

Volunteer Edmonton News Update – September 15, 2008

The Volunteer Management Group Needs YOU!

Members of VMG are invited to apply as board members. There are several open board positions: President, President-Elect, Special Projects Chair, Program Chair, Professional Development Chair and a Treasurer. So if you'd like to exercise your leadership skills, coordinate events or if you're a whiz with finances, contact info@vmgedmonton.ca to find out how you can become a board member.

The Edmonton Engage page seeking sponsors

Due to a lack of sponsorship, the Engage page will not be publishing on September 7, 14 and 21; October 12 and November 2, 9, 23 and 30. Help support the Engage page by talking to your corporate sponsors to see if they would be willing to sponsor the page, send a letter of support to the publisher of the Edmonton Journal, John J. MacDonald III or consider paying for one week's worth of Engage as a service to the entire nonprofit sector. The price would be \$4,000 plus GST. A discount may be available. Contact Shari at engage@thejournal.canwest.com for more information about Engage.

Community Spirit Deadline EXTENDED

The deadline to apply is now December 31, 2008. Visit the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit [website](#) to download the guidelines and applications.

Perspectives on Labour Shortages: Exploring the Education-Jobs Gap

This two-day conference examines changing state of the Canadian labour market, and the trends in education and training. The conference features three distinguished key note speakers, a panel consisting of representatives from government, labour, business and the community, and a variety of sessions that looks at high school training programs, immigration, aboriginal youth and more. Visit [WLN website](#) for pricing detail, information on the presenters and how to register.

HR Council: Labour Force Study

The HR Council for the Voluntary and Nonprofit Sector will be releasing their final report on the Labour Force Study in March 2009. The study examines paid employment in the sector and provides information on how organizations can develop strategies that ensures access to necessary talent and skills. Two reports--*A Framework For Understanding the Sector's Labour Force* and *Findings from Canada-wide surveys of Employers and Employees* are available on the HR Council's [website](#).

Deadline for the Community Action Project is September 19!

Alberta YOUTHVolunteer! is inviting youth ages 14 to 21 to apply for the Community Action Project (CAP). It's an opportunity to gain the skills, resources and training needed to put ideas into action. Selected youth will be sponsored to attend the CAP conference at Camp Warwa from October 17 to 19. For more information, contact Leslie Oliver at leslie@youthvolunteer.ca. View the [flyer](#) and [application form](#).

Nominations for the Stars of Alberta Award

Send in your nominations of exceptional volunteers who have made a lasting impact on the

community by September 26, 2008. Six awards, two for each category of Youth, Adult and Senior, will be given on December 5, 2008. Visit www.wildrosefoundation.ca/stars/default.aspx.

VolWeb – Post Your Events Now!

Take advantage of this user-friendly, easy-to-access website to post your short-term volunteer opportunities! The website allows people to search according to location, date, event type and position type. Keep in mind that VolWeb is not used for ongoing volunteer recruitment opportunities. Check it out at www.volweb.ca.

Barb's Bytes – Article on Orientation

In the July/August edition of Barb's Bytes, Barb Gemmell discusses the importance of how to design and deliver orientation. She poses the question, "What would someone need to know to feel comfortable and competent in carrying out this position?" She offers suggestions on how to develop an orientation strategy that keeps volunteers coming back. To sign up for the newsletter or to share what you have done to ensure your orientation connects the volunteer to your organization, contact Barb at bgemmell@mts.net.