



## CFC Conference 2008 - Call For Proposals

### BACKGROUND

In November of 2008 CFC will host an international conference on community philanthropy in Montreal, Canada called **Our Communities. Our World.**

The Conference Planning Committee requests your ideas and suggestions for concurrent sessions through this call for proposals process. Please complete and return the *CFC Conference 2008 Session Proposal Form*.

The conference will spotlight important trends and opportunities in philanthropy for community foundations and community philanthropic organizations. Three key threads underline the conference program: **Diversity, Dialogue** and **Positioning**.

The committee is seeking sessions that will explore these threads from the perspective of community and philanthropy in both the local and global contexts, including collaboration across boundaries, changing economic and political contexts, the changing role of philanthropy, and the changing definition of community.

### Diversity

How do we define diversity in our communities and our organizations? How do we, as community foundations reflect and model diversity? How are our communities meeting the changing needs of our citizens? What do community foundations need to do to remain relevant to their communities in the future?

### Dialogue

How can community foundations create opportunities for respectful, and inclusive, dialogue in today's communities? How can community foundations build their convening skills? In today's time-pressed environment how do we more fully engage donors in community philanthropy? How do we connect with government and business in ways that build philanthropy and maintain our credibility?

### Positioning

How do community foundations differentiate themselves in today's marketplace? What's the role for new and young community foundations in community leadership? How do we balance recognition of partners and players with our desire to position ourselves as community leaders? How do we maintain our local identities while tapping into the benefit of being part of a national and international movement?

Many conference participants will come from community foundations and philanthropic organizations in Canada. A large contingent will come from the United States and some will come from other countries around the world. Whatever their background and

experience, their particular role within their organization and their country of origin, participants will bring their unifying interest in community philanthropy.

## CONFERENCE THEMES

The conference program includes featured speakers from around the world, and over forty-five 90 minute concurrent sessions following five major themes:

**Getting it Done** focuses on technical skill development in governance and leadership, investment, grantmaking, fund development, communications, and technology.

**More than Dollars** focuses on ways community foundations can have influence and impact beyond grantmaking and fund development.

**The Bigger Picture** encourages dialogue on current and emerging issues and opportunities that affect community foundations and philanthropic organizations.

**Philanthropy's Changing Role** encourages dialogue on the role of philanthropy and the role of community foundations and philanthropic organizations within our societies.

**Burning Issues** focuses on social justice work and other priorities identified by CFC, such as environmental grantmaking, poverty alleviation, community impact, First Nations and indigenous peoples and immigration.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Time and space limitations may not make it possible to include all proposals in the final conference program. Final selections will be determined by the following criteria:

- ④ Relevance of the topic to conference threads and themes
- ④ Originality of proposed topic and/or originality in delivery
- ④ Relevance of the session to one or more of the participant audiences
- ④ Ability of the session to spotlight latest trends, innovative ideas and encourage provocative thinking  
and/or  
Ability of the session to focus on technical skill development, best practices and/or illustrate practical ideas
- ④ Attention to cultural, linguistic and/or geographic considerations given the scope of the participant audience.

## ROLE OF SESSION DESIGNER

If your proposal is selected for inclusion in the conference program, you will be responsible for the ongoing development of the session, including:

- ④ Identifying learning objectives and considerations related to delegate audience.
- ④ Identifying key content elements and appropriate format and processes in support of the session.
- ④ In consultation with CFC and the Program Working Group, recruiting presenters for the session.
- ④ Managing the development of the session including organizing calls or electronic meetings among co-presenters.
- ④ Working within the timeframe established by the overall conference program.
- ④ Informing CFC of any special logistical requirements for the session.
- ④ Participating in the session at the conference, either as a co-presenter, moderator, room monitor or in some other role.

NOTE: The Program Working Groups who will be reviewing the proposals may suggest combining some proposal ideas.

### Supporting Resources include:

- ④ *Criteria for Concurrent Sessions*
- ④ *CFC Conference 2008 Session Proposal Form*

The deadline for receiving proposals is **March 15, 2008**. Send your proposal by email to the attention of:

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