

THE PHILIA EZINE

In this issue:

Building True Sport Communities

Halifax Dialogue on Citizenship

Panarchy

Resilience Alliance

How to Change the World

Ashoka

Charter of Relationships & Responsibilities

New on the Philia website

A new publication from the Disability Foundation

Greater Vancouver BLN

Citizens' Assembly

Community Bank

VirtualMall.ca

Take Back Your Time Day

Let's Talk America!

Slow Food

MAY 2004

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



Dear Friend:

Welcome to the Philia Ezine! In these pages you will find information about our recent activities, upcoming opportunities to get involved, references to information, resources and stories on our website, and links to other organizations and resources we like.

You are receiving this Ezine because you have expressed an interest in our activities by attending an event, contacting us directly, contributing your ideas to our website, or volunteering your time as one of our ambassadors.

Subscribe and unsubscribe instructions are at the end of this Ezine. Please note that this subscriber list is a private mailing list and it will not be made available to companies or individuals. We value every one of our subscribers and respect your privacy.

UPCOMING DIALOGUES & EVENTS

Building True Sport Communities: The Philia-True Sport Dialogue

The advent of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games has created a focal point around which the sport and disability communities in B.C. have come together to advance the vision of a fully inclusive society, using sport as a tool for transformation.

On May 31, Philia and the [True Sport Secretariat](#) are co-hosting a special dialogue in Vancouver on building True Sport communities – communities whose sport reflects the core True Sport values of fairness, excellence and inclusion, and which actively use sport to build character and community. Join our panel of community leaders, including Olympic champions Silken Laumann and Marion Lay, in exploring what makes True Sport Communities, what we must do to create them, and the role sport can play in building the society we want.

The dialogue is open to the public and admission is free, but seating is limited. To reserve a seat, call Avril at 604-439-9566 or e-mail philia@plan.ca. Click [here](#) for full information about the dialogue and panelists.



RECENT DIALOGUES & EVENTS

Halifax Dialogue on Citizenship

March 26-27, 2004, Halifax

This dialogue, co-sponsored with the Kendrick Report Coalition (KRC), brought together more than 100 participants from the Atlantic Provinces to talk about social inclusion and citizenship, and to envision how we might create communities that are more welcoming toward people with disabilities. Keynote speaker Mark Kingwell contributed his insights on inclusion, belonging, personhood and citizenship, and summarized the key insights and themes arising from the next day's World Café dialogue. Participants were enthusiastic about the dialogue process and about the possibilities for effecting positive changes for people with disabilities in Atlantic Canada. The KRC has since sponsored another series of World Café dialogues to discuss Nova Scotia government initiatives for people with disabilities.

RESILIENCE ALLIANCE

The Resilience Alliance, of which Buzz Holling is Founding Director, is a multidisciplinary research organization that explores the dynamics of complex adaptive systems in order to discover foundations for sustainability. By connecting regional case studies with theory development, the RA strives to provide novel solutions to managing resilience and coping with change, uncertainty and surprise in complex social-ecological systems. For more information about the RA, go to www.resalliance.org

Panarchy

Canada is a fertile place for new ideas and social innovations. The challenge lies in sustaining them.

Panarchy is a way of thinking about sustainability that has evolved from observations about the resilience and adaptive capability of nature. Using the ecocycle as a metaphor for successful social innovation, it is an intellectually engaging framework that provides insights and guidance for sustaining those innovations. On April 1-2, noted scholars **C. S. (Buzz) Holling** and **Frances Westley** gave three workshops on panarchy to interested audiences from various sectors. You can learn more about panarchy on the [Resilience Alliance](#) website (Go to Topics and click on Key Concepts, then on Panarchy). To read Buzz Holling's article "**From Complex Regions to Complex Worlds**" click [here](#).



Frances Westley and Buzz Holling

How to Change the World

On April 14, Philia collaborated with [VanCity](#) and [PLAN](#) to sponsor the Vancouver launch of **How to Change the World**. This new book by David Bornstein tells the stories of social entrepreneurs around the globe who are solving some of the world's most intractable problems. Focusing on a few of these creative and determined individuals, David showed how ordinary people with a powerful idea and a passionate drive to succeed can remake the world for the better.

