

Thursday, April 8, 2010

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## **National Volunteer Week**

April is here and with it comes spring flowers, warmer weeks and those incredible days where Canadians shed their winter layers for sunglasses and flip-flops. It also plays host to National Volunteer Week, Canada's opportunity to say thank you to the 12.5 million volunteers who give of their time and skill without the expectation of

reciprocation - all for the benefit of our communities. Canada's volunteers are an essential resource to our social services. They are coaches, mentors, organizers, disaster relief and aid workers, environmental champions, animal advocates, educators, activists and social change makers, to name a few. Without volunteers the landscape of our society would look strikingly different. Volunteers shape our lives whether we're aware of their impact or not.



This year from April 18 to 24, Canadians have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the efforts of our volunteers and say thank you for everything they do. For more information on National Volunteer Week please see [www.volunteer.ca/nvw](http://www.volunteer.ca/nvw) and become a fan on our Volunteer Canada Facebook and Twitter pages.

Make sure you take the time this National Volunteer Week to say thank you to the 12.5 million volunteers who support us and our communities 365 days a year.

## **The Changing Culture of Volunteering: A Skills-based Approach to Volunteer Involvement**

Volunteer Canada has launched a new initiative to help organizations better understand and respond to the characteristics of today's volunteers, the evolution of volunteer resource management practices and key societal trends. In this new culture of volunteering, we have seen a shift from longer-term and consistent involvement, to opportunities that are episodic in nature; evolving from task-specific volunteer jobs to roles that engage highly skilled individuals who want to apply their experience to make a difference in organizations they care about. An innovative approach to volunteer engagement, such as

this, is necessary so that organizations can continue to benefit from the contribution of volunteers to address the needs of the people and communities they serve.

Funded by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program, this pan-Canadian project is designed to improve services to children, youth and families by supporting organizations to effectively engage the emerging volunteer of today and ensure a positive volunteering experience.

For more information on this project, please contact Paula Speevak-Sladowski, Program Manager, Volunteer Canada at 613-231-4371, x240.

## **Community Engagement and Training to Help Save the Lives of People with Disabilities in Emergencies**

The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and Volunteer Canada have formed a new partnership to bring volunteer centres and disability organizations together to collaborate, create and deliver community training on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities across Canada.

According to the Canadian Disaster Database, there has been a significant increase in the number of Canadians affected by natural disasters. In addition to this, an increasing number of Canadians are reporting having a disability. However, the majority of local, provincial and federal emergency planning in Canada does not take into consideration the needs of people with disabilities in disasters. Community-based organizations that serve and work with individuals with disabilities can play a significant role in emergency preparedness and response.

Over the next two years, members from the voluntary sector and the disability community across Canada will be trained in innovative approaches to emergency preparedness that focus on addressing individual functional needs, supporting social networks and capacity building.

The community workshops will provide community-based organizations with tools that will help them identify vulnerabilities, strengthen community resiliency and increase the safety and well-being of people with disabilities and the communities they live in.

This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnership Program – Disability component and builds on the previous emergency preparedness and community resiliency work done by the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities in British Columbia and Volunteer Canada's project with the voluntary sector across Canada.

For more information contact:  
Karen Martin, Project Manager  
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities  
Phone: 604 875-0188

## **The Future of Social Development in Canada is in Jeopardy**

*A note from the Canadian Council on Social Development*

For ninety years, the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) has been providing voice and vision to some of Canada's most entrenched social issues. Each decade has brought different challenges of which CCSD has been at the forefront in putting forward unconventional solutions that have become the foundation of Canada's social landscape including:

- In the 1920s CCSD helped shape the first Disability Pension program.
- In the 1940s CCSD promoted the concept of Employment Insurance.
- In the 1960s CCSD helped shape Canada's Old Age Pension program.

Today, CCSD acts as a catalyst that convenes a broad array of organizations, and individual Canadians to foster important connections across diverse sectors, regions and systems, building broad consensus for sweeping social progress and collective action on an expansive array of critically important issues for today's Canada. Grounded in thoughtful evidence and research this work has never been more important or essential to building healthy thriving communities for all Canadians.

CCSD is focused on addressing the conditions that constrain social equity with an emphasis on:

- Poverty Eradication
- Social welfare reform
- Disability & Mental Health reform

### **The Future of Social Development in Canada is in Jeopardy**

Recent funding cuts have forced the organization to rethink and renew its approach and business model...we have seized the opportunity to become Canada's independent authority in social development. AND we need you to join us

#### **Why Should this Matter to You?**

Social development has been the key to Canada's social cohesion, economic success and national unity, since 1920, CCSD has been a catalyst in the evolution of Canada's infrastructure. Infrastructure that encompasses many of the pillars that Canadian's embrace with pride, truly Canadian made solutions through which Canada has been heralded a beacon internationally such as medicare, employment insurance, disability and old age pensions.

#### **The Way Forward and How you can Participate**

CCSD is determined to continue the fight for social development. To do so requires a solid base of core funding, drawing on diverse sources – foundations, corporations, unions and individual Canadians. This diversity ensures that no single voice dominates the research. It also ensures that Canada will benefit from an independent authority who can objectively critique government policy freed from constraints

associated with shifting priorities of government and the incessant churn of unsustainable project funding.

To get us there, CCSD is launching a three year Funding raising Campaign called Canada's Nation Builders with a fund raising goal of 3 Million dollars to build long term financial sustainability. In order to get there, we must make up our funding shortfall of 350,000.00; we are asking you as leaders and partners in our sector to work with us today.

You can join other individual Canadians, CCSD partners and members, Foundations and Business leaders who care about the future of this great country and who understand the importance of working together across are differences toward a shared vision to build and strengthen our social infrastructure.

With you we will be launching a Nation Builders Movement that includes our next ACT NOW FOR CHANGE FORUM in 2011, connecting and convening Canadians through Emerging Technology, Regional Meetings, Summits and Conferences, to continue to advance social development in Canada.

You won't be simply supporting CCSD; you are supporting a necessary capacity for continued social progress in Canada. More than ever, we need to ask ourselves, does it make sense to know less about our social problems and have fewer forums to come together given our current social climate, the pace of change, and challenges associated with a globalized world?

Every Canadian can make a difference. Become a member... donate and participate. Every person who is making a social contribution, from nurses in hospitals to food bank volunteers wants to believe they are part of a system increasing the general good. We say to each one of you that we need you to continue to work for the renewal of that good.

## **Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources (CAVR) conference 2010**

St. John's, May 30 – June 1, 2010

Co-hosted by: the Newfoundland & Labrador Administrators of Volunteer Resources

Registration is now open: [WWW.NLAVR.CA](http://WWW.NLAVR.CA) or [HTTP://NLAVR.ENVENTBRITE.COM](http://NLAVR.ENVENTBRITE.COM)

Early bird registration - before April 15, 2010:

\$325 FOR CAVR/NLAVR MEMBER

\$350 FOR NON MEMBERS

Regular registration – as of April 16, 2010:

\$375 FOR CAVR/NLAVR MEMBERS

\$400 FOR NON MEMBERS

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sheraton Newfoundland Hotel. Please call the hotel directly at (709) 758-8453 and request the CAVR conference rate of \$179-\$199 plus taxes.

For more information please contact Lisa Pike, Education Chair at [lpike@chpn.ca](mailto:lpike@chpn.ca)