



## Volunteer Calgary welcomes new President and CEO, Jamie Niessen & new volunteers to Board of Directors at AGM

Volunteer Calgary recently held its AGM (Annual General Meeting) on June 17, 2011 at the Cardel Theatre. Over 100 people were in attendance as members, clients and stakeholders visited with staff to learn more about the programs and services offered by Volunteer Calgary.

Jamie Niessen, President and CEO officially welcomed the group to the event, and expressed his appreciation for recently being selected to his new role at Volunteer Calgary and his interest in helping to move the organization forward in the years to come.

As part of the AGM, a number of Board of Directors were selected to sit on the Board for the 2011– 2012 term, these volunteers include Lisa Blanchette, Christopher Dougherty, Karen Gallagher-Burt, Janeen Scott, Colin Cochran and Dianne Liwanag. [Learn More](#). Special thanks were also given to the following Board members stepping down from their positions: Shelagh Lennon, Norm Kelly, Janice Florence, Ashley Cormier and Darriel Bateman.

Those in attendance also had a chance to hear our keynote speaker, Jocelyne Daw, author of "Breakthrough Non-Profit Branding". She shared with the group her insight on the impact that other non-profit organizations throughout the world were having with their renewed branding strategies and making stronger connections with stakeholders and constituents to deliver clear and meaningful messaging about their organization.

Below are a few photos from the event.



JUNE 2011

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### For Members Only

Make your **Membership benefits** work for you!

- Volunteer Calgary selects member organizations to promote on social media sites, newspapers and other media sources
- Opportunity to become a Community Service Learning partner
- Complimentary access to the Canadian Directory of Foundations and Corporations
- Reduced rate on all Volunteer Calgary training programs.

...for a complete listing to all of your benefits with Volunteer Calgary, [click here!](#)

## New Templates posted to the Member site

A number of new templates have been posted to the Volunteer Calgary Member site. They include:

*Volunteer Timesheet Template*  
*Volunteer Application Template*  
*Volunteer Position Evaluation Template*

To access the Member site, [click here](#). Access the "Useful Documents and Links" page.

## Louise Dean Memorial Award at the University of Calgary

The Louise Dean Memorial Award was established in 1988 in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Louise Dean to the Calgary community.

The award is presented to a student entering their 2,3 or 4<sup>th</sup> year at the University of Calgary and is based on academic merit and strong commitment to volunteer service.

U of C scholarship programs provide meaningful recognition and encouragement for academic excellence. Volunteer Calgary is proud to support student learning, volunteer contribution and honour the legacy of a remarkable woman through the Louise Dean Memorial Award. We congratulate Lillian Chan, this year's Award recipient. She shares her story:

*I have just completed my 3rd year of Health Sciences at the University of Calgary, and I was recently accepted into medical school, which I plan to begin in the fall.*

*A great deal of my volunteer work began with my church. I have had the opportunity to teach various Sunday school classes to children, teens, and adults over a number of years and this year, I spent 6 months teaching a grade 6 Sunday school class. I loved getting to know their unique and dynamic personalities and to see their bright minds at work! I thoroughly enjoyed going to the Samaritan's Purse warehouse in Calgary to inspect Christmas shoeboxes and being an English editor for our church magazine.*

*Throughout my three years of university, I was also heavily involved as a group leader and club executive with a Student Union-sanctioned club on campus. This past year, I volunteered at the Alberta Children's Hospital with the Paediatric Emergency Medical Research Assistant Program. I enrolled patients from the Emergency Department for research studies which gave me wonderful opportunities to experience patient interaction in a hospital setting.*

*This summer I am looking forward to volunteering with a mission trip to Uzhgorod, Ukraine, where as part of a 6-member team, we plan to hold summer camps for groups of children. Ukraine has many social orphans and impoverished areas including the Roma settlements. We will host 3 different children's camps in partnership with the House of Mercy orphanage, and will also do humanitarian-based visitations to needy families and the regional hospital. This will be my third time traveling to Ukraine for missions, and I am*

Welcome,  
New Members!

### Canadian Badlands Passion Play Society

We produce the annual Passion Play every year in Drumheller, AB. We also operate a 2750 seat amphitheatre that is used for other events.

Be carried back 2000 years to the land and events that changed the course of history. This dramatic portrayal of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in an acoustically superb natural bowl amphitheatre will make you feel like you are actually there. The scripture-based script and music, realistic set and costumes, quality performances and remarkable similarity of the site to the Holy Land all add to the experience.

