



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

November 2007 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

Winter is rolling over BC with the advent of crisp Fall air and gusty winds, blowing in a new issue of The Connector. We have lots of news, opportunities and stories to share with you and would like to remind you to check the website for new tools for members, including a new resources catalogue (constantly expanding), membership maps, newly added Links, and new training opportunities in the training calendar. You can now also find our 2006-2007 Annual Report on the website if you didn't have a chance to grab one at our AGM.

Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC

BC 150 Update: Celebrating a History of Volunteerism in Our Province

We heard from many of you in response to our call for ideas on how we could celebrate volunteerism in our province for BC's 150th anniversary. We received a variety of great ideas and took your ideas forward to the BC government, recommending a visual legacy for each region of the province in the form of community murals, created by local artists with the help of local volunteer centres and community organizations from all sectors. We are continuing discussions with the government on how to move this project forward and will keep you posted on progress and opportunities for collaboration.

Background: In 2008, B.C. will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858, and to commemorate this milestone, the Province is hosting a year-long celebration called BC150 Years, to honour B.C. history and heritage, and celebrate its future. Applications are now being accepted from community organizations for 'BC150 Years' celebration grants. Celebration projects and events must be consistent with one of the following five pillars supporting BC150 Years: Aboriginals, Arts & Culture, Communities, Heritage, Multiculturalism. The application period ends August 31, 2008. Visit <http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/181.asp?grantid=133> for further information.

New Team Members: Volunteer BC Board of Directors

Volunteer BC is pleased to welcome the following new Directors to our Board:

- ✦ Christine Hunter, North American Indigenous Games (Cowichan 2008)
- ✦ Marjorie Driscoll, Volunteer Nanaimo
- ✦ Lawrie Portigal, Volunteer Richmond Information Services

Tip of the Month



International Volunteer Day: December 5th

What are you doing for International Volunteer Day (December 5th, 2007)? Volunteer BC wants to hear from our members and assist you in publicizing your IVD related activities. We can post your events on our website, circulate event announcements, press releases and other news on our listserv, or discuss possibilities for cross-promoting initiatives which will celebrate volunteering next month. Not sure how to mark this day in your community? Get in touch and we'll share ideas and possibilities for action. E-mail us at volbc@vcn.bc.ca



You can also find a variety of useful resources to help you plan activities on World Volunteer Web:

Background materials on IVD: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?RDCT=8d675d1b0a8fb8ec05ec>

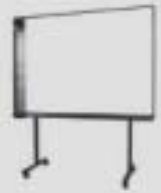
Ideas on how to celebrate: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?RDCT=bf6c8ed43d8a267aa7bf>

Download promotional materials: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?RDCT=a04c5dd824008bf72ca1>

Planning help: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?RDCT=4a25dd45710919572b1c>

Free Non-profit Law Seminars for Community Organizations in BC

Pro Bono Law of BC (PBLBC) will be holding free non-profit law seminars in Cranbrook, Vancouver, Prince George, and Terrace in late 2007 and early 2008 as part of its Solicitors' Program. The half day seminars will be conducted by volunteer lawyers with the Program and will provide legal information and advice to community organizations of limited means in areas such as employment law, incorporation, charitable registration, board governance, privacy law, directors' liability and contracts. PBLBC is currently contacting non-profit organizations located within and around the four seminar locations in order to determine overall interest in attending the free seminar and is welcoming suggestions for non-profit law topics that you might like to see included in the seminar. Specific dates for the seminars in each community will be announced after interest is determined. If you or someone from your organization is interested in attending the free seminar or if you would like to learn more about PBLBC's services, please visit www.probononet.bc.ca, or inquire by email at aanderson@probononet.bc.ca or by phone at 604-893-8932.



Opportunities

Funding, Capacity-Development and More

Volunteer Organization Profile: The Guava Club

The Guava Club brings together a group of energetic young professionals who volunteer to assist other organizations in running special events, and whose core belief is that volunteering is hip and fun. The organization currently does not charge any membership fees to non-profits using their services, and secures sponsorship from the business community to cover their operating costs.

