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Our program year will culminate with our Annual General Meeting on June 16. Thank you for your continued support and membership!

In Hindsight...March

Our presenter in March was Zenobia Jamal and she spoke to the group about engaging new Canadians as volunteers. Zenobia facilitated some group discussion about benefits and strategies to utilizing new Canadians in volunteer programs, as well as some of the challenges we, as coordinators of volunteer resources, may experience when attempting to integrate new Canadians into our programs.

Why is it important to ensure we include new Canadians in our recruitment strategies? Consider the statistics – 6,186,950 individuals were born outside of Canada and represent one in five (19.8%) of the total population (2006 Canadian Census). This is the highest proportion of foreign-born population in 75 years.

We learned that many of the motivations people may have to volunteer – job experience, meeting new people, supporting a cause, etc. – also apply to this segment of the population even though the individuals in this group might come from very different backgrounds.

Please see *March* on page 2

Leadership Institute - May 5 & 6

There's still time to register for the Leadership Institute!

Alberta Culture & Community Spirit, the Government of Alberta and Volunteer Management Group have partnered to bring our members another 2-day training program that will build on the first Leadership Institute presented in January of this year.

Building upon Leadership Institute Tier 1, Tier 2 takes the leadership concepts to the broader environment. The concepts in this workshop help leaders to focus outward from their ability to network and influence to dealing with conflict. In the organizational context, tools and techniques will be examined for creative and successful strategic planning.

Please see *Leadership* on page 3

USEFUL RESOURCES

Looking for web conferencing and online meeting tools?

Check out:

www.gotomeeting.com

Need inspirational quotes for your next presentation or newsletter? Click here:

www.great-inspirational-quotes.com

Use Google Alerts to receive the latest relevant Google results (web, news, blogs, etc) based on your choice of topic, for instance, "volunteerism":

www.google.com/alerts

Ever wanted to volunteer abroad? Has one of your volunteers mentioned this as an interest of theirs? Check out Amazon for book titles like "The 100 Best Volunteer Vacations to Enrich Your Life": www.amazon.ca

Please note: the websites listed in the Useful Resources section are not endorsements for any company or their products or services.

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When making plans to engage new Canadians in your volunteer programs, you will need to assess your current strategies and communication tools. You may have to change the locations of where you usually place your brochures, or re-design your brochure to be more easily understood by individuals with English as a second language.

It would be useful to do some research on the various cultural groups you may want to approach, to better understand the histories, backgrounds and experiences of newcomers and some of the barriers they may face when looking for employment and volunteer opportunities.

Some strategies for success include taking greater care in communicating workplace norms and culture, reviewing policies and procedures for clear descriptions and inclusive language, networking within specific communities, using websites and community newspapers that newcomers read (translating your message if necessary), and taking extra time to mentor and support newcomers.

You can visit www.rcvo.org to search resources on engaging volunteers in your organization.

For a complete copy of Zenobia's presentation, please email info@vmgedmonton.ca. *This feature available for VMG members only.

May Program Meeting

May 19

Topic: Corporate Volunteering

Presenters: Brenda Murphy, Community Investment Manager for the Telus Corporation, a representative from a financial institution and a member from United Way. These 3 guest speakers will present to us on what they are looking for in projects in the community and how best to engage employees in your volunteer opportunities.

Doors open at 8:30 am and meeting starts at 9:00 am. If you would like the chance to profile your organization and volunteer program to the members before the presentation begins, contact Leslie Cleary.

Volunteer Alberta Initiative

Are you an Alberta Volunteer? Count yourself in with *Volunteers Count!*

Everyone knows Alberta's volunteers count... but how much? Find out by participating in *Volunteers Count!*

Volunteer any time between **April 18-24** (National Volunteer Week) and log your hours on the Volunteer Alberta website.

What's in it for you? Well, quite a lot actually ...

1st draw prize: \$500.00 to a non-profit organization of your choice

2nd draw prize: \$250.00 to a non-profit organization of your choice

3rd draw prize: Registration to Vitalize 2010 in Edmonton June 10-12, 2010

Count yourself in! Participate at www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca by completing the online form for yourself or on behalf of your organization's volunteers!



Leadership from page 1

Training will cover five modules:

- 📄 **Networking** - *develop insights and skills on the practice of networking*
- 📄 **Organizational Culture** - *increase awareness of organizational culture and the implications of elements of that culture*
- 📄 **Planning** - *methods and tools to better plan the progress of the organization*
- 📄 **Managing Boundaries and Essential Relationships** - *strengthen and enhance relationships between paid staff and significant stakeholders, including volunteers*
- 📄 **Conflict Management** - *tools and for addressing conflict early and positively*

Limited to 25 participants only

Register today - VMG members pay only \$50 before April 25. Cost after this date will be \$60. If minimum participant requirements haven't been met by this date, registration will open to non-members at a cost of \$75.

Contact president@vmgedmonton.ca to secure your spot!

VMG GOALS

To attract and develop an active, participatory and committed membership

To serve as a unified voice for managers of volunteer programs

To provide a variety of opportunities for the membership including professional development, education and networking

To increase awareness and visibility of managers of volunteer programs as professionals

Board Reports

March 2010

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Exciting news! VMG will be hosting the Leadership Institute Tier 2 training on May 5 & 6/10 at Old Timer's Cabin. Registration is now open and limited to 25 participants. This is sponsored by Voluntary Sector Services Branch, Alberta Culture & Community Spirit. See Resource Table for registration forms.
3. VMG has partnered with ECVO, RCVO, Volunteer Edmonton, and the City of Edmonton for 2 exciting workshops: April 8 – Creating Outstanding Volunteer Experiences and April 9 – Corporate Volunteering-The Top 7 Requests & the Bad, Better & Best Responses, presented by Chris Jarvis. \$20 per session and held at Grant MacEwan University. To register go to www.ecvo.ca
4. 2 member profiles – Leslie Cleary will introduce those members presenting their organizations and what they do in their position. This is your 5 minutes of fame to tell us what you do in your volunteer program!
5. Next program meeting: May 19, 2010. Same place, same time. Guest presenters: Brenda Murphy, Community Investment Manager for the Telus Corporation; a representative from a financial institution and a member from United Way. Topic: Corporate Volunteering. These 3 guest speakers will present to us on what they are looking for in projects in the community and how best to engage employees in your volunteer opportunities.

Don't forget to fill out your meeting evaluations and make our guests and new members feel welcome. Questions? Please see any Board member



- The Newfoundland and Labrador Administrators of Volunteer Resources will co-host this year's CAVR Conference. Visit our www.vmgedmonton.ca for more information
- Our AGM will take place on June 16. All members who have a paid membership for the 2009/2010 program year are invited to attend. More details in May
- 3rd annual Festival Volunteer Fair on May 12 at City Hall, from 11 am to 7 pm. Visit www.volunteeredmonton.com for more details

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Questions or comments about our newsletter or website? Story ideas for our next newsletter? Email us at info@vmgedmonton.ca.