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/events/week.html>

**Volunteer Canada:** [www.volunteer.ca/nvw](http://www.volunteer.ca/nvw)

**Energize Inc.:** <http://www.energizeinc.com/ideas/volwk.html>

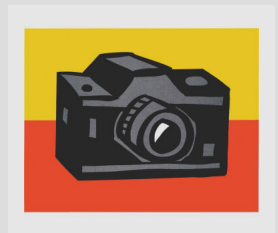
## Provincially Speaking

### *Updates from Volunteer BC*

#### **National Volunteer Week 2008: Telling the Story of Volunteering in BC Through Image**

In celebration of National Volunteer Week 2008, Volunteer BC is once again hosting its annual NVW photo contest. We're seeking submissions in line with Volunteer Canada's 2008 NVW theme, "From Compassion to Action". The deadline for submissions is April 10<sup>th</sup> and you can email or mail us your photos of volunteers in action or the impact of volunteering on your community. You can submit up to three photos and we welcome submissions from organizations or individuals anywhere in BC. The top three photos selected by our judging panel of Volunteer BC board members will receive special prize gifts as well as have their photos featured in our NVW *The Connector* and the Vol BC website. Visit our NVW page for complete details on the photo contest, as well a variety of other tools to help you prepare for NVW:

<http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/events/week.html> Remember to check out last year's winners, photos submitted by Park Gate Community Centre (1<sup>st</sup> place), Cedar Crest Society for Community Living (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Canadian Mental Health Association for the Kootenays (3<sup>rd</sup> place).



## Centre Stage

### *News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends*

#### **Volunteer at the 2008 North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan**

The 2008 North American Indigenous Games will be held in BC's breathtaking Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. The Games will be Cowichan's largest event cultural or sporting event. Volunteer BC member Volunteer Cowichan is looking for your help to spread the word on the need for volunteers for this event. Volunteers of all skill sets, of 16 years of age and older, are needed. Volunteers are needed in particular between July 27<sup>th</sup> - August 15<sup>th</sup>, but also in the months leading up to the Games. To find out more about volunteer opportunities and how to register, visit:

[www.cowichan2008.com](http://www.cowichan2008.com)

#### **Volunteer Vancouver's 20th Annual Volunteer Celebration: At Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**

Join Volunteer Vancouver on Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 8 pm - Orpheum Theatre. Tickets are \$34 (\$32 for groups of 10+) at [www.ticketmaster.ca/volunteervancouver](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/volunteervancouver) or charge by phone 604-280-4444. How will you celebrate the contributions of your volunteers this year? As part of the lead-up to National Volunteer Week, Volunteer Vancouver is hosting its 20th Annual Volunteer Celebration—a night for all volunteers to stand up and be recognized...and to be entertained by the world-renowned Vancouver Symphony Orchestra!

If you volunteer—celebrate your contribution! If you work with volunteers—this is THE not-to-be-missed event of the year! A one-of-a-kind evening of music, celebration & inspiration! Mark Sunday, April 20th on your calendar and then click [here](#) to reserve tickets for you, your volunteers & employees. Questions? Please call Shirley Weir at 604-949-1447 or email [sweir@volunteervancouver.ca](mailto:sweir@volunteervancouver.ca)

## The Six Practices of High Impact Non-Profits

Excerpt from *Social Edge*: <http://www.socialedge.org/>

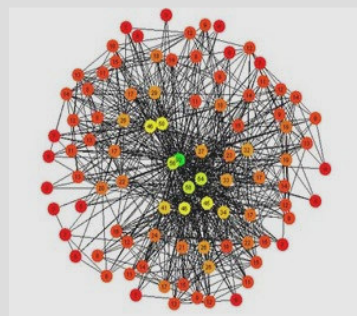
Leslie Crutchfield and Heather McLeod Grant spent the last four years studying a dozen of the most successful nonprofits of our time. The groups included the well-known (Habitat for Humanity, Teach for America), the less known (Self-Help, YouthBuild USA), and the surprising (Exploratorium and The Heritage Foundation).

Their secrets to success, as told in their book, “Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits”. To achieve wide scale, systemic social change, the social entrepreneurs must influence institutions beyond their four walls. They found out that great non-profits...

1. **Work with government and advocate for policy change**—rather than shying away from lobbying or avoiding politics altogether.
2. Harness market forces and **see business as a powerful partner**, rather than just dismissing capitalism as the root of all evil
3. **Convert individual supporters into evangelists for their causes**, and treat their volunteers and donors as far more than just sources of free labour.
4. **Build and nurture non-profit networks**, approaching other groups as allies rather than as competitors for resources.
5. **Adapt to the changing environment**, and find ways to balance creativity and innovation with disciplined systems and structure that allows them to achieve maximum impact.

6. **Share leadership**, empowering others to be forces for good, both within their organization and throughout their fields.

