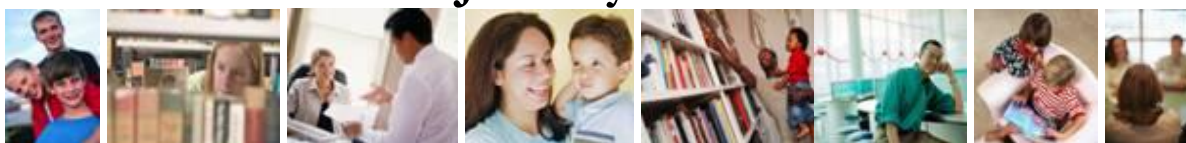


# Community Information & Volunteer Centre CIVC Bulletin Board

January 2009



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## Local News

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### **New Coordinator for CIVC**

Over the past years, I have enjoyed working with Kelowna Community Resources as Coordinator for Community Information and Volunteer Centre. However, I felt it was time to take my career in a different direction and move onto new opportunities and challenges, and I will be joining the Central Okanagan Foundation (COF) as Grants Manager. I look forward to my continued association with the not-for-profit sector and community development as Grants Manager with the COF.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Coordinator with Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC). It is with great pleasure to announce that Dawn Wilkinson will assume the position of CIVC's coordinator within Kelowna Community Resources beginning January 5, 2009. Dawn has been involved with CIVC as a trainer for the Overview of Volunteer Management course for over two years. Dawn brings with her a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and professionalism. Some of you may have met and worked with Dawn during her position as the Restorative Justice Program coordinator with The Boys and Girls Clubs.

Dawn can be reached at:

Phone: 250.763.8008 E.24  
Fax: 250.763.7608  
E-mail: [informkelowna@kcr.ca](mailto:informkelowna@kcr.ca)

Warm regards –  
Cheryl Miller

### **Nominations to Recognize Outstanding Citizens** ***34th Annual Civic and Community Awards***

For 34 years, the City of Kelowna has formally recognized the efforts of outstanding citizens. This is your chance to nominate an outstanding volunteer, artist, athlete, athletic team, or business that helped make Kelowna an extraordinary place to live in the year 2008! Category finalists and award recipients will be honoured during a gala dinner ceremony on Thursday, April 30, 2009.

Nomination forms available January 5, 2009 at [www.kelowna.ca](http://www.kelowna.ca); Parkinson Recreation Centre, Kelowna City Hall, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Community Information and Volunteer Centre, Kelowna Family YMCA-YWCA, and all libraries.

**Deadline for Nominations: 12:00 noon, Friday, February 13, 2009.**

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## Federal News

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### The Weiler Award

Presented annually, The Weiler Award acknowledges and honours exceptional contributions to community and social development in Canada, and recognizes outstanding dedication by individuals, groups or organizations to social development/social justice causes through co-operative linkages and collaboration among individuals, groups, agencies and organizations. The individual, group or organization honoured by this award is involved in social development as a catalyst for co-operation, social inclusiveness and creative response to social needs in both occupational and volunteer endeavors.

Complete a nomination by:

- provide a description in 300 words or less of the candidate's achievements, the nature and impact of the activities involved and the audiences reached;
- prepare a one-page biography of the person or a short profile of the organization or group; and
- obtain three letters of support.

**The nomination documents should be forwarded by March 15, 2009 to:**

Weiler Award Trust  
Attention: Ms. Gweneth Gowanlock  
1001-44 Emmerson Ave.  
Ottawa, ON K1Y 2L8  
Ph: 613-728-1442  
Email: Tweetzero@aol.com

### Report Examining Welfare Levels in Canada Released

While incomes for most Canadians receiving social assistance were stuck far below the poverty line, some cracked that line in 2007, the newest report by the National Council of Welfare says. But tough economic times means it will be hard to really break through, unless comprehensive, nationwide action is taken, says the advisory body to the federal government. Welfare Incomes, 2006 and 2007 looked at the circumstances of Canadians on welfare in all provinces and territories. The study found that in the case of the lone parent with a preschool-age child living in Quebec, welfare income for 2007 reached 100% of the Market Basket Measure (MBM), a poverty line measurement that takes into account the cost of meeting basic needs in different parts of Canada.

