

Issue: Summer 2010



www.bccnnpd.ca
Ph: 604-870-5941
Toll Free: 1-877-388-8716



About the Centre

The BC Centre for Non-Profit Development (NPD) operates to build capacity in the non-profit sector in British Columbia. Our *vision* is for healthy, cohesive, and safe BC communities with services accessible to all. Our *mission* is to strengthen non-profit organizations' capacity to support individuals and communities in BC. The following article offers a response to a frequently asked question:

Hot Topic

Non-Profit, Not-for-Profit, Charity, or Society: What Difference Does it Make?

In B.C., the words 'non-profit' and 'not-for-profit' are often used to distinguish organizations that exist primarily to advance socially desirable outcomes, from business corporations which exist to generate monetary profit. Non-profits are usually incorporated societies, and often also registered charities. However, the various related terms are often used loosely, although they may have specific legal meanings. When one or more of the identifying terms applies to your organization, you should be careful to use it, particularly in legal, financial, and similar contexts.

The main terms are presented below, but are generalizations, as there are exceptions to most of these comments. It is important for each B.C. organization to determine which legal term(s) apply to it, and, if necessary, obtain appropriate advice as to its status. The terminology in other provinces is the same or very similar in relation to charitable registration, but not necessarily to incorporation. For example, a few provinces say "non-profit corporation" instead of "society".

- 'Non-profit': Legally, this means an organization that is registered as a non-profit under the Income Tax Act, which is relatively uncommon. Many societies and charities refer to themselves as "non-profits", although they are not registered as such. A variation is "not-for-profit", a term which has no general legal definition.
- 'Charity': This applies only to organizations registered as charities under the Income Tax Act. There are three main sub-types: registered (operating) charities; public foundations; and private foundations. 'Non-profits' and 'registered charities' are defined classes of taxpayers with particular rights and responsibilities. Registered charities rarely use the word "charity" in their names, but those that are foundations often include that word. Some registered charities refer to themselves as "having a tax number", instead of simply saying that they are charities. There are a variety of tax numbers (e.g. for HST and statutory deductions), and although virtually all non-profits have a tax number of one kind or another, that does not necessarily imply that they are also charities.
- 'Society' or 'Association': This means an organization that is incorporated under the Society Act (or its equivalent in another province), or federally under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act. Incorporation creates a legal entity and provides some structure, rights, and responsibilities. Most, but not all, societies use the word 'society' or 'association' in their name. However, not all do. In B.C., an unincorporated organization may also use those words.

About the Centre

What's New?

Centre Changes

Resources and Links

Lending Library

Upcoming Events

Contact Us:

www.bccnnpd.ca

nonprofit.development@ufv.ca

1-877-388-8716

A203 - 33844 King Rd.
Abbotsford BC V2S 7M8

Our office and resource library
are also shared by the:



All three centres are located in
the School of Criminology and
Criminal Justice at the:



There are about 25,000 societies incorporated under the Society Act in B.C., and about one-third of them are also registered charities of one type or another. There are about 85,000 registered charities in Canada, of all types, and most are incorporated. Relatively few organizations register as non-profits, as there are no compelling reasons or advantages for doing so. Each term implies certain legal rights and responsibilities. You should be certain as to the legal nature of your organization, as many other things flow from this.

This article was co-authored by Anders Ourom, LLB and Donald Golob. Copyright © 2010. Anders Ourom and Donald Golob. All rights reserved. This information is not nor is it intended to be specific legal advice. Readers are cautioned in all cases to obtain appropriate advice as to these and related matters.

Anders Qurom (aiourom@telus.net, 604- 228 -1798) specializes in advising societies, charities, and other not-for-profit organizations since 1995.

Donald Golob (www.donaldgolobconsulting.ca, 604-988 3273) specializes in providing facilitation, strategic planning, and organizational development services for societies, charities, and other not-for profit organizations since 1995.

What's New?

Non-Profit Management Course

This course was developed by the Centre to build capacity in the non-profit sector by providing a provincially accessible educational opportunity for board members, staff, and volunteers. The Centre has now signed all its agreements with post-secondary institutions for delivery of the course. **For information about the course or how to secure a funded seat** at one of the participating institutions, details are listed below. Most institutions also offer spaces at regular tuition costs for those who do not qualify for the non-profit seat funding criteria.

- **Okanagan College** – online courses offered August 18, September 15, and October 20, 2010. Contact Kerry Rempel (KRempel@okanagan.bc.ca) [Website information](#).
- **Vancouver Island University** – courses offered October 2010 at the Nanaimo Campus and February 2011 at the Cowichan Campus. Contact Nahanni Ackroyd (Nahanni.Ackroyd@viu.ca) [Website Information](#) or call 250-740-6160.
- **North Island College** – courses offered in evenings at the Comox Valley campus in February 2011 and at the Port Alberni and Campbell River Campus in September 2011. Contact Cheryl O'Connell (Cheryl.OConnell@nic.bc.ca)
- **Northern Lights College** - for course information and dates, contact Patricia McClelland a (pmcclelland@nlc.bc.ca)
- **College of the Rockies** – Course offered September 2010 at the Cranbrook Campus. *You are required to attend in-class sessions on Sept. 11 and Nov. 6 with the remainder of the course offered online.* Contact Cranbrook Campus at 250-489-8242 or Danette Polzin (DPolzin@cotr.bc.ca) [Website Information](#)
- **Thompson Rivers University** – for Fall course start dates, contact Judy Beaver (jbeaver@tru.ca).

