

Grants Newsletter

May 2011

International Museum Day
May 18, 2011

Upcoming Deadlines for Grants:

◆ Community Initiatives Program	June 15, 2011
◆ Community Facility Enhancement Program	June 15, 2011
◆ AFA Arts Organization Project Grant	Sept. 1, 2011
◆ Alberta Museums Association Project Grants	Sept. 1, 2011
◆ AFA Community Performing Arts Organization Grant	Oct. 1, 2011
◆ ASRPWF Development Initiatives Program	Oct. 1, 2011

Fundraising Tip:

*Allow lots of time for fundraising, and for the organizations you approach to make their decisions. Don't forget to **PLAN AHEAD!***

The Resource Centre for Voluntary Organizations (RCVO) has moved! RCVO has built one of the finest nonprofit resource collections in Canada, and provides access to this collection to groups and individuals in Northern Alberta. RCVO was previously housed by Grant MacEwan University, but is now a program of Volunteer Alberta. Resources include a library, bookstore, newsletters and outreach services. Check their website at <http://www.rcvo.org/>, or contact them at 1-877-915-6336.

Volunteer: a person who by choice and without financial compensation contributes time and service to assist in fulfilling the mission of an organization.

Everything you wanted to know about Police Record Checks for volunteers, but were afraid to ask...

Volunteer Alberta has an excellent three page information sheet on the subject on its website, including a link to the Volunteer Police Information Check Program, where you can apply for a grant to cover the cost of volunteer police record checks. Visit the Volunteer Alberta Website at

<http://www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca/programs/programs.asp>

Can't get on a computer to have a look? Call the MD Grants Manager and you can have this info sheet mailed or faxed to you instead.

Check out the MD website! www.mdbiglakes.ca

We have information online to help you find MD services. Find grant forms, policies and website links on the Grants Administration pages!

Municipal
District
of Big Lakes



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Free Webinars (that just means free training...)

Check out My Charity Connects at <http://mycharityconnects.org/webinars>.

You will find a new slate of free information sessions on topics related to fundraising. Registration is free, the sessions are short, and you can invite several people to attend around one computer if you like. Here are the topics:

- May 25— Ten Tips to Improve Your Website
- June 15— Getting the Most From Your MyCharity Account & Reports
- June 29— Know Your Website: An Intro to Google Analytics
- July 20—You Tube's NonProfit Program & the Fundamentals of Video Storytelling
- August 17— Orientation for Newly Registered Charities with CanadaHelps

And you can download past webinar topics for free too—see the list at <http://mycharityconnects.org/pastwebinars>

5 Quick Fundraising Tips

1. **Update and clean up your website.** Remove any out-dated information and keep your content, imagery and messaging current. Test and fix sources of frustration. Find a secure way to allow donors to donate online! (And if you don't have a website—get one!)
2. **Integrate your communication efforts.** For example, if you are doing a direct mail appeal, a website and a newsletter, make them consistent in message and appearance.
3. **Use a personal voice when writing to donors.** Adopt a writing style that caters to your target audience, and conveys emotion.
4. **Build a donor list.** Collect contact information—compile an email and mailing list.
5. **Let your supporters spread the word.** Be direct when asking them supporters and volunteers for help and give them all the tools they need to do it easily.

Good Neighbors

The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is one of numerous corporations with a local presence in our communities. RBC has community investment programs to assist local charities, and invested more than \$5 million across Alberta and the Territories in 2010. Registered charities interested in applying should visit their website at <http://www.rbc.com/community/donations/index.html>. Call the Grants Manager for assistance if you don't have internet access. The Grants Manager can also help you find other corporations with donation programs that could help your projects.

Need MD funding for a capital project in your community?



Apply to the MD in the fall for funding of your organization's 2012 capital projects! This gives the MD time to plan their budget and make sure there will be enough money to support important community projects like yours.

Call the Grants Manager now to find out how—or check the MD website under Services—Grants Administration for all the details!

Please Note: There is still money available for 2011 projects. Apply soon—first come, first served!