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Standards and Promising Practices for Canada's Voluntary Sector

Volunteer Canada, along with Imagine Canada and the HR Council for the Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector, are working together to develop a Standards Program for Canada's charities and nonprofit organizations, and to provide access to tools and resources through the Promising Practices Initiative.

As part of the Standards Steering Committee, Volunteer Canada is overseeing the implementation of a Standards Program, with a focus on governance, human resources (paid and volunteer), and accountability, transparency, and financial management. These standards – or good practices – are being developed to assist organizations as they seek ways to improve their operations.

The Committee is also working on developing the Promising Practices Initiative. The purpose of the Initiative is to provide the sector with practical and user-friendly tools, resources and training in the areas of governance, human resources (paid and volunteer), and financial accountability.

On behalf of the partner organizations, Imagine Canada will lead web conferences on August 19, 2009 (English) and September 22, 2009 (French), from 1:00-2:00 PM EDT for interested organizations that want to learn more about the Standards Program. In early 2010, the partner organizations are planning to host a Forum at which interested charities and nonprofits will be asked to debate and approve governance structures, membership criteria, values, and design principles for the Standards Program.

The goals of these initiatives are to: (a) support and strengthen good practice in the sector, (b) foster public trust and confidence in the sector, (c) protect both the credibility of the sector and the interests of the public, and (d) demonstrate the accountability of the sector.

Click here to read the [executive summary](#) or [full proposal](#).

Register for a [free web conference](#) to learn more and share your thoughts.

Centre for Excellence Launches Social Networking Tool

As a way to connect Canada's non-profit and for-profit sectors, Volunteer Canada has launched an innovative social networking tool at corporatevolunteering.ca. Join today for a free 30 day trial. Share your thoughts, exchange ideas, and participate in online forums with others from your sector. Click here to read a recent article featured in [Information Exec](#).

Bill C-4 (Not-for-Profit Corporations Act) Passes and Receives Royal Assent

Federal legislation that affects the regulatory aspects of Canada's not-for-profit organizations 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.

"Once the bill and proposed regulations come into force, every not-for-profit corporation currently governed by Part II of the Canada Corporations Act will have three years to formally make the transition to the new Act. After that time, any corporation that has not made the transition will be dissolved. Further information on how to make the transition will be made available once the bill comes into force." – Industry Canada

For more information, please [click here](#).

"Send to a friend" feature

Did you know that you can share our monthly news updates with your friends and colleagues? Just click the "Send this to a friend" link at the bottom of the newsletter.

Feature Video

US First Lady Michelle Obama's Remarks at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service

[Click here](#) to see her full remarks on YouTube.

NNVIO Profile: The Arthritis Society



The Arthritis Society is an active member of the National Network of Volunteer-Involving Organizations (NNVIO). As Canada's only not-for-profit organization devoted solely to funding and promoting arthritis research, programs and patient care, it has a national administrative office in Toronto, division offices in each province and nearly 1,000 community branches throughout Canada.

Stephanie Smith, Manager of Volunteer Services at Ontario Division, finds that the benefits of joining the NNVIO have already proved invaluable. She notes that "having the opportunity to connect with individuals that are in similar roles provides an opportunity for learning and applying proven best-practices to our organizational volunteer program."

Supporting and providing research, patient care and public education programs that benefit the millions of Canadians with arthritis is no small task. But the Arthritis Society receives widespread support from tens of thousands of volunteers and donors across the country to help it achieve those goals as well as its vision – a world without arthritis!

Volunteer opportunities vary from province to province. For information regarding volunteer opportunities, please visit www.arthritis.ca and select your province.