

Volunteer Action - Volunteer North Shore Newsletter

Moving Forward

The North Shore is privileged to be home to many different cultures. Over the past year Volunteer North Shore has looked at the 4 major language groups that live in our communities and suggested ways we might better engage culturally diverse individuals in our volunteer programs. Engagement strategies involve reaching out, in culturally appropriate ways, to different language or cultural groups to encourage participation. It is important for organizations to take the first steps which can include learning about cultural celebrations, food traditions, and ways of interacting that are culturally sensitive. Engaging one or two volunteers who are part of a larger language group outside of the predominantly English speaking population, is one way to begin this process. Having one volunteer who is able to communicate your program or service in another person's first learned language opens doors. Individuals will learn about your program or service, perhaps consider using the service, and ultimately may consider becoming a volunteer. Organizations who engage volunteers from many different cultural or language groups says this is a successful strategy. Most importantly, make sure the people who live in your community can see themselves reflected in your organization. If they can see their reflection, they will feel like they belong and will want to contribute their time and energy to improve their community.



Nancy Hollstedt

- <http://www.ovcn.ca/useredits/File/Inventory.pdf>
- http://www.thephilanthropist.ca/images/PDFs/TPJ_Book_V24.N1_22JUL11.pdf

Check out CELEBRATE! for information on volunteer awards and recognition.

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CELEBRATE!

Celebrate your volunteers' contributions by recognizing their commitment and nominate them for one of the following awards.

No Deadline

🏆 Order of Canada

www.gg.ca

🏆 Governor General's Caring Canadian Award

www.gg.ca

Deadline Specific

🏆 Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC

(January 31, 2012) <http://www.ica.bc.ca/pdf/communityservice.pdf>

🏆 Community Volunteer Spirit Award (March 2012) Look for a nomination form in early January at

www.nscr.bc.ca

National Volunteer Week 2012

National Volunteer Week 2012 takes place April 15 to 21, 2012. Due to the very positive response to last year's campaign theme, the theme for National Volunteer Week 2012 will be **Volunteers: Passion, Action, Impact**. The theme highlights the vital contribution volunteers make to communities across Canada. Volunteer Canada plans to deliver new tools and resources to support voluntary organizations in their critical work thanking and celebrating Canada's 12.5 million volunteers.

Volunteer Canada is committed to delivering NVW campaign components earlier to help organizations plan their celebrations. Below is an overview of when to expect major components of the NVW 2012 campaign:

December 2011: the NVW website launches with key resources for the sector and the NVW e-store goes public with gifts for purchase

January 2012: Volunteer Canada mails out campaign packages to its members that include NVW promotional materials

January 2012: capacity building workshops take place

February 2012: the new NVW video launches online focusing on the impact of volunteers

April 15-21, 2012: National Volunteer Week

For the first time, Volunteer Canada will host a national seminar series that will include practical teachings from sector experts. These seminars will take place in **January 2012**, and will feature sessions on media and government relations, event planning, and social media and new technology.

This is the ninth year Investors Group has sponsored NVW to raise awareness of the vital efforts made by Canada's volunteers. The company's strong support of the NVW campaign has made Investors Group one of the leading corporate supporters of volunteerism in Canada.

"Over the years, volunteering has become an integral part of Investors Group's culture," said Murray Taylor, President and Chief Executive Officer of Investors Group.

"We do this because it enriches both our community and our people. Investors Group is pleased to continue our relationship with Volunteer Canada and spread the word about National Volunteer Week and volunteerism. Together, we can show Canadians the impact of their volunteer efforts and how everyone's contribution counts."

Stay tuned in the months to come for more NVW 2012 announcements and tell Volunteer Canada what you're planning for NVW or what we can do to support your efforts at www.volunteercanadaannualreport.ca.

(Source: Volunteer Canada)

How-to book on measuring volunteerism’s contribution

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and volunteer involving organizations know that volunteerism contributes to peace and development around the world, but how do we demonstrate this? A new handbook, *Assessing the Contribution of Volunteering to Development* is designed to help development practitioners get the evidence they need.

The handbook’s fundamental principle is that assessing the contribution of volunteers requires a bottom-up approach. The book includes a set of tools for use in participatory workshops involving many different stakeholders at different levels. This participatory methodology supports volunteer involving organizations in obtaining the answers to six basic questions:

1. What contribution does volunteering make to development and what are the key results?
2. How does volunteering achieve these results?
3. What factors help or hinder the volunteering contribution?
4. What is the added value of volunteering?
5. How is volunteering perceived by other stakeholders and partner organizations, both national and international?
6. What lessons can be learned from volunteering and how can they be used to enhance development planning?

The handbook provides volunteering practitioners with practical tools for using the answers to inform their work and decisions. The book is the result of a joint effort between UNV and the International FORUM on Development Service, a network of organizations engaged in international volunteering and personnel exchange. For more information please go to [Assessing The Contribution of Volunteering To Development](#).

(Source: UNV)

**December 5th
is
International
Volunteer
Day**



*A day to
recognize all
those individuals
who volunteer in
your
organization!*

Volunteer North Shore Planning & Information Meeting

Thursday February 16, 2012

9:30 am - 11:30 am

North Shore Community Resources
The Community Room 203, 2nd Floor Capilano Mall,
#201 - 935 Marine Drive, North Vancouver, BC

Mark Your
Calendar



A meeting reminder and agenda will be circulated 1 week prior to the meeting.

BC Centre for Non-Profit Development

Launched in June 2005, the BC Centre for Non-Profit Development provides education and training, information, resources and assistance for the non-profit sector. The Centre serves non-profit organizations, board members, volunteers, and staff, province wide.

The BC Centre for Non-Profit Development (BCCNPD) operates to strengthen individual and organizational capacity for the non-profit sector in British Columbia. Their **vision** is for healthy, cohesive, and safe BC communities with services accessible to all. One of the ways in which this occurs is by providing educational opportunities with partnering colleges and universities throughout BC. Their newsletters provide readers with course offerings of the *Introduction for Non-Profit Management* course, additional training opportunities in BC, books available from their lending library, and notices of upcoming events for organizations. For more information on BCCNPD check out their website at www.bccnpd.ca.

(Source: BCCNPD)

Volunteer North Shore is the volunteer centre that serves the communities of Bowen Island, City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, and Lions Bay.

Volunteer North Shore:

- Helps people find volunteer work
- Helps organizations find volunteers
- Promotes volunteering as a benefit to the community
- Works with organizations to develop, implement and maintain effective volunteer programs

Volunteering is a vital part of our community and Volunteer North Shore is here to make sure voluntary effort is encouraged, sustained and increased.

Volunteer North Shore is just one of the valuable programs and services offered by North Shore Community Resources . North Shore Community Resources, conveniently located on the 2nd floor at Capilano Mall, is the North Shore's multi-service information and referral agency.

Many thanks to the individuals and organizations who contributed to this issue of Volunteer Action.



**North Shore
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