The following institutions have assigned all of their 75 seats to the non-profit sector. However, they may still continue to offer the course. If you are interested in the course, we suggest you check with individual institutions for course availability.

- **Northwest Community College**
- **The College of New Caledonia**
- **The University of the Fraser Valley** - Course running in January 2011 as Bus 204. [Website Information](#)
- **Selkirk College** - Course running in Spring 2011, 6 full days on Fridays.

You can also visit The BC Centre for Non-Profit Development website to receive information and updates on this valuable learning opportunity.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you know of any events, educational opportunities, or resources that you would like us to consider for inclusion in our newsletter or website? Any suggestions or questions can be directed to our Centre.

Email:

Nonprofit.Development@ufv.ca

Or call toll-free:
1-877-388-8716

If you wish to be removed from our distribution list, please contact us by the above email address and indicate you would like to do so.

Criminal Record Checks for the Non-Profit Sector in British Columbia

The BC Centre for Non Profit Development has undertaken a province wide research project on criminal record checks after becoming increasingly aware of their varying costs across British Columbia. For non-profit organizations working regionally and provincially, these variations in costs create confusion. The purpose of this study was to provide an overview of criminal record check information for the province, as well as explore opportunities to work together towards a more equitable system for the sector. To download the [Report](#).

BC Centre for NPD Now Accepting Newsletter Sponsorships

To help support this quarterly newsletter, we are now offering sponsorship space to firms who provide products or services to the non-profit sector. If you are interested in reaching your audience through this newsletter please contact us at nonprofit.development@ufv.ca for further details. See our first sponsorship by Sterling Campaigns below!

What else is new in BC?

Fundraising Professionals Form New Chapter

The Association of Fundraising Professionals represents more than 30,000 members in 212 chapters throughout the world working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education, and certification programs. The association fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals and promotes high ethical standards in the fundraising profession.

The Vancouver Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) was founded in 1996. An active and well respected Chapter, the meetings and related events are often held in the Vancouver Downtown core, making it difficult for members in the Fraser Valley to attend. Therefore, a group of Fraser Valley based Fundraising Professionals are coming together to establish the Fraser Valley Chapter of AFP.

The proposed purpose of the **Fraser Valley Chapter** of AFP is to inspire philanthropy in our community. The new chapter will accomplish its purpose by supporting members in their quest to inspire philanthropy in their respective areas of influence. Initially, the focus will be on accreditation and professional development. If you are interested in finding out more about the AFP or the new AFP Fraser Valley Chapter, please contact Douglas Dunn, President of Sterling Campaigns at Douglas@sterlingcampaign.com or call him at 604-649-8060. To read more about [AFP](#) .



Sterling Campaigns -Putting the Profits into Non-Profits-

Sterling Campaigns has a record of consistent success for non-profit organizations from the performing arts to social services. Resourceful, solution-oriented and genuinely innovative the Sterling team balances business acumen with focused creative energy. Let Sterling Campaigns assist your organizations fund raising efforts. www.sterlingcampaign.com or call 604-649-8060.

Resources and Links

Society Guide for British Columbia

Produced by the Law Foundation of British Columbia, and written primarily for small non-profit societies who offer benefits and/or services to the public, this guide provides step-by-step procedures for incorporating a Society in British Columbia. It also covers information about:

- 1) keeping your Society in good standing;
- 2) establishing and maintaining financial records; and
- 3) developing and maintaining charity status in keeping with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. Find it on Community Legal Assistance Society's [website](#).

Information on the HST

Eligible registered charities and qualifying non-profit organizations will be able to claim a 50% rebate of the 5% federal portion of the HST (which replaces the GST in BC) and a 57% rebate of the 7% provincial portion of the HST. Learn more about [rebates](#).

Weathering the Storm

A survey of non-profits and charities in British Columbia covering a wide variety of service fields was conducted in 2009 to assess the vulnerability of the sector.

[Read the report](#).

Youth Employment Strategy (YES) The Government of Canada created YES to help young Canadians (aged 15 to 30) obtain career information, develop skills, find good jobs, and stay employed. In some cases, Ottawa will provide funding to employers and community organizations to hire youth to help them gain practical work experience and develop employment skills. For more information [visit the website](#).