Performances are 3 hours long including a twenty minute intermission. Regular changes to the script, production, cast and set make each year's performance a unique one.. [Learn More.](#)

### Missing Children Society of Canada

When a child first goes missing, the police, the media and the community all rally together to help the terrified family search for their child, but as time goes by, that involvement gradually decreases, leaving the family to continue the search...seemingly alone.

It is for these families the Missing Children Society of Canada was established in 1986. Since that time, our unique and comprehensive search programs have assisted police and searching families in the active and ongoing search for missing children. [Learn More.](#)

### Helping Families Handle Cancer Foundation

We provide financial support to families whose children are battling cancer and are struggling to make ends meet. [Learn More.](#)

## Training Courses at Volunteer Calgary

Volunteer Calgary still has space to register in the following courses:

**'Elements of Volunteer Engagement'** (June 22 & 23, August 9 & 10, Sept 28 & 29, Oct 19 & 20, Nov 23 & 24)

This is our foundational training at Volunteer Calgary and is a prerequisite to most other courses offered. We've added an additional course in June to keep up with requested registration. Join us for 'EVE' and discover the key concepts integral to an up to date Volunteer Management program. Register early!

Click here for more courses and topics: <http://www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca/programs/workshops.aspx>

Check out what others are saying about Volunteer Calgary's [Training workshops](#)

## Volunteer Calgary Media Guide— 7th Edition

Your Patience has finally paid off !

The 7th Edition of the Volunteer Calgary Media Guide is available now, and can be purchased directly from our website. The 7th edition is jam-packed with information on local media types, social media channels and simple step by step guidelines to help your organization develop impactful communication pieces that generate the type of awareness your cause deserves!



We have also added a brand new section to this edition to help you select the most appropriate venue in Calgary to host your event; everything from press conferences to gala receptions and impromptu gatherings - all with your non-profit budget in mind.

Only a limited number of media guides have been produced so be the first to [purchase yours today.](#)

## VC Bits and Bytes

- [Zola](#) dancing to the music—Calgary Zoo
- New post to our [Blog](#)
- [CBCF Twitter feed](#)—sandwich boards are back in style.
- 5 new handy [web apps](#) to save you time and money.

### Association for Non-Profit Architectural Fieldwork (Alberta)

ANPAFA publishes a cultural magazine on architecture and urbanism, On Site review, national in focus, supported by arts & culture subsistence grants. We occupy a unique niche in Canadian architectural publishing – a venue for emerging designers, projects and ideas. We need help in a number of profile-raising areas including circulation management, the building of our web archives, and social media opportunities.

[Learn More.](#)

### Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation

Founded in 1991, the Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation (CEPF) was established as a registered not-for-profit organization to provide support for the students and teachers in Calgary and surrounding area.

For 20 years, CEPF has been making a positive impact on the lives of students by playing a key role in creating relevant partnerships between the business community and educators to create and deliver strong educational programs that encourage engaged citizenship.

Vision: To develop great citizens by creating relevant and sustainable partnerships between business and education.

Mission: At the heart of the CEPF mission is the student. The mission of the Foundation is "to enhance student learning opportunities by facilitating dynamic partnerships among business, educators, government and school communities." [Learn More.](#)

# PROFILE OF A PROFESSIONAL

## *This Month's Feature—Beth Espey*

Beth Espey has been working at the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank for the past 3 years, with 7 years of experience in the non-profit sector. After being hired out of her front-line volunteer position and into a volunteer management position at an animal shelter, Beth began her career in volunteer management. "I grew a lot through learning and networking as much as I could, and then it just evolved from there," Beth explains. She took many workshops, including training at Volunteer Calgary. When she graduated from the Non-Profit Management Certificate at Mount Royal University, Beth continued her career in a few local non-profits before landing her current job at the Food Bank. Who better to understand the impact of volunteers than Beth?

"We're always telling people that if volunteers don't show up, we don't operate," Beth states frankly. Last year, the Food Bank engaged 4,300 volunteers, which was equivalent to a whopping 95,900 working hours. With a paid staff of 40 people, including a Volunteer Resources support team of 3, it's a critical job to ensure volunteers are happily engaged in their work.

"What makes the Food Bank strong is that [volunteer engagement] is not a separate program. Each staff person is responsible for ensuring that their volunteers are greeted, supervised and recognized," as part of the team. "From our CEO to our front-line staff," Beth muses, "you don't really see that separation here."