ASHOKA

All the people in David Bornstein's book are Ashoka Fellows, as are Al Etmanski and Donna Morton. Ashoka is a global, non-profit organization that identifies and invests in social entrepreneurs around the world. It does this through stipends and professional services that allow Ashoka Fellows to focus full time on their ideas for leading social change. Ashoka has invested in more than 1400 Ashoka Fellows in 48 countries. Read more about Ashoka at www.ashoka.org

David was joined by two local social entrepreneurs, Al Etmanski, Executive Director of PLAN and Philia, and Donna Morton, founder and Executive Director of the [Centre for Integral Economics](#). To learn more about David's book, go to www.howtochangetheworld.org.

Charter of Relationships & Responsibilities

On May 1, a group of Vancouverites gathered in the Vancouver Public Library to begin drafting a *Charter of Responsibilities and Relationships*. This document is meant to serve as a symbolic counterbalance to the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#). As its organizers explained, rights and freedoms are only half of the citizenship equation: full citizenship requires the addition of active participation, contribution and our relationships to one another. The Charter is a work in progress; view it at <http://responsibilities.blogspot.com>. If you want to add a comment, just click on the "Comments" link.

NEW ON THE PHILIA WEBSITE

In October 2003 Mayor Glen Murray of Winnipeg spoke in Toronto about the need for active citizenship, about the difference between "consumption-based politics" and "intergenerational politics," and about the polarity between utilitarian and creative value sets. Click [here](#) to read excerpts from his speech.

"Matteo loved me because I said something nice to him, and it made him happy. That was enough." Click [here](#) to read Rob Ohlstrom's story about love between brothers and a conversation that changed his perspective on life.

IN THE COMMUNITY

A new publication from the Disability Foundation

Vancouver's Disability Foundation has just launched *Disability News*, an online newsmagazine designed to serve as a forum for issues affecting the lives of people with significant physical disabilities. Filled with news, feature stories and community-related articles, the ultimate goal of the magazine is to help people with disabilities to achieve full citizenship within the larger community. You can find *Disability News* at www.disabilityfoundation.org/news. To send feedback, thoughts and story ideas, write to news@disabilityfoundation.org.

Of all the things that wisdom provides to help one live one's entire life in happiness, the greatest by far is the possession of friendship.

– EPICURUS

Greater Vancouver Business Leadership Network (GVBLN)

GVBLN is a network of employers who educate and support businesses to hire and retain qualified individuals with disabilities. The *Business Leadership Network* (BLN) concept was first developed in the U.S. in 1994 to engage employers in a focused effort to market the benefits of hiring qualified individuals with disabilities. Through its activities, the BLN has created greater opportunities for employment and raised awareness, in the business community, of the employment issues facing the disabled workforce. There are currently two BLNs operating in Canada, in Vancouver and Winnipeg. For more information, check out the GVBLN website at www.gvbln.ca.

Citizens' Assembly

Communities across BC are being offered a unique opportunity to help shape the political and electoral system in British Columbia. At 49 public hearings taking place throughout BC in May and June, residents will have the chance to present their views on the system of voting we use to determine the makeup of the provincial legislature. These views will be weighed by members of the *Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform* – an independent, non-partisan group of 160 people randomly selected from communities across the province. Their final report is due in December. If they recommend a change, all voters in BC will decide on it in a referendum in May 2005. For more information, visit www.citizensassembly.bc.ca, e-mail hearings@citizensassembly.bc.ca, or call 1-866-667-1232.

Community Bank

When 23-year-old Aaron Pereira ran into trouble getting financing for his charity, [CanadaHelps](#), he decided to start a bank. Specifically: a federally regulated financial institution for charities. With the support of the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation and a team of prominent backers, the group approached the federal government about the bank. Ottawa endorsed the idea in the recent federal budget, and the *Community Bank* is scheduled to open next year. Under the current plan, the bank will hold deposits and provide a range of financial services to non-profit groups. It will also be a registered charity. The Globe & Mail recently published an article about this ground-breaking initiative. To read the article, click [here](#).