At the same time, however, the report found that single employable people receive welfare incomes at less than half of the MBM in most provinces, far below any measure of poverty or decency. These incomes range from a low of 27% of the MBM to a mere 67% in the best of cases. The council is also concerned about the maze of rules and regulations that can trap welfare recipients and often discourages or even prohibits them from helping themselves out of poverty.

For more information, and to download the full report, visit: [www.ncwcnbes.net](http://www.ncwcnbes.net).

### Report Emphasizes Benefits of Strategic Planning

A recent study by **The Offord Group, Innovative Research Group** and **Canadian Fundraiser** shows senior organizational leaders who engage in strategic planning believe the process is very important to the overall success of their campaigns. In a summary of the results released by the Offord Group, 56% of respondents say it is extremely important and 32% say it is very important.

The purpose of the survey was to understand the degree to which organizations undertake strategic planning before launching a campaign, and how strategic planning may or may not impact fundraising success. The report highlights the contribution of strategic planning to stronger internal relationships, better recruitment, retention, and training, and successfully reaching campaign goals.

For more information, and to download the full report, visit: [www.theoffordgroup.com](http://www.theoffordgroup.com). (PDF)

### New Awards Honour Immigrants' Contributions to Canada

*Canadian Immigrant Magazine* has teamed up with **RBC** to introduce a national awards program designed to celebrate the achievements of immigrants from across the country. **Canadian Immigrant's People's Choice Awards** recognizes the "Top 25 Canadian Immigrants of 2009" and seeks to uncover and celebrate the untold stories and remarkable achievements of outstanding Canadian immigrants. Nominees would be people who moved to Canada from another country and have since contributed to the rich diversity and success of this country. Achievements can be either professional or personal and nominees must hold landed immigrant or citizen status in Canada. Nominations will be accepted until January 30, 2009. Winners will be recognized in an upcoming issue of the magazine, as well as receive a commemorative plaque and a \$250 donation toward an authorized Canadian charity of their choice.

For more information, and to make a nomination, visit: [www.canadianimmigrant.ca/top25](http://www.canadianimmigrant.ca/top25).

### Imagine Canada Publishes Open Letter from Canadian Charities

Canada's charities and nonprofits recently published an open letter to **Stephen Harper** in select newspapers across the country, urging the Prime Minister to consider the important role of charities and nonprofits in assisting Canadians and communities, particularly during periods of economic hardship. The letter, prepared by **Imagine Canada** and published in the **Calgary Herald**, **Ottawa Citizen** and **La Presse**, urges the Prime Minister to maintain existing levels of funding to Canada's charities and nonprofits through its grants and contributions programs, and to consider special short-term measures that will have an important stimulative effect on individual and corporate giving.

The signatories note that during the past two years, the federal government has introduced tax measures that have, in those economic circumstances, proven very effective in stimulating new charitable gifts. Short-term stimulative tax measures can leverage private giving and assist in preserving and increasing critical donor revenues at a time when these funds will be needed most.

For more information, visit: [www.imaginecanada.ca](http://www.imaginecanada.ca) (PDF)

## Fraser Institute Releases 2008 Generosity Index

Interest in the charitable sector is heightened each year as the holiday season approaches. The charitable sector depends on the generosity of thousands of ordinary citizens who donate privately to charities to enhance the quality of life in their communities and beyond. The **Fraser Institute's** annual *Generosity Index* measures this private monetary generosity using readily available data on the extent and depth of charitable donations, as recorded on personal income tax returns in Canada and the United States. As in previous years, the 2008 index reveals a substantial generosity gap between these two countries, with almost 30% of US citizens filing tax returns reporting charitable activity, as opposed to only 24.7% of Canadians.

For more information, and to download the full report, visit: [www.fraserinstitute.org](http://www.fraserinstitute.org).

## More Bosses Screening Potential Employees on Facebook

According to a recent report, 22% of hiring managers surveyed indicated that they do screen potential employees through the social networking site, Facebook. This is up from 11% in 2006. Of these, 34% have found content that has made them drop the candidate, with 41% suggesting that information about drugs and alcohol played a part in their decision. Further, 40% found that inappropriate or provocative photographs and information were also reasons for not continuing with a candidate.

