



# The Connector

*A Volunteer BC Newsletter*

*December 2009 Edition*

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

**Check out this issue of the Connector for updates on Volunteer BC's activities, grant opportunities, and useful resources to peruse over the holidays. Stay connected by sending your organization's plans for the New Year to [volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca) for inclusion in our January issue. Wishing you a safe and happy volunteer season from Volunteer BC!**

Provincially Speaking

*Updates from Volunteer BC*

## **Volunteer Centre Leadership Forum Takes Place in Vancouver**



Volunteer BC joined many of our volunteer centre members at Volunteer Canada's volunteer centre leadership forum November 30 - December 1st, at the beautiful Cecil Green Coach House on the UBC campus for two days of energizing workshops, forums and networking opportunities. Holding this national forum in Vancouver facilitated the participation of many BC volunteer centres and was a valuable opportunity to connect both within our movement locally as well within the volunteer centre network nationally. Watch Volunteer Canada's website for updates on outcomes from this event and next steps at [www.volunteer.ca](http://www.volunteer.ca).

## **Volunteer BC and ValleyLinks Connect on Volunteerism**

Volunteer BC President Kelina Kwan and Director Marjorie Driscoll presented a session at the "Changing Faces of Volunteerism Conference" in Comox, BC. The event was very well organized and well attended. At lunchtime, ValleyLinks launched their Community Volunteer Tool Kit to assist organizations in increasing their capacity to recruit, retain, and realize the greatest benefit from volunteers, as well as to establish effective, accountable policies and procedures. We anticipate that the toolkit will be instrumental in strengthening communities' capacity to give. It will be a valuable resource for leaders within fledgling, grassroots organizations, as well as for leaders within established social service programs who recognize a need for change within their organizational structure. This tool kit is the culmination of several years of education and training that have been taking place at ValleyLinks, as well as years of experience working with volunteers and their managers. The document will be available in limited print and will also become part of [www.valleylinks.net](http://www.valleylinks.net) to allow for continuous change. For more information, and to access the Kit, visit ValleyLinks online.

## **Volunteer BC and AVRBC Present the 2009 Conference "Powerful Beyond Measure"**



On October 29 & 30, 2009 Volunteer BC was pleased to partner with the Administrators of Volunteer Resources of BC (AVRBC) for their 2009 Conference, "Powerful Beyond Measure". The Conference was held at Delta Burnaby Hotel/Conference Centre and attracted a sell-out crowd of 104 professionals in the field of volunteer management. The conference sessions were directly applicable to the issues and challenges facing managers and coordinators of volunteer programs. "Engaging Volunteer Leaders" and "Transformational Servant Leadership" sessions sparked ideas about ways to nurture volunteers by creating leadership from within so that the mission of the organization becomes more valuable than

the people who are "in charge". "Training in Tough Times" reminded participants that training doesn't have to be expensive or formal to be effective, rather it needs to be well-planned, and tied directly to the organizational priorities and identified skill gaps. After being asked to complete a very ineffective but humorous survey, in "Powerful Surveys, The Good, the Bad, and the Useless" it became obvious that it is critical to know the purpose of your survey, how to target respondents and design effective questions prior to effectively analyzing your data. Keynote presentations and the plenary sessions complemented the conference theme by evoking the gamut of human emotions which connect us individually and collectively. AVRBC holds a bi-annual conference and is planning a joint conference with the national professional organization, Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources (CAVR) in June 2011. For more information check the websites: [www.avrbc.com](http://www.avrbc.com) and [www.cavr.org](http://www.cavr.org).

### Opportunities Online: Volunteer North Shore Presents Social Media Workshop

Volunteer North Shore will be inviting Scott Lundell, Executive Director of the Information & Volunteer Centre for Strathcona County, to facilitate a Social Media workshop for the coordinators and managers of volunteers on the North Shore on January 29th, 2010 between 9 am - 12pm. If any other volunteer centres are interested in having Scott visit their site around this date please contact Volunteer North Shore Manager Nancy Hollstedt for more information at 604-982-3311.

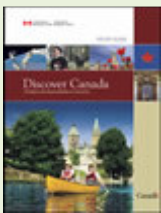
### Call for Proposals: The Retiree Volunteer Story Telling Project

Community Volunteer Connections is dedicated to promoting volunteerism throughout the communities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and New Westminster and are keenly interested in how people are making the transition into an active post-retirement life. There are amazing and inspiring stories of the retirees who are changing their communities through volunteerism which are waiting to be told. CVC is looking to engage a Project Manager to find and tell these stories, leveraging the power of both traditional and social media. If you think you have the skills and talent to bring these stories to life, they would like to hear from you! To view the formal request for proposals, with instructions on how to submit a proposal, visit <http://workinnonprofits.ca/index?sel=vj&jid=6266&lang=E>

### In Print

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

### New Resource! The Government of Canada Encourages New Canadians to Volunteer



The Government of Canada has brought out a new study guide for immigrants entitled *Discover Canada*. This initiative has been the subject of press coverage and commentary - mostly focused on the fact that Discover Canada is far more detailed than earlier documents. The document mentions volunteering very prominently by stating "Helping others in the community - Millions of volunteers freely donate their time to help others without pay - helping people in need, assisting at your child's school, volunteering at a food bank or other charity, or encouraging newcomers to integrate. Volunteering is an excellent way to gain useful skills and develop friends and contacts." To download the full document visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/ENGLISH/pdf/pub/discover.pdf>.