In fact, every Food Bank staff person experiences the tasks of different volunteer shifts to ensure that they understand the importance of volunteer engagement at the Food Bank. "Our philosophy is that volunteers are our strength and primary resources [and] we want to communicate that every day."

There are 80 to 100 people volunteering at the Food Bank on an average day, involved at all different levels of the organization. Volunteer positions include sorting food at their 60,000 square foot warehouse, assembling food hampers, assisting on the distribution line, answering the request line, managing reception, data entry, driving, special event coordination, social media strategizing and mentoring staff. "When you come to the Food Bank, the people you see are volunteers. You can't tell the difference between staff and volunteers."



With so much going on, it can be challenging when "you never know what's going to happen. Every day is different, so I've learned that you've gotta roll with it. One day, you're writing a strategic plan and next day you're helping clean up spilled garbage!" But the best part is, "I always brag that we have the best volunteers in the city! My favourite part of the job is definitely the people. The staff and volunteers here are amazing and I have a ton of fun. I'm one of those lucky people who can say that I love my job."



If you think she's been busy at work, her home life has been busy this year as well! Beth has been occupied with setting up the bassinette and attending pre-natal classes in preparation to welcome a new Espey into the world. Beth also loves to participate in boot camps, and enjoys walking and running outdoors. "I LOVE Nose Creek Park." When Beth is at home, her TV indulgence is The Tudors and "basically everything in the historical section right now." Her favourite movie is Lion in Winter.

Best wishes from the staff at Volunteer Calgary, Beth. We know your team is going to miss you while you are on maternity leave!

- **Try** out every volunteer position you recruit for. "It will make it easier for you to address concerns when you've gone out and done that work."
- **"There are a lot of resources out there to help you, so learn as much as you can"** Take advantage of courses through [Volunteer Calgary](#) and CCVO. Attend [ADVR](#) meetings. Sign up for newsletters and websites.
- **"Get the lingo down."** Learn what all the acronyms stand for and pay attention to common terms. Learn the definitions!
- **Support** the staff in your organization to engage and supervise small groups of volunteers.
- **Learn** from the experiences of other people. "My trainer was kind of like my guru for a few years. I was lucky to have a mentor." Seek others who work in volunteer management who are willing to guide you on your career path.

~Beth Espey, Calgary Interfaith Food Bank

# New internship program allows students to build their skills while sharing them with the community.

The following is taken from a Volunteer Alberta News Release from May 30, 2011 describing a new internship program partnering with the Alberta government.

*New internship program allows students to build their skills while sharing them with community organizations Participants will also earn bursaries*

Alberta's new Serving Communities Internship Program (SCiP) will award Alberta post-secondary students a \$1,000 bursary for completing an internship with one of the province's nonprofit/voluntary organizations.

"This program is a great way to support students and organizations," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "The organizations get access to the specialized skills they need and the students get to build their resumes while giving back to their communities."

The program will be run in collaboration with Volunteer Alberta, benefiting from their extensive reach into Alberta's nonprofit/voluntary sector. Volunteer Alberta will work with organizations across the province to create a wide variety of meaningful internship experiences with two goals in mind -allowing students to gain practical experience in their fields and helping non-profit/voluntary sector organizations access a new pool of talented and skilled individuals.

"Students need opportunities that go beyond licking stamps and filing papers. By contributing energy and enthusiasm in a meaningful way, they will move the nonprofit/voluntary sector forward," said Karen Lynch, Executive Director of Volunteer Alberta. "The Serving Communities Internship Program not only invests in the brain power and new approaches the sector needs, but also positions Alberta's students to become some of the best-informed about the relevance and integration of the sector into every single Albertan's life."

The idea for the program was sparked by the Alberta Student's Executive Council, a group of student leaders representing the province's colleges, technical Institutes and undergraduate universities. The council saw it as a constructive way to help students with the costs of their education.

"We are thrilled to see the needs of Alberta students being addressed by the Government of Alberta in a way that benefits both the non-profit/voluntary sector and post-secondary students," said Timothy Jobs, Chair of Alberta Students' Executive Council. "It started as a solution-

based idea to increase affordability to our post-secondary system and stands to benefit thousands of Alberta students in communities across the province."

The Serving Communities Internship Program will be open to post-secondary students enrolled in any certificate, diploma, undergraduate, graduate or PhD program at one of Alberta's 26 publicly-funded post-secondary institutions. The program will welcome traditional internships and virtual internships, allowing students to offer their skills from anywhere in the province.

