

# THE <sup>Big</sup> SCOOP

What's happening at United Community Services Co-op

#5 – February 23, 2005

Head's up that the Co-op will move in early April! Our neighbours are moving, and we want to go with them, to Alberni and Thurlow in Downtown Vancouver. More space, more light, and greater efficiencies. We can hardly wait! We'll keep you posted.

## → MAJOR ROLE in BC's Social Economy

In January the BC Roundtable on the Social Economy asked the Co-op to serve as its Secretariat. This honour entails providing sponsorship, coordination and administration for the Roundtable and the four prongs of its 14 month initiative to advance the Social Economy in BC.

And there's more: The Co-op is responsible for one of the prongs: **Mapping the Social Economy** of

BC. With funding from Western Economic Diversification and VanCity Credit Union, we'll develop a database, and text and visual maps of the key players, financial instruments, innovative approaches and enterprising activities of BC.

### Roundtable Members

BC Co-operative Assn, IMPACS, BC Community Economic Development Network, Ecotrust, VanCity Credit Union, VanCity Community Fdn, Aboriginal Business Services Network, Community Futures Assn, VOCBC and UCSC.

The initiative's three other prongs and associated lead organizations are:

- **Defining the Social Economy:** Clarifying what we mean by the term and how it relates to the particular context of BC. (BCCA)
- **Telling our Story** to better understand BC's rich history and well-developed social economy: our resource-based communities, Aboriginal heritage, entrepreneurial non-profits and strong co-operative, credit union and CED movements. (IMPACS)
- **Regional Dialogue Series:** Exploring the regional differences and developing a strategic agenda for policy and advocacy work to advance BC's social economy. (BCCEDNET)

## → CONSULTING WORK UNDERWAY

In the past year demand for the Co-op's consulting services has **doubled**. Here's a snapshot of current contracts:

1. Reviewing an organization's facilities/use and long-term effectiveness
2. Supporting three organizations to form a co-op for shared community development
3. Helping two agencies merge operations and explore a joint governance structure.
4. Developing a co-op's associate membership program
5. Re-drafting and implementing HR policies
6. Developing a map of structures, programs and joint training opportunities for three provincial organizations
7. Developing strategies for co-op ownership of a new facility
8. Creating a unified employee management system for the casual staff of seven groups
9. Conducting a benefit package review
10. Conducting a compensation review
- 11-16. Six contracts supporting organizations to select Client Management Systems!

Call us if there's an issue or task we might help **you** with: 604-875-9700.

## → MARK YOUR CALENDAR: April 28-9

Join with 80-100 current and emerging leaders in a dynamic discovery of our individual and collective leadership potential: our *Leading Change Initiative*.

## → REFERRALS WANTED

Help us map the Social Economy of BC. Take five minutes to send us a link to: who you would talk to first if you were mapping BC • your favourite social enterprise • an amazing social entrepreneur • an innovative CED project • cool events and networks • great communication newsletters listservs/websites. [info@ucscoop.com](mailto:info@ucscoop.com).