

THE BIG SCOOP

What's Happening at the United Community Services Co-op



#23 – June 6, 2007

We've renewed the **Co-op's Website** to simplify getting around and to bring content up to date. Take a peek, share it with colleagues, and let us know any feedback!

→ **Leading Change (2007)**

Our Leading Change event (June 18-19) has struck a chord: We had to close registration on June 1st. And we've heard more than a few people saying "It's the place to be!"

If you've not registered but would like to, please email **Alison**. Knowing how many we're turning away will help make the case for another Leading Change event soon -- as a potent way to support innovation, collaboration and emerging leaders.

Building on core funding from **Vancouver Foundation**, we are grateful to our corporate sponsors: **Coast Capital, the co-operators, Opus Framing and Art Supplies; Canadian Rural Partnership, and Vancity.**

Between them they have contributed \$14,000 – allowing us to provide bursaries and travel subsidies, and to support action plans and working groups emerging from the event.

To stay in the loop, **click here!**

→ **Focus on Policy: Social Economy**

We are excited by the BC Social Economy Roundtable's new focus on specific policy areas/ having a positive and targeted social economy impact. So far there are three working groups:

1. Employment for disabled persons
2. Tax incentives for investing in social economy and community economic development initiatives, and
3. Streamlining the use of consultants for social economy endeavours.

The work is self-funded by BCSER members, and the hope is that it will be the basis for future funding proposals. The Co-op is proud to be playing a central role in the Roundtable. For more information, contact **Justin Ho**, BCSER Secretariat.

→ **Co-op Stakeholder Process**

As many have long known, change is coming for client information systems in BC. Both MCFD* and MEIA** are exploring options for integrated case management "in a transformed world" – i.e. where social programs are more decentralized and more responsive to clients' needs.

Understanding the fundamental impact that information systems have on social service agencies, two members have put up \$5000 each for the Co-op to convene a sector-based stakeholder process.

The goal is to name the crux of the issue: What core purpose and principles should shape new integrated client management systems?

As Tim Beachy sees it, the way information flows and is handled is at the core of the "business" social service agencies are in. Change the information system and you change the relationships/business.

The stakeholder process will be starting soon. It's another great example of how members are "Better Together". Please share any ideas/leads with **Tim Beachy**, and stay tuned for updates.

* MCFD = Ministry of Children and Family Development.

** MEIA = Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance

→ **Two Key Sector Events**

We send best wishes to our colleagues attending two key upcoming meetings:

- Federation of Child & Family Services AGM, June 7-8th at the Penticton Lakeside Resort
- BCACL's AGM and Conference – 'Aiming High & Leading the Way', June 14-16 at the Prince George Civic Centre. **Click here** for details or to register.