An ideal culture is one in which there is a place for every human gift.

– MARGARET MEAD

The caring citizen is the glue that holds our society together. To be a caring citizen is to share a commitment to the common good. It requires us to be in relationship with others. We cannot be a caring citizen in isolation. Our role of citizen binds us together.

VirtualMall.ca

As great believers in social entrepreneurship, we're always happy to hear about creative social enterprises. *VirtualMall.ca*, developed in concert with the Internet Business Development for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program, teaches individuals with disabilities how to develop a home-based e-commerce store selling local artisans' products. Participants learn how to create, market and maintain their own online business, and revenues generated from online sales are shared between the entrepreneurs and artisans. For more information on this program please visit www.virtualmall.ca.

SLOW FOOD

While you're thinking slow, spend some time browsing the [Slow Food](#) website. Slow Food was founded in Italy in 1986 to preserve traditional ways of growing, producing and preparing food. "We are enslaved by speed," says the [Slow Food Manifesto](#), "and have all succumbed to the same insidious virus: Fast Life, which disrupts our habits, pervades the privacy of our homes and forces us to eat Fast Foods." Slow Food is now an international movement with some 70,000 members in over 45 countries, and has spawned the Slow Cities movement, a group of towns and cities committed to improving the quality of life of their citizens, especially with regard to food issues.

WE LIKE...

Take Back Your Time Day

We are convinced the speed of our lives represents a threat to the force of caring that binds our communities together – in other words, it undermines *Philia*. The organizers of *Take Back Your Time Day* have launched an initiative to help us slow down. "Protecting open spaces has been a focus of the environmental movement for decades – ever since Earth Day," they note. "Protecting open time from incursion by the commercial culture is just as important for preserving sanity and community." Take Back Your Time Day challenges the epidemic of overwork, over-scheduling and time famine that threatens our health, our families and relationships, our communities and our environment. Learn more about it at www.simpleliving.net/timeday

Let's Talk America!

"We need fewer diatribes and more dialogue," say the founders of *Let's Talk America* – an initiative in the U.S. that invites Americans "to talk with 'We The People' about what is important to us." Let's Talk America aims to bring Americans from all points on the political spectrum together in cafés, bookstores, houses of worship and living rooms for lively, open-hearted dialogue to consider questions essential to the future of their democracy. Want to learn from our southern neighbours? Check out www.letstalkamerica.org

Other Philia activities, events and people – and other organizations, people and resources we like – will be highlighted in upcoming issues of our Ezine or posted on our website throughout the year. To stay current, we encourage you to read our Ezine and bookmark our website (www.philia.ca) for quick and easy access!

THE PHILIA STEERING COMMITTEE

Vickie Cammack
vcammack@plan.ca

Ray Cohen
ray@abilities.ca

Dominique Collin
collind@ainc-inac.gc.ca

Jacques Dufresne
dufresne@agora.gc.ca

Al Etmanski
aetmanski@plan.ca

Ted Kuntz
tjkuntz@axion.net

Hélène Laberge
hlaberge@agora.gc.ca

Jack Pearpoint
inclusionpress@inclusion.com

Sam Sullivan
sam@disabilityfoundation.org

PROJECT STAFF

Project Manager

Avril Orloff
philia@plan.ca

Communications Director

Roger B. Jones
roger@worldaccessibility.com

Youth Coordinator

Brian Smith
bscoop@telus.net

The Philia Ezine is published by
THE PHILIA DIALOGUE ON CARING CITIZENSHIP
 #260 – 3665 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5R 5W2

CONTACT US:

Please e-mail us at philia@plan.ca if you have any comments, questions or suggestions, or a story or inspirational quote that you would like us to include in this Ezine.

TO SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE:

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this Ezine, please e-mail philia@plan.ca.

TO CHANGE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

To change your e-mail address, please e-mail your old and new addresses to us at philia@plan.ca.

Copyright May 2004

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program. The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.

We are grateful for the financial support of the SDPP and of the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation, which makes this Ezine possible.