



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

October 2007 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

We enjoyed seeing many of you at Volunteer BC's Annual General Meeting in September, and hope you enjoyed the marine life in our unique venue, the Vancouver Aquarium. We wish to extend a warm thank you to all those who attended and who helped make the event a success. If you didn't have the chance to join us on September 14th and want to know more about what Volunteer BC has been up to the past year, please contact us for a copy of our 2006-2007 Annual Report, which will also soon be available on line.

Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC

Creating Culturally Welcoming Volunteer Programs: Learning to be Inclusive

Volunteer BC is excited to belong to a consortium of organizations, led by Community Volunteer Connections (the volunteer centre for the tri-cities area of the Lower Mainland), working together to create a pilot project for *Culturally Welcoming Volunteer Programs*. Now in the training design phase, this project will launch in three communities, the Tri-Cities, Kelowna and Victoria, throughout 2008 and will work with the communities' local volunteer centres, immigrant serving societies and local trainers. As the project further develops, we will keep you posted on what we're learning and what tools we're discovering to make our volunteer programs inclusive of all BC residents. In the meantime, for more information, please contact Coordinator Lauryn Oates: Lauryn.oates@gmail.com

Get Involved: The BC Learning & Leading Exchange

Volunteer BC is now housing the BC Learning and Leading Exchange (LLE) initiative under the chairmanship of Managing Director Heather Fleming. LLE will launch a new program at Langara this fall called Conversations About Leadership, to include everything the LLE has created for Learning Pods and more. It is intended for anyone wishing to develop their leadership skills and lead change in their community. The program will run over 12 Tuesdays, beginning on October 30th, 2007 and ending February 12, 2008, with instructor Nuala Woodham. Key learnings will include appreciative intelligence and inquiry and leading from strengths. Please note that registration closes on October 23rd. For more information on this programme and other work of the LLE, please contact Leslie Kemp at lkemp@langara.bc.ca

Tip of the Month



Take Advantage of Membership Benefits - Free Affiliate Membership for Your Agencies

Increase the benefit to your affiliate or member organizations- take steps to let them know they can receive a free membership at Vol BC through their affiliation with your volunteer centre. For example, Volunteer Prince George sends out the Volunteer BC membership form with a bright pink "FREE!" stamp on it in the envelope with receipts for membership dues.

Back to the Classroom

Learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

Resource Website on Insurance for Non-Profits Now Live

Imagine Canada has just launched their website for training and resources on insurance options and Risk management practice for non-profits. The website includes a collection of resources, a glossary, Workshop registration, and links to useful websites. You can also sign up for their mailing list or request a speaker on-line. Expect more resources to be added over the next few months as the site is further developed: <http://insuranceinfo.imaginecanada.ca>



2007 Resource Women of Distinction Awards

The Women of Resource Communities Conference and First Dollar Alliance have announced the *2007 Resource Women of Distinction Awards*. The award presentation takes place at the 2007 Women of Resource Communities Conference Banquet - Thursday, October 18th at the South Thompson Inn & Conference Centre, Kamloops, BC. This is a unique opportunity to publicly celebrate the accomplishments of women who are working to balance the economic, environmental and social health of our rural, coastal and resource communities with the Resource Women of Distinction Awards. The Resource Women of Distinction Awards recognize a woman from each of the following nine sectors, including Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Mining, Oil & Gas, Government or Non-profit, Business, Resource, Rural or Coastal Community. Nominations are due by October 5th. For more information, call 250-334-1086 or e-mail info@womenofbcresourcecommunities.org For complete criteria and to download a nomination form, please visit: <http://www.womenofbcresourcecommunities.org/events.cfm> or <http://www.wrcc2007.org>



Fundraising Workshops Offered by the Maytree Foundation

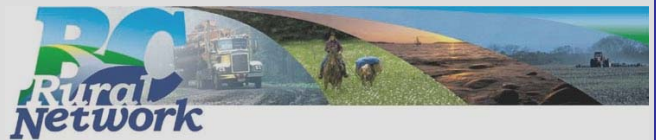
The Maytree Foundation offers a learning event for participants on "Fundraising 101: A Strategic Approach to Building Financial Sustainability". The Foundation will accept 20 applicants from the social justice community-based non-profit sector to increase resource development capacity, expertise and success. Read more:

