

This issue is dedicated to the visionary leadership in each of us. We hope you're taking time for reflection, for reaching out for inspiration, information and support. [info@ucscoop.com](mailto:info@ucscoop.com)

## Leading Change

What do **story telling, succession planning and defining a brand** for the social services sector have in common?

They're each strategies proposed for increasing community (serving) capacity in BC. And they're each the basis for ongoing working groups emerging from the Co-op's *Leading Change* event (April 28-29).

The Co-op convened the event in response to what we've been hearing from members and through our consulting work: People calling for greater innovation, pro-activeness, and solidarity in work for community well-being.

Stepping back from the day-to-day issues and crises in our communities/organizations, what are the big picture strategies and initiatives – the ones with a 5-15 year timeframe -- that we feel called to engage with?

Inspired by the provocative proposition:

**We lead change with passion, power and wisdom**

and using the dynamic Open Space process, sixty five leaders, emerging leaders, visionary activists and social entrepreneurs began a process.

Individual participants proposed eighteen key issues ranging from strategic use of information technology, to cultivating youth leaders, and leveraging the economic clout of

the sector.

Small groups drawn to those issues met for intense and rich dialogue. See [here](#) (pgs 4-33) for brief summaries. And from those dialogues emerged the six strategy groups. ([Click here](#)) for a concise overview of the ongoing work groups.)

The ethos running through the event was this: **If we are the ones we've been waiting for, what are we waiting for?**

So we invite you to join this process.

We're confident that you'll be inspired by some aspect. Either an action plan will speak to your heart, or one of the dialogue summaries, or your own passion, power and wisdom will emerge through a new theme you convene.

The United Community Services Co-op's Board of Directors is committed to ongoing support for *Leading Change*, including hosting a second gathering this September 22 and/or 23. **(Mark your calendar!)**

And it takes all of us -- to create greater cohesiveness and clarity of purpose, and to actualize the powerful visions we have.

Plug in by checking out the *Leading Change* [website](#), or by contacting:

- a dialogue convenor
- an action plan convenor, or
- United Community Services Co-op: [info@ucscoop.com](mailto:info@ucscoop.com)

**Wonderful fact:** Chris Corrigan, our event facilitator, ranked *Leading Change* in the top five of ~100 Open Space events he's facilitated.