



# The Connector

*A Volunteer BC Newsletter*

**December 2008**

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

*December is a time of celebration. This issue of The Connector recognizes the festivities of both the holiday season and the United Nation's International Volunteer Day. As professional and academic obligations wrap up for the season, we encourage you to pursue volunteer initiatives in your community. Before the holidays begin, check out our website at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca) for news updates, our resource catalogue, provincial training calendar, and Annual Report to conclude 2008 with Volunteer BC. Wishing you a Happy Holidays and a successful volunteer season from everyone at Volunteer BC!*



## **Provincially Speaking**

### *Updates from Volunteer BC*



#### **Imagine Canada gives Volunteer BC a National Voice**

Volunteer BC, in addition to over 1,000 other community and charitable organizations, endorsed Imagine Canada's letter to the Right Honourable Stephen Harper calling attention to the current economic vulnerability of our not-for-profit sector. The letter, signed November 20<sup>th</sup>, requested that the federal government consider the needs of Canadian voluntary organizations when preparing the Economic statement for 2009. Specifically, signatories stressed the importance of continued

government support to the voluntary sector through national grants and contributions programs. A request for time limited increases in charitable tax credits was also made, in hopes of mobilizing private support for non-profit organizations. Thanks to Imagine Canada President and CEO Marcel Lauziere, and Volunteer Chair John McCreesh for advocating on behalf of Canadian charitable organizations and institutions and giving Volunteer BC members a national voice! To view the letter, visit [http://www.imaginecanada.ca/files/en/publicaffairs/open\\_letter\\_to\\_pm\\_20081121.pdf](http://www.imaginecanada.ca/files/en/publicaffairs/open_letter_to_pm_20081121.pdf)

#### **Volunteer BC Board Retreat Comes to the Comox Valley**

Volunteer BC's Board of Directors and staff visited Comox for our Annual Retreat. Valley Links, the volunteer centre of the Comox Valley, presented a 'snapshot' of volunteerism in their community. In coming years, Vol BC will visit diverse communities to stay informed on how volunteerism varies across the province. With a full house of attendees (and a waiting list over twenty!) Margaret Mason's Board development workshop was a great success. Margaret's expert legal advice on avoiding the classic 'sins' of directors, identifying conflicts, and enhancing Board all. Amongst the stormy weather, Volunteer BC Director's attended meetings to flesh out our strategic plans for 2009 and beyond. Thanks again to Valley Links, presenter Margaret Mason, the Kingfisher Resort and Spa, and the Comox community for ensuring the success of our retreat!



## **Centre Stage**

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

#### **Volunteers Needed! Vancouver Hosts the 2009 JUNO Awards**

Music from Sea to Sky is pleased to host Canada's premier music celebration - the JUNO Awards - from March 26-29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Vancouver welcomes this spectacular event which includes concerts, artist signings, awards, a block party, and even a hockey game. Massive volunteer support is required to guarantee the event's success. Music from Sea to Sky, the 2009 JUNO Awards host committee, will be working with VolWeb.ca for its volunteer recruitment. Volunteer recruiters are currently targeting individuals to fill both coordination and facilitation positions leading up the event and during the weekend celebration. For more information please visit [www.musicfromseatosky.com](http://www.musicfromseatosky.com). To view the available volunteer positions and join this event, please visit [www.volweb.ca](http://www.volweb.ca) to register for the 2009 JUNO Awards.

## Volunteers Needed! Launching The Otesha Project's 2009 Cycling and Performing Tours

The Otesha Project is a youth-run organization that uses theatre to mobilize young people to initiate local and global change through their everyday consumer choices. The cycling and performing tour offers participants the chance to live in a mobile sustainable community while giving performances to high school students and community groups. Educational presentations inform youth on how to incorporate sustainable practices into everyday life. Volunteers are required for one or two month learning and bilingual tours. If you or someone you know is interested in applying to go on a tour, now is the time. Visit [www.otesha.ca](http://www.otesha.ca) for more information on how to support local and international initiatives promoting sustainability.

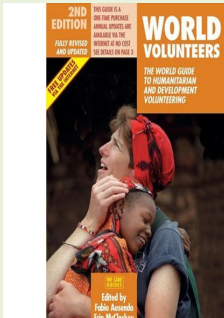
## Angels Among Us - Do you know an angel?

Volunteer Prince George has devised a unique way to recognize volunteers in honour of this year's International Volunteer Day, during the community's Winterfest. The Community Arts Council of Prince George and District in collaboration with Volunteer Prince George are hosting the "Angel Awards" to recognize acts of kindness in the community. Categories include Little Angel (12 and under), Teen Angel (13-19), and Big Angel (adult); organizations may also apply under the Business/Organization category. The awards will be drawn between December 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Community Arts Council Studio (2880 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.). Application forms are available at the studio or via email at [angel@volunteerpg.com](mailto:angel@volunteerpg.com). All nominations must be received before December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.



