



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

July 2009 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

Our major piece of news this summer is our release of the inaugural issue of the BC State of Volunteering Report, the only report that hones in annually on fresh findings around the skills, experience, and contributions of volunteers to quality of life in our province. Also fresh off the press are the 2007 statistics from the Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating and the Institute of Well Being's First Report. Also, in this issue, read on for grant opportunities, free advertising options, affordable technology upgrades, and chances to win tickets to the 2010 Olympic Games!

Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC

Volunteer BC Presents the First Annual BC State of Volunteering Report



Volunteer BC is pleased to announce the release of the inaugural BC State of Volunteering Report. The BC State of Volunteering report comprehensively assesses volunteering in BC, giving both a broad view of the health of volunteerism in its many facets, as well as specific experiences and examples from which insights can be drawn from varying local contexts. It also includes strategic recommendations for action to address areas for improvement suggested by the findings. *"We are thrilled to be sharing our findings and to have worked with some of the volunteer centres across the province to make this very compelling snapshot of what volunteering looks like across BC,"* says Justin Ho, Volunteer President. The report's findings, drawn from 2008 data, exhibit the incredible degree of support given by BC's volunteers in the diverse array of BC's community. New challenges have also emerged, chief of which is the changing volunteer profile, in terms of age and lifestyle, and a gradually diminishing number of volunteers in the province who shoulder more of the volunteer hours needed. The volunteer centre plays a crucial role in facilitating these changes and supporting their members with new tools for finding and making the most of volunteers to serve the vulnerable of our communities. In the report, find Volunteer BC's strategic recommendations strengthening volunteerism in our province. Interested in learning more? Copies are available for download from the official website www.bcstateofvolunteering.org which includes additional links and resources from Volunteer BC, online discussion forums, and full case studies from participating volunteer centres.

Centre Stage

News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends

Updates from 2010 Legacies Now



2010 Legacies Now is pleased to launch their latest website - 2010 & Beyond at <http://www.2010andbeyond.ca/#/home>. 2010 Legacies is a not-for-profit society dedicated to strengthening physical activity, sport and recreation, arts, literacy, accessibility and volunteerism in communities throughout British Columbia. Together with partners, 2010 Legacies Now is creating inclusive social and economic legacies around the province leading up to and beyond the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. 2010 Legacies is also hosting a volunteer opportunities contest - VolWeb.ca ticket to the 2010 Winter Games! Post your volunteer positions on VolWeb.ca, and enter to win tickets to the Short Track Speed Skating Variety Qualification and Final. Visit www.VolWeb.ca for more information.

Volunteers Needed! Volunteer Friendship Hosts for New Immigrants

Gladwin Language Centre requires Volunteer Hosts to befriend newcomers to Abbotsford. Friendship hosts meet a couple of times a month or more with their partner for conversation, fieldtrips, and cultural understanding. The program is funded by the BC government. For more information contact Joan Berndt at 604-854-8164 or visit gladwinlanguagecentre@telus.net.

Volunteers Needed! Abbotsford Parkinson's Self Help Support Group

Volunteers with a passion for working with individuals with disabilities are required to assist the Parkinson's Self Help Group leadership team in planning and facilitating monthly meetings. The meetings include a period of socializing and mutual support in addition to time for receiving updates and learning from relevant speakers. Call Martin at **604-854-2335** for a positive volunteer experience!

Not-for-Profit Corporations Act Receives Royal Assent

New federal legislation that streamlines the regulatory burden on Canada's not-for-profits is ready to become law. Bill C-4, the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, passed Third Reading in the Senate and received Royal Assent. The federal government states that the act will enable organizations to incorporate faster and improve their financial accountability, clarify the roles and responsibilities of directors and officers, and enhance the protection of members' rights. The new Act will replace the Canada Corporations Act of 1917. For more information, please Read CCVO's backgrounder on the [Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#) or [click here](#) to read the entire Act.

In Print/Audio

Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You

Just Released! The Institute of Wellbeing's First Report



The Institute of Wellbeing, an independent, non-partisan organization affiliated with the University of Waterloo and chaired by the Honourable Roy Romanow, has recently released its first report on well being. A major component of the report focuses on *community vitality*, of which volunteering plays a major role. "The indicators reveal that Canadians, by and large, have strong social relationships with their families and their communities," says the report. "On balance, the positive trend of most of these indicators is heartening, suggesting that the wellbeing of Canadians, as measured by the quality of their relationships, is improving over time." To view the report [click here](#).

Just Released! The 2007 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating

Volunteer Canada, in conjunction with Imagine Canada, announced the release of the Results from the 2007 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating (CSGVP) on June 8, 2009. Close to one hundred participants were among the first to see the long-awaited results. You can view the results on Volunteer Canada's website at www.volunteer.ca, or by visiting www.givingandvolunteer.ca. To view the entire story which appeared in the Globe & Mail on June 9, 2009 [click here](#).



