

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

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Give a Day, Get a Disney Day.

Volunteer Canada is proud to announce that BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2010, when you sign up to volunteer for a day with a participating organization (and your volunteer commitment is completed and verified) you'll receive a one day admission pass to a Walt Disney World® or Disneyland® theme park, FREE! Disney Parks, working with Volunteer Canada and HandsOn Network, hopes to inspire families to volunteer in their communities during 2010 through this first-of-its-kind program.

[For information for non-profit agencies, volunteer centres and volunteers, click here.](#)

Presentation to the House of Commons Finance Committee

On October 28th Ruth MacKenzie, president of Volunteer Canada, delivered a detailed presentation to the House of Commons Finance Committee on the impact of the recession on volunteer-involving organizations across Canada. Basing her comments on consultations with Volunteer Canada members, Ms. MacKenzie gave an account of how many volunteer-involving organizations are having difficulty recruiting and training the volunteers they need. Volunteer Canada's single fiscal recommendation to the Committee is that the government should make a small but strategic investment of five million dollars, annually, in a Canadian Volunteer Support System. The aim: to raise the Canadian volunteering rate from the current 46% to 60% in four years.

[To read the executive summary of the presentation, click here.](#)

Think Membership doesn't matter? Think again!

Over 160,000 organizations across Canada engage volunteers to fulfill their mandates. Members of Volunteer Canada demonstrate their belief in and support of the over 2 million Canadian volunteers who serve the efforts of these organizations.



If you are a member already...we are most grateful for your continued support and look forward to sharing good news with you over the coming months. You know how important our work is and you can help increase our collective voice by reaching out to your own network and asking them to join!

If you are not a member and are interested in joining Volunteer Canada, think about what it offers:

- A vital link to your community through a network of volunteer centres
- Input to public policy that helps shape and influence support for volunteerism
- Training and information materials for recruiting and mobilizing volunteers
- Opportunities to share experience and knowledge with peer organizations
- Insights into trends impacting volunteerism through research and surveys

Our fall membership drive campaign is in full swing. This is the time to consider joining!

Visit us at www.volunteer.ca or call us at 1.800.670.0401 ext. 228.

We will be happy to tell you about the tangible benefits of membership.

Leading Canadian Think Tank Closes Its Doors

Canada is losing one of its leading independent public policy think tanks due to a lack of long-term funding commitment from governments and other resources. "It is with sadness that I must announce that after 15 years of quality public policy research, Canadian Policy Research Networks [CPRN] is no longer financially viable and will cease operations," announced Dr. Sharon Manson Singer, President of CPRN.

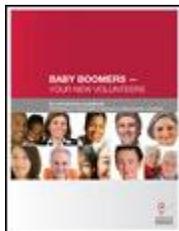
CPRN has been recognized nationally – and internationally – as a champion of citizen engagement and non-partisan socio-economic public policy research and analysis and has produced a wealth of quality evidence-based publications on a wide variety of issues. CPRN has worked extensively in the areas of social innovation, citizenship, diversity and Canadian values, productivity and skills, health and the environment, and may be most widely known for championing deliberative dialogues and consultations with a range of Canadians – from coast to coast to coast – on issues that affect them deeply.

Ready for Crisis - H1N1

Being prepared is one of the best steps to take in facing the H1N1 virus. Imagine Canada recently broadcast a statement that resonates through the voluntary sector. "Charities and nonprofit organizations provide support to Canadians in every community across the country and many provide essential services. It is important for us to be prepared for events that could hinder our ability to be there for Canadians in difficult times." *Imagine Canada e-mail blast, August 27, 2009.*

For help in preparing your organization, visit the [Ready for Crisis](#) website, which launched earlier this year. The site offers practical [tools](#) to improve service continuity, to help you take inventory of overlooked community resources that could be life savers during a crisis and to create your own disaster response roundtable in your community.

Baby Boomers - Your New Volunteers



Volunteer Canada's website specifically catering to baby boomer volunteers and the organizations that want to recruit them, volunteer50plus.ca, has been welcoming a steady flow of traffic since it launched in October 2008. For insights into the boomer demographic and to review the introductory workbook, [Baby Boomers – Your New Volunteers](#), which is growing in popularity, check out the site by clicking [here](#).

The Government of Canada's National Search and Rescue Secretariat

The Government of Canada's National Search and Rescue Secretariat recently held a workshop in Toronto for ground search and rescue (GASR) volunteers from virtually every province and territory across Canada. One of the components of this gathering focused on volunteer sustainability. Volunteer Canada was contracted to share our experiences, recommendations, resources and tools to incorporate into their volunteer resource management strategies.

Business Excellence Awards - Volunteer Prince George



Prince George Chamber of Commerce presented their Business Excellence Awards on Oct 24, 2009. Volunteer Prince George was the recipient of the "**Community Booster Award (Non-Profit)**". "This award is presented to a non-profit organization that is an enthusiastic supporter and promoter of Prince George. They provide a direct contribution to the quality of life in the community."

Photo features Joseph Lavoie (board president) and Jo Nore (Program Manager) with the awards.

NNVIO Profile: Canadian Blood Services



Canadian Blood Services is a national, not-for-profit charitable organization that manages the supply of blood and blood products in all provinces and territories outside of Quebec. Canadian Blood Services also oversees the OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network, and provides national leadership for organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Our first priority is safety and security of the blood supply and as such, every donor is screened prior to donating and every single unit of blood or blood product collected is tested for a variety of transmissible diseases. Canadian Blood Services also ensures that Canadian transfusion medicine research and development remains at the cutting edge.

Canadian Blood Services operates 41 permanent collection sites and more than 20,000 donor clinics annually. During the 2008/2009 year, more than one million units of whole blood, plasma and platelets were collected.

Volunteers play a vital role in the success of Canada's blood system. Whether promoting the importance of donating blood or providing customer care to donors in clinics, volunteers enthusiastic support and friendly attitude help make the donation experience positive and worth repeating. Roles include greeting and assisting donors throughout the donation process; providing customer care and hospitality; coordinating and hosting blood donor clinics; speaking to the public about the need for blood; recruiting new donors and spreading the word about upcoming blood donor clinics; organizing special promotional initiatives. Please visit www.blood.ca for more information on our volunteer program.

Testimonial:

"I have been an active and dedicated member of the National Network of Volunteer Involving Organizations from its inception during International Year of Volunteers, 2001. This network is a centre of excellence for national leaders of volunteer programs and those shaping volunteer involvement for organizations at a developmental and strategic level. The opportunity to meet and discuss changes in the volunteerism landscape in Canada with professional field leaders was of great benefit both to my organization and personally. Having access to a 'think tank' of individuals to vet program issues and strategies with was the icing on the cake for me. I struck life-long friendships with members of this group; solved more program problems and learned more about upcoming trends and issues shaping volunteer involvement that in any other forum during that time".

— Stephanie Kelly, Former Manager, Volunteer Program, Canadian Blood Services

Stephanie Smith is the new Manager of Volunteer Resources for Canadian Blood Services. She participated on the network representing The Arthritis Society until August 2009 at which time she began her role with Canadian Blood Services. Stephanie Smith will continue her involvement with NNVIO and Volunteer Canada.