



For immediate release

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Risky Business: Working for a nonprofit

Unless you have the right strategies and tools in place, working in a nonprofit is risky business. Starting October 15, seminars on Risk Management Strategies and Tactics are equipping board members and managers from nonprofits and voluntary organizations with practical tools to implement.

Risk arises from a number of sources, from having the correct jargon in contracts with consultants or waivers with volunteers, to having correct screening processes for selecting volunteers. Risk Management is a process that can be daunting at first, but with the proper strategies, the reduction of risk creates confidence in employees and volunteers, enabling their decision making.

"Nonprofit/voluntary organizations – whether they are from the arts, social services, sports, environmental or health – face similar problems. An excellent opportunity comes from the Risk Management Strategies and Tactics seminars– a chance to network with organizations they normally would not interact with – but are facing the same problem. An extra bonus is they get to do it all for free because of funding from the Government of Alberta and The Co-operators," comments Karen Lynch, Volunteer Alberta's Executive Director.

Volunteer Alberta is well known as a provider of practical and useful seminars throughout the province. Topics include: Insurance, Directors' and Officers' Liability, Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement, and Screening Volunteers In... Not Out. Lynch notes "We recognized the need for organizations to be more proactive instead of reactive – especially when it comes to assessing risk. We work with our partners to offer seminars like this to build the capacity of organizations to better serve their communities."

With funding from the Government of Alberta and The Co-operators, Volunteer Alberta also created an online resource on Risk Management Strategies and Tactics. Website content (noted nationally as one of the best compilation of knowledge), case studies, and real-life examples will be presented in the seminars. Risk Management Strategies and Tactics seminars will be held in Vegreville, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Calgary, Banff, Red Deer, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat from October 15 to November 24, 2009. To register today, visit www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca (Seminar space is limited).

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Backgrounder Attached.

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VOLUNTEER ALBERTA

Alberta's volunteers are a powerful social investment creating an unparalleled quality of life. Volunteer Alberta is a provincial organization committed to building the capacity of the voluntary sector by strategically connecting leaders, organizations and networks to ensure Albertans are engaged in creating vibrant and progressive communities. A nonprofit organization, Volunteer Alberta has been working with Alberta communities and volunteer centres for over 17 years. Volunteer Alberta focuses primarily on volunteer centres and volunteer-engaging organizations. 24 of Alberta's 26 volunteer centres serve rural communities.

Volunteer Alberta offers Alberta's essential nonprofit/voluntary sector organizations access to current information and resources, biweekly eNewsletter *Sector Connector*, employee benefits (through OASSIS), best practices, communication tools, online photo gallery for use in newsletters and websites, professional development opportunities and a connection to other voluntary sector organizations. Volunteer Alberta's current projects are focused on risk management issues including Alberta Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector Insurance council, Volunteers and the Law in Alberta (online resource), and screening volunteers through programs such as the Volunteer Police Information Check Program.