Hiring managers also commented on poor communication skills, lying about qualifications, candidates using discriminatory remarks related to race, gender or religion, and an unprofessional screen name. Despite this, 24% of these hiring managers found information that helped solidify their decision to hire a candidate. Information included good communication skills and having a professional site that conveyed a wide range of interests. -- *Careerbuilder.com*

## Volunteer Canada Looking for Photographs and Videos of Your Volunteers at Work

In 2009, National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, and while this may seem far away, at **Volunteer Canada** their planning is in full swing - and they want you to play a role. Between now and January 23, 2009, they are seeking photos and video footage of your organization in action as part of a new effort to create a portal of stories and information on the NVW 2009 website.

A key thing to remember is that videos and photographs do not need to be professionally done. A team of video editors will work with the footage, add your logo and website, and then upload it onto the NVW website.

Upload videos to: [drop.io](http://drop.io)

E-mail photographs to: [outreach@volunteer.ca](mailto:outreach@volunteer.ca).

For more information on the project, or for more instructions on how to upload your videos, please e-mail [outreach@volunteer.ca](mailto:outreach@volunteer.ca).

## Charity Disbursement Rules Set to Change in 2009

The **Canada Revenue Agency** will be changing its disbursement rules as of 2009. Under the *Income Tax Act*, all charities are subject to certain rules that require them to spend money on program

activities. These are called the disbursement quota rules. One of these rules requires charities to spend 3.5% of the value of all of their property not used directly in charitable activities or administration. This rule ensures that charities do not merely accumulate funds without putting them to charitable use.

Until now, this rule only applied to charitable foundations, but as of 2009, it will apply to all charitable organizations. As a transitional measure, charitable organizations that were registered prior to March 23, 2004, were formerly exempt from this rule. The exemption no longer applies, commencing with fiscal periods that begin in 2009.

For more information, visit: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca).

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## Funding and Resources

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### Searching for Human Resources?

[WorkInNonProfits.ca](http://WorkInNonProfits.ca) is an all-Canadian non-profit employment site connecting non-profits across Canada with the human resources they need.

The Supplier Directory at <http://workinnonprofits.ca/index?sel=sp> is a listing of individuals and companies that supply a diversity of services and products to non-profit organizations. Suppliers can post profiles available for public viewing free of charge. Examples include consultants, bookkeepers, event coordinators, advisors, website developers, software vendors and more!

### In Need of Discount Software?

Canadian and American charities with charitable status are eligible to access a variety of discounted software products from major developers such as Adobe and Microsoft at **TechSoup**.

Giftworks (which includes Giftworks Volunteers), a primary donor for event management software, has their fundraising and event software donated to TechSoup which is available for only a \$25 administration fee.

For online forums where individuals can request recommendations, visit: <http://www.techsoup.org/fb/>.

For more information, visit: <http://www.techsoup.org/tools/howtousetechsoup/>.

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## Education and Training

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### Enterprising Non-Profits Launch "Ask the Business Expert"

In collaboration with NetImpact, ENP is excited to announce the newest addition to their Ask the Expert web service: "[Ask a Business Expert](#)".

- Use the website to submit your questions that will be answered by a business professional.
- Requesting basic information? Visit the [FAQ](#) section which contains answers to questions such as:
  - Why should I create a business plan and what should the business plan include?
  - How can I come up with a business that will be able to compete?
  - What are the various financing options for a social enterprise?
  - What is patient capital?

### Canadian Evaluation Society's Essential Skills Series

Are you looking for comprehensive training on program evaluation? We will again be facilitating the Canadian Evaluation Society's Essential Skills Series in Kelowna this March and June.

This series of four workshops is targeted to individuals looking for a basic introduction or refresher on the main concepts in program evaluation, or those responsible for performance management in their organization.

For more information contact [Erica Bell-Lowther](#).

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Do you have news related to volunteer management, volunteerism, or the voluntary sector such as workshops, events etc that you wish to share with your colleagues? Send Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC) your information at [informkelowna@kcr.ca](mailto:informkelowna@kcr.ca) by the 20th of the month.

This Bulletin is a publication of Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC). To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to [informkelowna@kcr.ca](mailto:informkelowna@kcr.ca)

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**Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC) is a program of Kelowna Community Resources. Go to [www.kcr.ca](http://www.kcr.ca) for more information about KCR and CIVC. Be sure to add or update- your volunteer and/ or organization information in the online Directory of Community Services.**