### Holiday Gift Idea: Cooking for Comfort, By Parent Support Services of BC

Parent Support Services of BC presents "Cooking for Comfort" a collection of delicious recipes to celebrate 35 years of "creating a world where all children and their families are nurtured, valued, and safe." The book includes PSSBC history, fast and simple recipes, parenting tips, kids activities, reading lists, and more. Every book sold contributes to fundraising efforts.



To place an order call 604-669-1616 or toll free 1-800-665-6880 or email [office@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:office@parentsupportbc.ca).

### Did you know? Stretched to the Limit: An Economic Impact Survey



The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO) is a member-based, federally registered charitable organization, working to strengthen Calgary's voluntary sector and provide leadership on cross-cutting policy issues affecting the sector as a whole. CCVO has been monitoring the economic impact on the voluntary sector through a series of surveys since November 2008. The surveys asked nonprofits and charities

about their revenues, operating costs, demand for services and programs, as well as changes in operations as a result of the economic downturn. Results of the survey indicate Alberta's nonprofit organizations and charities have been adapting to the recession, but they are stretched to the limit with little capacity to adjust to increased demand or reduced funding.

#### Key Findings:

- The real force of the economic recession will hit the voluntary sector in 2010. Charities and nonprofits will be grappling with deepening challenges at the same time as other parts of the economy are recovering.
- Alberta's voluntary sector is experiencing continued erosion from all revenue streams.
- More than 60 per cent of organizations reported increased service demand and operating costs.
- Nonprofits and charities are resilient and resourceful, but further funding reductions will result in reduced programs and services for families and communities.

To view a copy of the complete report, *Stretched to the Limit*, visit the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations website at [www.calgarycvo.org](http://www.calgarycvo.org).

### The Community Foundations of Canada Presents the Building Community



**Vitality Leadership Toolkit** - This online Toolkit is a useful resource on decision-making for communities and NGOs in transition and includes assistance with: strategic planning, partnership development, grant programs, measuring progress, success stories, and finding other resources. It also includes an organizational performance self-assessment for NGO Board members which looks at governance, leadership, management, fund development, visibility, and grant/programs/projects. For more information see <http://cfc-fcc.ca/building-community-vitality/>.

### Call for Applications: 2010 Alan Thomas Fellowship to Promote Civil and Voluntary Action

The Carold Institute is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 2010 Alan Thomas Fellowship to Promote Civil Society and Voluntary Action. Awarded for the first time in 2008, this initiative is aimed at strengthening leadership for civil society and promoting greater understanding of the significance of voluntary action. The Fellowship will again be awarded in 2010 to a leader in the NGO/non-profit sector who would not normally have access to a sabbatical leave. Valued at a maximum amount of \$60,000 for up to one year, the award is intended to allow the recipient, at a transitional moment in his or her career, to make a significant contribution to the sector, through research and reflection, leading to possible publication, or dissemination in another medium. The award is designed to support individual leaders, but also to build a broader network of researchers and practitioners. Visit [www.carold.ca](http://www.carold.ca) for fuller details on the Fellowship and the 2009 recipients. The deadline for applications is March 26, 2010, and the 2010 Fellow will be announced in late June 2010. For additional copies of the print version of the information brochure, or for further information, please don't hesitate to contact Juliet Huntly at The Carold Institute, Alan Thomas Fellowship Secretariat via phone (613) 376-3391 or email [jhuntly@kos.net](mailto:jhuntly@kos.net).

### Call for projects: Self Advocates Seeding Innovation (SASI)

The purpose of the SASI project is to support self advocates to conduct projects in their communities. The BCACL is offering grants of up to \$5000 and hopes to support 15 to 20 self advocacy projects across BC. SASI hopes to bring people together for support and to share ideas, strengthen self advocacy networks, organize training, and make positive change in community. Self advocates and self advocacy groups are encouraged to look at the gifts and abilities of people and groups around them. This could mean working with existing community groups or coming up with a project that self advocates feel will make a positive change in their community. **Application forms** will be accepted until **January 29, 2010**. Projects will be chosen by February 15, 2010. If you would like help filling out any of the forms or would like to ask questions, please contact Karla Verschoor, BCACL Coordinator of Self Advocacy Development at 604-777-9100 ext. 519 or [kverschoor@bcacl.org](mailto:kverschoor@bcacl.org).

### Go Global

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

### International Volunteer Hours Reach New Heights



The UN Worldwide Campaign on Climate Change is proud to announce we have reached over one million hours of Volunteering for our Planet! Thousands of people all over the world have demonstrated concern for climate change and are ready to help save our planet. This message will be delivered to the delegates of the Copenhagen Climate Conference during the press conference on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. To make this message as strong as possible, please keep Volunteering for our Planet. Did you have new ideas on how to volunteer? Do your friends know about the campaign? Were you involved in any IVD activities? Please register your hours to demonstrate to world leaders that people are taking action and that volunteers are a part of

the solution - every hour counts! For more information visit <http://sealthedeal2009.org/unv>. Check out how [Volunteer Burnaby](#) and [Volunteer Prince George](#) celebrated IVD.

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

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