

THE ^{Big} SCOOP

What's happening at United Community Services Co-op

#14 – April 10, 2006

Succession Planning -- A Strategy for Success has been moved to a date in June to be announced soon! Contact **John Neilson** to register or for more info.

Other suggestions, questions, reflections? Contact **info@ucscoop.com** or 604-718-8292.

→ Next Steps for the Co-op

The Co-op's Board has noted the continued "convenor" and "initiator" roles the Co-op is playing and is working to clarify strategies and structures to support this important work:

- The Board engaged branding expert Marc Stoiber to help us grapple with what we mean by "cooperation" and "innovation" in our sector. For two stimulating half-days during our March Board retreat, we also stepped back to consider how and where to focus our efforts.
- At the same board retreat we began to clarify a framework for engaging in project management. Increasingly the Co-op is approached to take on research, consulting and coordinating projects, or sees opportunities for Co-op-led initiatives. (Examples include the Mapping and Stakeholder Engagement work we've been doing.) The draft framework covers issues like: What do we say yes to and why, and what principles and practices should inform our work?

For more information, contact **Tim Beachy**.

→ Who do YOU know

Growing the Co-op benefits everyone, so we've one simple request of you. But first 3 reasons to take the five minutes: As the membership grows:

1. The cash pool grows, and your rate of return will increase.
2. We're able to do more – e.g. more favourable deals and co-operative solutions
3. We've a stronger voice with funders, government, and policy makers.

Please take 5 minutes now to flip your rolodex or scan your address book. If you send 2-3 contact names/info to **Tim Beachy**, he'll take care of the follow up! It doesn't get any easier!

→ Strategic Consulting

The Co-op's Strategic Consulting Partnership is flourishing. Here's a slice of the latest news:

- Family Services of the North Shore has engaged David Nanton CA, through the SCP's Interim Management Services, to cover the extended absence of their Dir. of Finance. As well as preparing for their audit, David is reviewing systems and procedures with recommendations including an opportunity to increase income by \$20,000. Doug Sabourin says he is very grateful for the short term turn around of work as well as the consultation and advice of an experienced practitioner.
- Tim Beachy is at various stages in six initiatives to find co-operative solutions to issues facing small and large cross sections of the community sector.
- On April 3rd we were very pleased to officially welcome Alison Marshall into the SC Partnership -- appreciative of her 20 years experience in the community services sector. Most recently, Alison was Director of Operations and Project Management for Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, while also completing her Masters in Business Administration. She enjoys working with different groups, different people and to learn about and support their passions. She's also an avid player of recreational soccer.

→ Co-op Immersion -- Italian Style

If you'd like to infuse inspiration and a fresh sense of possibility into your organization it's hard to beat the Bologna Summer Program for Co-operative Studies sponsored by the BC Cooperative Association and Vancity. Now in its 5th year, this intensive 3 week course blends site visits, rich dialogue with Europe's leading scholars on co-operative enterprises, and the sensory delights of Northern Italy. The Co-op's Tim Beachy is an alumnus.

Dates: June 26-July 14. **Click here** for info.