



# The Connector

*A Volunteer BC Newsletter*

*May 2007 Edition*

## *Welcome to this issue of The Connector*

*We're jampacked this issue, reporting back on the many exciting announcements and events we caught wind of in April and on our own NVW activities. Tell us how you honoured your volunteers or celebrated National Volunteer Week: we want your stories and photos to share with others for ideas for next year's NVW, or actions to recognize and acknowledge volunteers for any time of year.*

Provincially Speaking

*Updates from Volunteer BC*

## The Results Are In! Winners Announced for Vol BC's NVW First Annual Photo Contest



### ***FIRST PLACE WINNER:***

Parkgate Community Centre  
North Vancouver, BC

Submitted by: Carol Anne Roberts

First Place prize sponsored by:



### ***SECOND PLACE WINNER:***

Cedar Crest Society for Community Living  
100 Mile House, BC

Submitted by: T.R. Guthrie

### ***THIRD PLACE WINNER:***

Canadian Mental Health Association for the Kootenays  
Cranbrook, BC

Submitted by: Chris Foster



*Several other photos submitted received Honourable Mentions. Please visit*

*[www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca) to see other winning entries.*

*Thank you to all those who submitted photos for this year's contest. Keep your cameras handy to have more photos ready in time for next year's contest.*

### NVW: Spotlight on Volunteer-run Employment Assistance Programmes in Vancouver and Beyond

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Volunteer BC hosted *Volunteer Action and the Fight Against Poverty: A Profile of Programs Turning Principles into Practice* at Library Square. Vol BC friends and staff from a diverse array of organizations tackling the need for job creation and employment mentorship programmes came together to hear three engaging speakers. John Soleanicov of Streetwise Partners in Washington, DC, Deborah Twocock of Dress for Success, and Chaplain Melita Thornhill of Emerging Hope on the Downtown Eastside each presented a different model of employment training and support for low-income people and gave background on the very different, but overlapping contexts they each work in. Each model was leading to achievements and empowerment with the clients of the organizations profiled, but each also faced the ever-present challenge of adequate funding. With more attention and more resources, the creative concepts behind these programmes could reach more people in need- and the presentations clearly demonstrated the overwhelming need which continues to exist for work opportunities and job skills and training in our neighbourhoods under strain.

### Volunteer Listing Opportunities Tool Goes Live!

Volunteers Now, a part of 2010 Legacies Now, is working with Volunteer BC to bring the Volunteer Centre Opportunities Listing Tools to volunteer centres across the province. The Tool gives a volunteer centre's member agencies the ability to list a new volunteer position, change information on a posting or delete positions that no longer need filling - all online, quickly and easily. For potential volunteers, the online system provides up-to-date information and enables them to conduct a search based on their interests and availability. Volunteer centres in Victoria, Richmond and Chilliwack are already using this free system, and others will adopt it this summer. Please learn more and see whether this tool might be a fit for your volunteer centre: <http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/whatsnew.html>



## Centre Stage

### News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends

#### New Website Launched for AIDS Volunteers

The Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) launched a new "virtual volunteering" website, [www.aidsvolunteers.ca](http://www.aidsvolunteers.ca) during National Volunteer Week. After several years of development, beta-testing and gradual growth, the site has been rolled out as a functioning, essential resource for AIDS service organizations and virtual volunteers across the country. To register your agency, visit [www.aidsvolunteers.ca](http://www.aidsvolunteers.ca).

#### Taking a Look at Obligatory Volunteering in Canada

In April, World Volunteer Web, which we introduce you to later in this issue, explores the trend of required volunteer hours as a prerequisite for high school graduation. Author Mary Teresa Bitti asks "Is forced volunteering helping anyone?" She claims experts are asking: What message are we sending teens if we are equating mandatory community service with volunteering? Volunteer or risk not graduating? To read the story, click here:

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?RDCT=0f8a85a63fa313c3ea93>

#### More Tools and Reflections on National Volunteer Week

Volunteer Canada's *Volunteers Grow Community* program showcases Canadian volunteer-involving organizations: [www.volunteer.ca](http://www.volunteer.ca)

#### Volunteer Facilitators needed for Parent Support Circles

Parent Support Services Society of BC is seeking compassionate volunteers to co-facilitate their Parent Support Circle in the following areas: Abbotsford, Burnaby, Filipino (Richmond), Latin American, Langley, Mt. Pleasant, Tri-Cities, Vancouver (Cantonese), Vancouver (Mandarin).

