

# THE <sup>Big</sup> SCOOP

What's happening at United Community Services Co-op

#13 – February 24, 2006

Perhaps scant news is good news re the Provincial Budget... Federally, here's the new **NDP shadow cabinet**. We hope you'll think first of collaborative and cooperative solutions. Feel free to contact us with ideas, challenges, musings: [info@ucscoop.com](mailto:info@ucscoop.com) or 604-718-8292.

## → Succession Planning Event

By popular demand the Co-op will host a half day workshop for senior managers and board members: **Succession Planning: A Strategy for Success** (May 15 at a Lower Mainland venue). The goal: Supporting members to prepare for when key people retire or move to other opportunities.

Participants will learn what a comprehensive succession plan should include and map out the steps they need to take in their organization. If yours is one of the 79% with no succession plan, we hope you'll Mark Your Calendar for May 15. For more information or to express interest, please contact [John Neilson](#) by Mid-March.

## → VOCBC\*: What We Know

Thirty people from across the voluntary/nonprofit sector launched five working groups at a VOCBC members meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The groups will strengthen the sector's collective direction/voice by focusing on these five themes:

1. Recognition (of our work's value)
2. Sector Capacity
3. Engagement (Recruitment & Retention)
4. Education and Training
5. Research and Development

Each group's starting point was the How and Who outlined in VOCBC's [What We Know](#) Report.

The Co-op's CEO Tim Beachy does extensive pro-bono work with VOCBC because of its strategic role as convener for the sector, and the potential for collective/collaborative solutions.

\* **VOCBC** = Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC

## → Mapping Communities

The Co-op is planning to take its work on mapping BC's social economy to the next level: Supporting specific communities – defined by either geography or affinity – to achieve their goals using the survey/online "mapping" system we've developed. We're looking for partners with specific goals/initiatives in mind where mapping assets (people, initiatives, resources, etc.) will help spark community development. If you have suggestions, please contact [Kate Sutherland](#).

## → Leadership Development

Six Co-op leaders and six Vancity leaders joined together on January 24-25 to learn "the leader's discipline of non-directive coaching" thanks to our partnership with **re-find the future** and **Vancity**. The workshop intentionally cross-pollinated the community and corporate sectors. Participants appreciated the perspectives and insights from "another world", and almost all have joined an ongoing working group on "What supports [sector] leadership positions being attractive, healthy and sustainable?"

The Co-op is exploring ways to extend its partnership with **re-find** to create other accessible leadership development opportunities for Co-op members.

## → CED's National Conference

March 15-18 Vancouver will host the Canadian Community Economic Development Network's annual conference. Its 50+ workshops offer great opportunities to learn about innovative models and to rub shoulders with experienced practitioners. [Click here](#) for more info.

Whether or not you can make the conference, you are cordially invited to the official launch of the BC SER's "A Social Economy Showcase – BC Stories" on Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Wall Centre Sheraton Hotel. No RSVP nec.

\* **BCSER** = BC Social Economy Roundtable.