## In Print / Audio

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



### Our IVD Book Review:

#### The World Guide to Humanitarian and Development Volunteering

By Fabio Ausenda and Erin Mcloskey

This comprehensive handbook provides an up-to-date and easy to use resource for prospective volunteers interested in working as a volunteer globally. Detailed entries enable readers to quickly identify projects which match their skills and interests. The book lists hundreds of organizations from all over the world with detailed summaries, program descriptions, contact information, costs, application information, and much more. Celebrate International Volunteer Day by learning more about international volunteer opportunities with this recommended reference.

## Back to the Classroom

### Learning Opportunities to Build a Stronger Sector



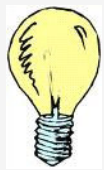
### Free! Webinars on Volunteer Management

VolunteerMatch is offering a series of webinars to members of the voluntary sector free of cost (although long distance charges may apply). BC Volunteer centres are encouraged to take advantage of this educational opportunity. To register, visit [www.volunteermatch.org/nonprofits/learningcenter/](http://www.volunteermatch.org/nonprofits/learningcenter/)

### Free! Non-Profit Management Courses

The BC Centre for Non-Profit Development is offering a ten module *Introduction to Non Profit Management* course. The course curriculum is designed to develop capacity building within the voluntary sector, and is free for both staff and volunteers associated with non profit organizations. Classes are offered at Terrace's Northwest Community College, Trail's Selkirk College, University of the Fraser Valley, and The College of New Caledonia. For more information, and to reserve a seat, visit [www.bccnpd.ca](http://www.bccnpd.ca).

## Did You Know?



*The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (IVD) was first adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through its Resolution [A/RES/40/212](#) on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1985. In 2002, the UN also adopted Resolution [A/RES/57/106](#), inviting the United Nations Volunteers programme to develop a global Internet volunteer resource to take forward gains made during the [International Year of Volunteers \(IYV\) 2001](#) through expanded networking and knowledge management. UNV responded by launching the World Volunteer Web on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Since then [www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org) has been the global focal point for the IVD campaign.*

Source: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org>

## Opportunities

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



### **Searching for Human Resources? WorkInNonProfits Supplier Directory**

[WorkInNonProfits.ca](http://workinnonprofits.ca) is an all-Canadian non-profit employment site connecting non-profits across Canada with the human resources they need. The Supplier Directory at <http://workinnonprofits.ca/index?sel=sp> is a listing of individuals and companies that supply a diversity of services and products to non-profit organizations. Suppliers can post profiles available for public viewing free of charge. Examples include consultants, bookkeepers, event coordinators, advisors, website developers, software vendors and more!

### **Enterprising Non-Profits Launches “Ask the Business Expert”**

In collaboration with NetImpact, ENP is excited to announce the newest addition to their Ask the Expert web service: “[Ask a Business Expert](#)”. Use the website to [submit your questions](#) and ENP staff will have them answered by a business professional. Requesting basic information? Visit the [FAQ](#) section which contains answers to questions such as: Why should I create a business plan and what should the business plan include? How can I come up with a business that will be able to compete? What are the various financing options for a social enterprise? What is patient capital?

**In need of discount Software? Check out TechSoup** - Canadian and American charities with charitable status are eligible to access a variety of discounted software products from major developers such as Adobe and Microsoft. Giftworks (which includes Giftworks Volunteers), a primary donor for event management software, has their fundraising and event software donated to TechSoup which is available for only a \$25 administration fee. Techsoup also offers online forums where individuals can request recommendations (<http://www.techsoup.org/fb/>). For more information visit <http://www.techsoup.org/tools/howtouse.techsoup/>.

## Go Global

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



### **Celebrate The United Nations International Volunteer Day!**

Abbotsford Spirit of BC (ASBC) and the Fraser Valley Volunteer Support Network were Proud to host “Uniting the World through Volunteering - Celebrating the Spirit.” This event was a professional development day for non-profit agencies, coordinators of volunteers and volunteers, which took place December 5<sup>th</sup>. Keynote speakers included Glenda Standeven, an inspirational & motivational speaker who presented on “Living the Volunteer Experience,” and Kathleen Dennis, Board of Directors International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE). Presentations on Multi Generational Volunteering,

Youth & International Volunteering, and integrating Aboriginal volunteering into the community were offered. Learn More about Abbotsford’s Spirit of BC Committee, home of the Abbotsford Volunteer Centre: <http://www.abbotsfordspiritofbc.com/>

### **Volunteer Canada celebrates International Volunteer Day!**

Check out Volunteer Canada’s newest edition to their website - a mini-site dedicated entirely to International Volunteer Day. The site includes news releases, links for volunteers, as well as interviews and stories of the role that volunteerism plays in the lives of well-known Canadian personalities. Visit <http://volunteer.ca/sites/volunteercanada/files/ivdhome.html> to arm yourself with resources and ideas to celebrate next year’s IVD. It’s never too early to start planning a unique event focused on volunteer recognition, promoting volunteerism or advocating for the sector.



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

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