This volunteer opportunity includes intensive initial training in self-help philosophy, group process and development, communication skills, child abuse issues and anti-oppressive practice.

There are also opportunities to attend Regional Workshops for further skill development. If you have good listening and interpersonal skills, basic understanding of child development and parenting issues, would like to work with parents to improve their relationships and are able to commit for a minimum of 1 year, for an average of 5 hours a week, explore volunteering with the Parent Support Service Society of BC. Applications now being accepted for the next Initial Training that is scheduled on May 25, 26 & 27, 2007 in Vancouver. Visit [www.parentsupportbc.ca](http://www.parentsupportbc.ca) or call Ella Cenezero at (604) 484-6605 for more information or to list this opportunity in your databases.



## Opportunities

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

#### **Seeking Nominations for Sponsorship for Blind and Partially-Sighted Athletes**

T-Base Communications Inc. is seeking nominations of blind and partially sighted athletes for the 2007/2008 T-Base Sponsorship. This annual sponsorship is awarded to a blind or partially sighted athlete dedicated to a competitive sport who exemplifies the drive for success and commitment in his/her athletic endeavors. T-Base Communications provides recipients of the annual sponsorship with various communication materials such as braille business cards, and speaking notes in their choice of accessible format. Nominations are due by July 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information: [www.tbase.com](http://www.tbase.com)

#### **The Northern Trust Established to support Communities in Northern BC**

This Trust was established with provincial funding totalling \$185 million, it is an economic development funding corporation for northern British Columbia that operates independently from government and provides the funding and ability to identify and pursue new opportunities for stimulating economic growth and job creation. The Trust covers approximately 70% of the Province which includes communities from the south at Lytton to the north at Fort Nelson, and from the east at Valemount to the west at the Queen Charlotte Islands. The Northern Trust currently offers two funding programs in both grant and loan forms - the Regional Development Program and the Cross Regional Program. For more information, please visit <http://www.nditrust.ca/ndit/>

#### **Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund**

The Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund, managed by 2010 Legacies, will provide 70 grants of up to \$25,000 in support of community projects aligned with the Measuring Up initiative and the 10 by 10 Challenge. The Province is investing \$2 million to support community projects aimed at increasing accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities. The Measuring Up initiative focuses on creating fully accessible public spaces and promoting employment and community involvement for people with disabilities. The Province's 10 by 10 Challenge is targeted at increasing the employment of persons with disabilities in communities by 10% by 2010. For full program details contact Cynthia McEwan at 778-840-5169 or [Cmcewan@2010legaciesnow.com](mailto:Cmcewan@2010legaciesnow.com)

## In Print

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

#### **Sign on to the BC Rural Network Newsletter**

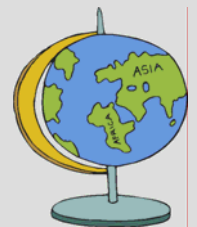
The BC Rural Network is an umbrella group of rural organizations and rural representatives formed to enhance the capacity of rural British Columbia to develop responses to rural and remote community issues. The Network works in close partnership with the BC Rural Team and is partly funded by the Canadian Rural Partnership. The newsletter has articles on the Network's AGM in Smithers, the next Rural Summit in the Cariboo, and Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC. Visit <http://www.bcruralnetwork.ca/node/141> for more information and to sign-up.

## Going Global

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

#### **United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme brings you the World Volunteer Web**

The World Volunteer Web supports the volunteer community by serving as a global clearinghouse for information and resources linked to volunteerism that can be used for campaigning, advocacy and networking. It is an online hub where the community can meet, share resources and coordinate activities to mobilize volunteer action in support of the Millennium Development Goals. With a constituency comprising of over 20,000 organizations and individuals, the World Volunteer Web helps to catalyze partnerships among volunteer stakeholders from all continents. This website is also the global focal point for International Volunteer Day, 5th December. [www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org)





**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)