You get to showcase the value of your organization to an ideal target market, get the opportunity to acquire new volunteers for your organization, and the ability to run a special event that may not be possible without a group of additional volunteers. As their website says, "It's amazing what we can do together!" Prospective members are asked to contact the Guava Club at

GuavaClubVancouver@hotmail.com and browse their website: <http://www.guavaclub.com>



Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund

2010 Legacies Now has received a \$2-million grant from the Province of BC to establish the Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund. This fund will support community projects aiming to improve how people with disabilities can actively participate in, and contribute to, their communities. The fund, which provides approximately 70 grants of up to \$25,000, supports the provincial government's goal to build the best system of support in Canada for people with disabilities. For more information on the Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund, please contact Cynthia McEwan at 778-840-5169.

Policy, Practice and Action

News from the Sector in BC and Nationally

Tool for Family Serving Agencies: In Your Grasp Database

In Your Grasp is a database of resources for British Columbia's family serving agencies. The web site allows you to search by service area, region or community. The range of topics for searches includes childcare, youth camps, counselling, mental health, street youth, and more. It was designed for use by the foster and adoptive family communities, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, service agencies, and the general public. You should search either by community and leave the other box on All Regions or search by region and leave the other box on All Communities. Check it out at inyourgrasp.bc.ca

Centre Stage

News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends

The Caregivers Association of BC (CABC) is currently looking to recruit new members to their board of directors in the Interior Health and Northern Health Authority areas. CABC are seeking people with a background in health care, gerontology, social work, or social services; 'connectedness' to their community; willingness to be actively involved; and a serious commitment to participate actively in the continued development and implementation of their strategic plan. For more info, contact Katherine Willett: KWillett@caregiverbc.ca 604.734-4812 or 1.800.833-1733

Did You Know? Volunteers: Power in Numbers



- ✦ The ratio of volunteers to Games participants for BC Summer Games is about 1:1 (one volunteer for every Games participant)
- ✦ Number of volunteers in the Williams Lake 2002 BC Winter Games: 3,100
- ✦ Number of volunteers in the Kelowna 2003 BC Disability Games: 917
- ✦ Number of volunteers in the Abbotsford 2006 BC Seniors Games: 1,097

In Print / Audio

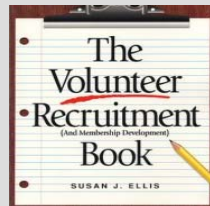
Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You

Recommended Reading: Volunteer Recruitment



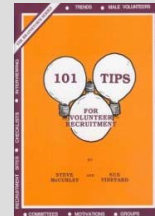
*Volunteers:
How to Get
Them, How to
Keep Them*

by Helen Little



*The Volunteer
Recruitment
Book: (And
Membership
Development)*

by Susan J. Ellis



*101 Tips for
Volunteer
Recruitment*

by Sue
Vineyard

In the Mix

Opportunities for Youth

Youth Mentoring Program: *Kinnections*

A new mentoring program for youth called "Kinnections" has been set up, operating under Pacific Community Resources Society, Fraser Region. The programme is geared towards setting up long-term mentoring matches for children currently under the direction of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Kinnections would like to connect with volunteer centres across the province to help them recruit volunteers to the programme. They will soon have promotional materials and a website ready, but would like to hear from volunteer centres in the meantime. Please contact Nora Gibson, Aux. Community Outreach Counsellor Surrey, Delta Community Outreach Program at 604-951-1300 or ngibson@pcrs.ca

Going Global

News from civil society beyond our borders

Volunteering Without Borders: Connecting to Global Civil Society

CIVICUS (the World Alliance for Citizen Participation) will hold their World Assembly June 18 - 21, 2008 in Glasgow, Scotland. CIVICUS members, partners and other civil society organisations, governments, media, business and donor organisations are welcome to register for the Assembly, which serves as a primary venue for civil society practitioners, researchers, activists, concerned business leaders and representatives from government and development agencies to share ideas and experiences on strengthening citizen participation. Past World Assemblies have increased visibility for the civil society sector through heightened media interest, participation by a broad range of civil society organisations and new alliances forged with business and government around the world. The overall Assembly is Acting Together for a Just World, explored through a central focus theme: People, Participation & Power. Whether citizens are engaging national governments directly for better governance or working with business and local government for better social development and real change within their communities, this theme will highlight the role of the people in effecting change through the rights and responsibilities of individuals to associate together, to engage in, mobilise and participate with others to bring about real change in their communities at the local, national and international levels. For more information, e-mail worldassembly@civicus.org or call +27-11-833-5959 or visit www.civicusassembly.org



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