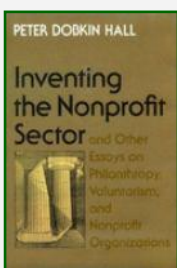
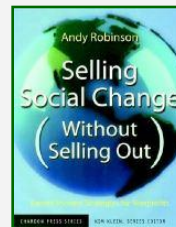
Government Non Profit Initiative (GNPI)

The GNPI continues to make efforts toward strengthening the relationship between the BC Provincial Government and the Non Profit sector to more effectively address the needs and interests of individuals and communities in British Columbia. Read more about the various evolutions stemming from this initiative and [how you can become involved](#).

Our Lending Library

Selling Social Change (Without Selling Out)

Learn how to initiate and sustain successful income ventures that not only provide greater financial security but also advance the organization's mission. Readers will find information on organizing a team, selecting a venture, drafting a business plan, and securing start-up funding.

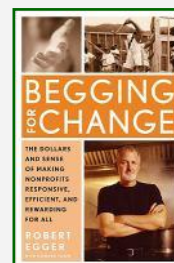


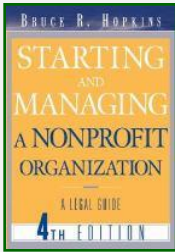
Inventing The Nonprofit Sector And Other Essays On Philanthropy, Voluntarism, and Nonprofit Organization

This book describes and analyses the development of America's fastest growing institutional sector. Addressing the historical, religious, cultural, managerial, and public policy dimensions of philanthropy and voluntarism. The author also examines the public perception of non-profits, their structure, and the consequences of that structure for management and public policy.

Begging For Change: The Dollars And Sense Of Making Nonprofits Responsive, Efficient, And Rewarding For All

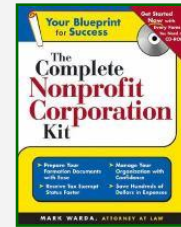
Author Robert Egger reflects on his experience and exposes the startling lack of logic, waste, and ineffectiveness that he encountered during his years in the non-profit sector. This book is useful for non-profit managers, corporate leaders, and, most of all, any citizen who has ever cared enough to give of themselves to a worthy cause.





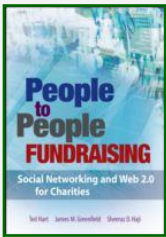
Starting And Managing A Nonprofit Organization: A Legal Guide

A practical reference guide containing information on virtually every legal aspect of starting and operating a non-profit organization. Information from receiving and maintaining tax exempt status, to tips for successful management practices.



The Complete Nonprofit Corporation Kit

This kit will help you set up an organization. Information on setting up your non-profit corporation is only the first step. Learn about your tax exempt status and your ability to accept tax deductible donations. This new edition covers all this and more.



People To People Fundraising: Social Networking And Web 2.0 For Charities

A guide to make the most of your online fundraising efforts, this book is filled with creative ideas, techniques, and suggestions on how to harness the power of social networking for your charity.

To learn more about additional titles in our library, please contact the BC Centre for Non-profit Development at 1-877-388-8716 or visit our [website](#). Free shipping provided.

Upcoming Events

[Academy of Management Annual Conference – Dare to Care: Passion and Compassion in Management Practice and Research](#)

Montreal, August 6 – 10, 2010

This conference will challenge managers and scholars to care more deeply about their roles with respect to who they work for and what they do. An emphasis on enabling others to create, produce, and deliver goods and services that enhance the wellbeing of, and generate value for, all stakeholders (notably customers, employees, investors, and the public) will occur, in addition to developing an understanding about how solving organizational problems can ensure a more sustainable future.

[7th Annual Summit - The Future of Canada's Infrastructure](#)

Toronto, September 14 and 15, 2010

Hear from celebrated visionaries and planners from around the world to identify financial solutions and practical strategies to deliver infrastructure that will transform your community's future.

[Shifting Directions - Preparing the Next Work Place Conference](#)

Vernon, September 27-28, 2010

To inform and provide strategies for growing businesses, human resource professionals, and employment counsellors for economic recovery and success.

[5th Annual Non-profit Management Institute 2010 - Leading During Times of Change](#)

Silicon Valley, October 5-6, 2010

Learn from Stanford Graduate School of Business and leading practitioners about approaches that organizations need to take to raise funds; work with government; shift traditional governance models; and work with social media. This year's Institute will also emphasize new leadership skills needed for managing and growing non-profit organizations during times of dramatic change.

[AFP Fundamentals of Fundraising Course](#)

Calgary, November 5-6, 2010

This course is composed of seven modules that have been designed by experienced fundraising professionals to meet the real-world needs and challenges non-profit organizations face.

[AFP Web/Audio Conferences](#)

Developing a Planned Giving Marketing Plan

August 12, 2010

Great Gifts, Great Expectations: Major Gift Fundraising in the New Economy

September 8, 2010

More than a Good Proposal: Building Grant Maker Relationships That Pay Off

November 4, 2010



www.bccssc.ca

www.bccnpd.ca

www.bccsr.ca