Volunteer Alberta is already working with community organizations to identify potential internship opportunities. The program will be open for student applications in the fall. In the first year of its three-year pilot, the program will award up to 500 bursaries. This number could grow up to 1000 bursaries in year three.

For more information visit, [www.joinscip.ca](http://www.joinscip.ca)

The Alberta government is working to build a better Alberta by fostering economic growth, strengthening our health and education systems, investing in infrastructure, supporting safe and strong communities and ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

For additional links, and information about this article please see the following.

[CBC](#)

[630 CHED](#)

The logo for the Serving Communities Internship Program (SCiP). The letters 'S', 'C', and 'P' are in a dark brown, bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' is in a bright pink color and has a small pink dot above it.

Serving Communities  
Internship Program

# Call for Community Service Learning Projects



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

From September to December 2011, a select number of students from the University of Calgary & Mount Royal University will be available to undertake short-term projects in Calgary. Another cohort of students will be available for projects between January and April, 2012.

Community Service Learning (CSL) is an educational partnership between a community organization (usually a non-profit organization) and an instructor and his/her students, in which all parties learn from one another as they serve together. Students perform a service for the community partner. The project or service is related to the skills and knowledge to be learned through the course. It could be a community-based research project, or the provision of a customized service that the community needs. In the past, students have:

- Conducted Surveys
- Developed a website
- Completed personal interviews
- Drafted a communications plan



Could your organization use assistance? Members of Volunteer Calgary who are interested in becoming a Community Service Learning Partner for the fall of 2011 are asked to contact [Buffy St. Amand](#). An information Bulletin and a CSL Project proposal form will be sent to those who are interested. Our goal is to make CSL partner selection by the end of August.

## Leadership Calgary releases Report to the Community 2010-2011

Want to learn more about Leadership Calgary and this past program year? Check out our [Report to the Community](#) for 2010-2011, and get to know this year's class!

Here's a quick look at what's inside this year's report:

This report was prepared to share highlights of our 12th year of the Leadership Calgary program with interested community members, partners, alumni, potential participants and future donors. It may also serve organizations wishing to sponsor their employees in future years. We also hope that it will spark interest in social change and inspire wise leadership for everyone who cares about our community.



## Online Communities

Be a part of our ever growing virtual communities of volunteers and advocates of volunteerism. Click and join!

facebook

twitter

## Dose of Inspiration

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

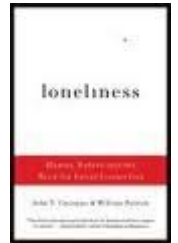
~Sherry Anderson



## What's New on the Library Shelves

**Loneliness : human nature and the need for social connection.** Cacioppo, John T, Patrick, William. 155.9 C119

A pioneering neuroscientist reveals the reasons for loneliness and what to do about it. The author's groundbreaking research topples one of the pillars of modern medicine and psychology: the focus on the individual as the unit of inquiry. By employing brain scans, monitoring blood pressure, and analyzing immune function, he demonstrates the overpowering influence of social context -a factor so strong that it can alter DNA replication.



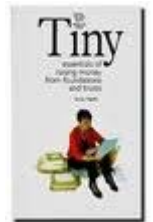
**Decision to volunteer: why people give their time and how you can engage them.** Gazley, Beth, Dignam, Monica. 361.37 G289

This book provides an in-depth exploration of why and in what circumstances people are willing to give their time to voluntary activities.



**Tiny essentials of raising money from foundations and trusts.** Habib, Jo.658.15224 H116

Trusts and foundations repay study and understanding from fundraisers simply because they have a lot of money and no other purpose than to give it away to charitable causes. By following the simple steps so clearly outlined in this small book you can increase your organisation's share of this money, by learning how to approach the right people at the right time in the right way for the right reasons.



For more information on our Library services, contact:

Valerie White ~ (403)231-1426 ~ [vc librarian@volunteercalgary.ab.ca](mailto:vc librarian@volunteercalgary.ab.ca)



**Leading, promoting, connecting and strengthening volunteerism.**

[www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca](http://www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca)

e-Volunteer Voice is published monthly for the benefit of Volunteer Calgary members.

For comments or to inquire about submitting content, email [communications@volunteercalgary.ab.ca](mailto:communications@volunteercalgary.ab.ca).

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