

THE ^{Big} SCOOP

What's happening at United Community Services Co-op

#9 – August 30, 2005

Like school kids, in many ways our year starts in the September. Stepping back, it's great to ask: *How am I doing? What's my leading edge? Where can I get the support and inspiration to keep innovating?* If you see ways the Co-op can help, let us know: info@ucsko-op.com

→ **AGM: Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger**

We're now into our eighth year! And it keeps getting better as past successes open new avenues and more interesting doors. Member or not, we hope you'll join us September 22-23 for:

- Reflections from **Carole James** (Leader of the Opposition) on her vision.
- Deepening of the **Leading Change** Initiative.
- A **panel on Social Enterprise** with stories from champions of four great BC initiatives.
- The latest from MCFD's Chief Financial Officer, Sarf Ahmed, on the budget process, contracting, client management systems, etc.
- An exploration of how Branding -- a tool that's been so powerful for corporations -- can help the social services sector capture the hearts and minds of the policy makers and the public. Dinner Keynote by Valerie Elliott of iD2.

→ **INTERESTING WORK**

Here's a small sample of the work we're up to:

- In our role as Secretariat to the BC Social Economy Roundtable, the Co-op recently hosted Allen Zeesman – Director General of Social Development Canada and the Federal lead for social economy policy. Zeesman was impressed with the caliber of people and initiatives in BC during his three days in the lower mainland, and shared his passion for “social purchasing”.
- We're working with small group of lower mainland nonprofit childcare providers. Goal: To develop a model for improving efficiencies through a casual staff pool that's shared.
- On August 10th we put in a strong bid to be lead organizer for the second *Canadian Conference on Social Enterprise* to take place in Vancouver in October/November 2006. Fingers crossed!

→ **SUCCESSION BLUES**

Recently released Alberta stats reveal that within the next two years, 36% of Alberta nonprofit executives surveyed plan to leave their current leadership position and this increases to 82% within five years. Also that:

- 86% of EDs surveyed said their Boards have no succession plan for their position.
- 62% of EDs surveyed haven't identified a staff member experienced enough to lead the organization upon their departure.
- 42% of nonprofits surveyed have had two or more EDs over the past 5 years.

For the full press release/report, [Click Here](#).

Anecdotal information for BC suggests retiring baby boomers will similarly change the “face” of nonprofits in the next few years. The Co-op's *Leading Change Working Group on Succession and Leadership* wants to know how much.

Executive Directors: Please watch for a survey they'll be sending out in September. Your prompt and completely confidential response will help paint a picture of the scene in BC.

To get involved, or for more information, contact the Co-op's [David Nanton](#).

→ **EXPLORING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE?**

Co-op CEO Tim Beachy is one of over twenty-five excellent resource people presenting at the Sept 26-27 conference on social enterprise -- **Capital Change: The New Return on Investment Conference**. Hosted in Abbotsford by the new *Fraser Valley Centre for Social Enterprise*, the conference will bring together business leaders, nonprofit directors, community economic development experts and social entrepreneurs. [More info](#).