Feature Video - Volunteers in Action

[Click here](#) to watch volunteerism in action. The film features the Campaign "Let's Do It!" a grassroots initiative to clean up an entire country from illegal waste in just one day. On May 3, 2008 with help of 50,000 volunteers more than 10,000 tons of garbage were gathered and Estonia was cleaned up from illegal waste. Watch this amazing story of that has inspired millions to come together and change a whole country!

Opportunities

Funding, Capacity-Development and More



Upgrade Your Organization's Technology with Reboot

Reboot is a non-profit social enterprise working with voluntary sector organizations to provide low-cost technology, diagnostics and repairs, and network support. Target markets are low-income Individuals and families, social service agencies, and small businesses which would not ordinarily be able to afford a new technology. Reboot is active in the field of recycling, repair, and redistribution of redundant or discarded computers. At Reboot, all discarded and unused computers will eventually go through a rigorous process that will assure each computer system will first be screened to see if it can be repaired and reused by another person. If it cannot be redeployed in working condition then it will be dismantled and the parts will be separated and re-streamed to be reused in an industrial process that continues to support the idea that nothing ends up in the landfill. Reboot's partner agencies welcome new innovative programs that help equalize the opportunities for low-income families, children, youth adults and seniors in their community service areas - and you can become one of them. For more information about Reboot visit their website, at <http://www.reboot.ca>



Advertising Opportunity! Volunteer Canada's Readyforcrisis.ca Wants Your Help

Volunteer Canada has received extended funding to manage and update the readyforcrisis.ca website through October 31, 2009. Since March 31st Volunteer Canada has been continuing to post updates and maintain the site. Just this week, the homepage was updated to announce the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Management later this month in Toronto. Links in the Media Room were also posted which relayed an interesting article entitled "Faith based groups discuss how to meet community needs in health emergencies" posted in The Sudbury Star. Given that the RFC website is continuing to remain viable Volunteer Canada needs YOUR HELP! If you wish to post an upcoming event or related piece on the public website, please contact Don Lapierre via email at dlapierre@volunteer.ca.



The Northern Development Initiative Trust Brings Community Resources Home



The Northern Development Initiative Trust has expanded their "Community Funding Resources" section online. [Northern Development](http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca) is an independent regional economic development corporation focused on stimulating economic diversification and job creation in central and northern British Columbia, a region that is strategically located, and offers a resource-rich economy with many competitive advantages and incentives for business. As the leading economic development agency in the region, Northern Development will be the catalyst to inject \$2 billion every decade into communities within the region to realize their economic potential. The corporation supports community economic development initiatives with funding for economic diversification infrastructure, feasibility studies, marketing, capacity building, grant writing, community halls, recreational facilities, and community foundations. For more information, check out the The Northern Development Initiative Trust's Community Resources section at:

<http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/community-funding/resources-2>

Back to the Classroom

Learning Opportunities to Build a Stronger Sector



Save the Date! Enterprising Non Profits Announces Fall Workshop Schedules

Enterprising Non Profits has completed the fall workshop schedule and visits will be made to 17 communities across the province! Both an Introduction to Social Enterprise and a Strengthening Social Enterprise workshop will be offered. The Social Enterprise workshop is for staff, boards, and volunteers of organizations that are considering launching or are new to social enterprise. In this orientation session there will be a discussion of the definition of social enterprise and reasons for starting a social enterprise as well as demonstrating the value of the social enterprise development path. The second workshop is intended for senior managers or board members of social enterprises that have been in operation for at least three years. In this session there will be discussion of social enterprise principles and best practices. The session will involve peer professional learning on governance, financing, marketing and human resources. Attendance at the workshop also qualifies the organization to apply for ENP technical assistance grants. Online registration is now open. For more information and dates in your area visit http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/projects/grant_program/orientation_sessions.

Volunteer Vancouver Presents the 2009 Leaders Forum

VV has now opened registration for their Leaders Forum 2009 featuring [Peter Brinckerhoff](#), author of *Mission-Based Management: Leading Your Not-for-profit in the 21st Century*. Come join Peter, an expert in not-for-profit management and governance, for a full day training session looking at: Building Better Boards, Staff Management, The Wired Not-for-Profit, Mission-Based Marketing, Financial Empowerment, Planning, and Social Entrepreneurship. Click [here](#) for online information and registration, or copy and paste the following url into your web browser:

https://www.netforumondemand.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=vv&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=1cc1cce3-7643-4585-ad76-6cc99895bda6.



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