In addition, high-impact nonprofits have also mastered the basics needed to sustain their impact: attracting and retaining great people; finding sustainable sources of funding; and investing in their infrastructure and capacity.



### **Did You Know?** Sometimes all you have to do is ask...



The most common way someone starts volunteering is when they are asked or approached by the organization to volunteer (26% of volunteers). Others became involved because they were already involved as members of the organization (18%) and 14% started volunteering because their child or spouse was involved, or after approaching the organization on their own.

Source: *National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating - Volunteering in BC (2000)*

### In Print / Audio

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

### New Resource on Volunteer Screening from Public Safety Canada

Public Safety Canada has just released its latest resource for the voluntary sector, prepared and distributed in collaboration with Volunteer Canada, *Best Practice Guidelines for Screening Volunteers: Finding the Right Match* is a handbook that refers to resources and provides guidance to volunteer groups and agencies in putting appropriate practices in place concerning the screening of volunteers, particularly those working with children and other vulnerable persons. Aimed specifically at small and medium-sized non-profit organizations that depend on volunteers to achieve their mission, the handbook covers such topics as what is screening, what are the crucial steps, and provides detailed advice on implementing best practices. The e-version is available at [www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca) and [www.volunteer.ca](http://www.volunteer.ca) and print copies can be requested by emailing [paul.mckenzie@ps.gc.ca](mailto:paul.mckenzie@ps.gc.ca).

### BCHLA's Low Income Opportunity Access Initiative

The British Columbia Healthy Living Alliance Physical Activity Strategy (PAS) is gearing up! This initiative involves provincial coordination of physical activity opportunities targeted directly at low socio-economic, isolated, recent immigrant and other disadvantaged populations of adults between the ages of 35 and 54 years, and includes workshops, seed grants, and support for developing leisure access policy. To find out more, contact Donna Lee: 604-629-0965 ext. 257 or [dlee@bcrpa.bc.ca](mailto:dlee@bcrpa.bc.ca) and for more information on the Physical Activity Strategy, visit:

[http://www.bchealthyliving.ca/whats\\_new.php?view=1193687715-0-B](http://www.bchealthyliving.ca/whats_new.php?view=1193687715-0-B)



### Get Smart On-Line: Charity Village's Campus Courses

Charity Village offers an array of courses for modest fees that you can register for and complete on-line, on your own time. Current offerings include:

**Strategic Planning:** Learn the core elements and basic process of strategic planning.

**Event Planning:** Discover how to plan, run, and evaluate a flawless special event for your organization

**Getting Started in Planned Giving:** Learn how to get a planned giving program up and running.

**Building a Great Volunteer Program:** Delight your volunteers and deliver results for your organization by developing an effective system to manage your volunteers.

**How Boards Work:** Learn what it takes to be an effective board member and build a successful board of directors.

**Proposal Writing:** Translate your ideas into dollars by improving your funding proposals today.

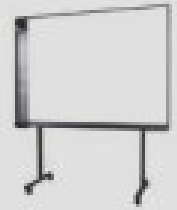
**Grantseeking:** You'll have better success with your proposals if you fully understand the grantseeking process.

**How Fundraising Works:** Once you get the basics, you'll be in a great position to find support for your organization.

. **Writing Effective Policies and Procedures:** Policies and procedures form the backbone of your organization and this course makes them easy to write and implement.

. **Telling Your Story Through the Case for Support:** Write a compelling story about your organization that will entice and captivate supporters.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.charityvillage.com/>



### Opportunities

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

### Ethical Fundraising How-To: Resources from Canadian Fundraiser

Reproduced from: Voluntary Gateway <http://voluntarygateway.ca/en/node/17602>



In dealing with donors and fundraising practices, professional fundraisers for non-profit organizations can sometimes be presented with situations that are ethical "grey areas". To help address these situations the Canadian Fundraiser newsletter, eNews, contains an "Ethics" section, which provides readers with case studies from the Ethics Committee of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). These case studies are designed to provide guidance on ethical fundraising in accordance with the AFP Standards of Professional Practice. The latest issue examines three hypothetical case studies on the ethical fundraising question "Do you take your donors with you to a new job?" The article provides guidance on appropriate actions in regards to specific variations of this ethical conundrum. The eNews newsletter has various sections of interest for non-profit organization that deal with fundraising, it is available online at no cost, and is delivered bi-weekly. Learn more: <http://www.canadianfundraiser.com/>

### Going Global

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

### Canadian Youth Making a Difference Abroad: Canada World Youth Seeks Youth Volunteers

Canada World Youth designs and delivers international educational programs for youth (aged 17-24) with a focus on volunteer work and community development in a cross-cultural setting. CWY is looking for new participants: specifically, youth between the ages of 17 and 24, Canadian citizens or landed immigrants, in good health, motivated, open-minded, and able to exercise good judgment. They could take part in the program as early as the summer of 2008! To learn how to apply, please visit: <http://www.cwy-jcm.org/en>





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