



Community Foundations of Canada Conference 2008

About Community Foundations of Canada (CFC)

CFC is the national membership organization for the 160 community foundations located in cities, towns and rural areas across Canada.

Our communities depend on charitable giving for their quality of life. Community foundations, and Community Foundations of Canada, nurture and grow that essential support and increase its effectiveness.

Every community foundation builds a permanent, growing community endowment fund and uses it to make grants to charitable organizations. They connect donors and causes. Their volunteers and staff are community leaders. Community foundations play an important leadership role, bringing knowledge, influence and non-partisan convening to pressing community issues.

Since Canada's first community foundation was established in 1921, our movement has grown to \$2.7 billion in assets. In 2006, Canadian community foundations made grants of \$137 million and donors gave more than \$271 million in new gifts to community foundations across the country.

CFC is at the centre of that powerful movement, increasing its impact.

CFC Conference 2008 – Our Communities. Our World.

From November 7th to 9th 2008, CFC will host its 10th conference - a premiere event for the philanthropic sector, attracting community foundations and speakers from around the world. The conference in Montreal will be CFC's biggest and most international to date, and over 800 participants are expected from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Europe and other nations.

The conference explores five themes:

- ④ *Getting it Done*: policy development, SRI, engaging youth, and more
- ④ *More than Dollars*: community leadership, program evaluation, and more
- ④ *Changing Role of Philanthropy*: community foundations as social innovators
- ④ *The Bigger Picture*: embracing diversity, and more
- ④ *Burning Issues*: environmental action, social cohesion, and more



“My foundations support people in the country who care about an open society. It's their work that I'm supporting. So it's not me doing it. But I can empower them. I can support them, and I can help them.”

~ *George Soros, global financier and philanthropist, founder of Open Society Institute & Soros Foundations Network*

Community Foundations of Canada: Leading Philanthropy

CFC is the central point for expertise and professional development, for strategic visioning, and for connection with other networks. We are a respected voice for philanthropy and the voluntary sector in Canada and around the world.






A Strong Voice for the Sector

The voluntary sector, including philanthropic organizations, is an underestimated economic force, employing 2 million people, in more than 160,000 organizations. Until recently, the sector's voice has been muted.

With leadership from CFC and other sector organizations, that voice is now being heard, particularly in federal government circles. One important example is the recent tax change which eliminated the capital gains tax on gifts of securities to foundations and other charities. The policy change encourages philanthropy and has already generated substantial new resources for Canada's charitable organizations.

Challenging Philanthropy

Pushing the envelope is part of CFC's role. The movement has huge assets, both financial and human. We challenge our 160 member community foundations to “think big” about their potential for good. Our current national initiatives include:

-  Vital Signs community report cards on quality of life
-  Environmental grantmaking and community leadership
-  Immigrant settlement and diversity
-  Poverty and social justice
-  Youth engagement

CFC's International Role

Philanthropy is global. The community foundation movement, in particular, is growing at a tremendous pace. There are now more than 1100 community foundations in 46 countries, with recent growth in Europe, the former Soviet Union countries, Africa, and Mexico. New community foundations are shouldering responsibility for democratic ideals and grassroots development around the world. CFC is a leader in supporting our emerging colleagues – and learning from them.



Respected Leadership

CFC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of leaders from the community foundation movement. Monica Patten leads the organization as President and CEO, bringing to CFC her expertise in the voluntary sector. She has personally assisted in the development of community philanthropy around the world, including in Brazil, Mexico, Central and Eastern Europe, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand and Russia. She is also Chair of WINGS, a senior fellow to Synergos, former director on the CIVICUS Board of Directors, and a member of the Council on Foundations' International Committee. Ms Patten was also the first chair of the Voluntary Sector Forum, a body created to continue the work of the Voluntary Sector Initiative, the joint effort to strengthen the sector's relationship with the federal government and enhance its capacity. In May 2005, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lawson Foundation in recognition of her "extraordinary accomplishments and leadership." She was also honoured by the Public Policy Forum in April 2002 for her contribution to public policy and Canada's voluntary sector.

CFC Conference 2008 Contacts

Rick Frost
Chair, CFC Conference 2008
CEO, The Winnipeg Foundation
rfrost@wpgfdn.org

Jane Humphries
Conference Director
Community Foundations of Canada
janeh@cfc-fcc.ca
T: +1.519.725.3353

For more information about the CFC Conference 2008, please visit
<http://www.cfc-fcc.ca/conference2008>