<http://www.maytree.com/index.asp?section=2&art=fundraising101>

List of Funding Sources from Rural Team BC

Rural Team BC, thanks to a partnership of the BC Rural Team, BC Rural Network, BC Healthy Communities, and Community Futures of Greater Trail, has compiled a list of almost 200 government and non-governmental funding sources, searchable by key words such as First Nations, youth or capacity building.

http://www.communityfutures.com/cms/Funding_Sources.2.0.html



Policy, Practice and Action

News from the Sector in BC and Nationally

Call for Comments on Proposed Reform to Society Act

The British Columbia Law Society's Society Act Reform Project Committee has released a consultation paper in August on proposals for a new Society Act in BC, and the committee is welcoming responses to the paper prior to finalizing its content. They have set a deadline of February 29, 2008 for receipt of responses. The consultation paper link is http://www.bcli.org/pages/projects/society/Society_Act_Consultation_Paper.pdf.

A response booklet is available at <http://www.bcli.org/pages/projects/society/SARP.html>. They are welcoming general comments outside of the response booklet as well. Details on methods for responding can be found in the introductory pages of the consultation paper. Volunteer BC members are invited to submit feedback to Volunteer BC. We will then compile all responses and submit to the Law Society prior to the deadline. Please send feedback to Lauryn Oates, Coordinator, Volunteer BC: volbc@vcn.bc.ca and please include "Society Act Feedback" in the subject line.

Centre Stage

News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends

Open Ground for Discussion on Volunteerism in Sport and Physical Activity

On May 23, the Public Policy Forum hosted 70 participants representing federal departments and agencies, leaders from the NGO community and organizations covering the sport and physical activity sector. The gathering served as an



how sport and physical activity contributes to broader social and economic issues and how social and economic factors impact the sector. Read more on Volunteer Canada's website:

<http://www.volunteer.ca/volunteercanada/evolution/july07/POPUPS/ENGLISH.html>

Did You Know?



Nonprofit sector growth outpaces economy as a whole

In 2003, the nonprofit sector accounted for 7% of GDP. The full-time equivalent distribution of labour in non-profit organizations is 36% volunteers and 64% employees and contractors. From 1997 to 2003, the gross domestic product (GDP) of the non-profit sector grew at an annual rate of 6.4%, faster than the economy as a whole (from: Statistics Canada).

In Print / Audio

Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You

Volunteer Victoria Top Picks on Board Governance

In their Summer 2007 newsletter, Vol BC member Volunteer Victoria shared a short list of recommended reading on non-profit governance, which we reproduce here:

- ▶ *The Art of Trusteeship: The Nonprofit Board Member's Guide to Effective Governance*, Candace Widmer & Susan Houchin (2000)
- ▶ *Creating Caring & Capable Boards*, Katherine Tyler Scott (2000)
- ▶ *Nonprofit Boards that Work*, Maureen K. Robinson (2001)
- ▶ *Boards That Make a Difference*, John Carver (1991)

In the Mix

Opportunities for Youth

Next Up: The Youth Global Education Network and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

The Youth Global Education Network and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives are offering a program for youth age 19-30 who are passionate about changing the way the world works, committed to being active on the front lines of social change, and certain that there are better ways for us to take care of each other and the planet. Participants in this unique program will look at some of the most pressing Canadian foreign and domestic policy issues, where “progressive” thinking is at on how to solve them, and will meet some of the most innovative change-makers in BC — from the non-profit, business and public sectors — who are working for a better world. The program is free and is



designed for youth who are in full-time work or school. Applications are being accepted now through the Check Your Head website: <http://www.cyh.dreamhosters.com/>

Resources to Support Youth Leadership: BC Altitude Youth Experience

2010 Legacies Now recently launched the Spirit of BC Altitude Youth Experience. This program will provide opportunities for B.C. youth to gain leadership skills and make a difference in their community. Please visit the Spirit of BC website for more info: <http://www.spiritofbc.com/altitude.php>

Going Global

News from civil society beyond our borders

Member Profile: The BC Council for International Cooperation

The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) is a coalition of international development organizations in BC who work through relationship-building with other networks towards achieving sustainable global development. BCCIC offers several services to members, BC organizations international development and cooperation, such as professional development opportunities, information-sharing and collaborative projects. BCCIC welcomed a new Executive Director in August, Ms. Shams Alibhai. Learn more: www.bccic.ca



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
Website: www.volunteerbc.bc.ca

