

BCACG SYMPOSIUM SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 2014

The opening was delayed as guest speakers had trouble in traffic so we did not start until 9:30 with the

**Keynote speaker, Mike Harcourt**

**Mike** told us about what he had been doing since leaving politics. He has been appointed by the Prime Minister to serve as a member of the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy, where he served on the Executive Committee and Chaired the Urban Sustainability Program. He is a member of the Public Policy institute where he met Chuck and he discussed that all people involved in non-profit charities should attend this program as it can help you with solutions to some of our problems. A lot of what he stated was what we all know that raising funds for charities is not easy. You need a solid base of support from everyone you are involved with. He also spoke on the need for housing for the homeless and how it can be changed with the help of all charities and Governments.

**The next speaker:****Yves Trudel, Planner, Strategic Priorities, and United Way of the Lower Mainland**

Know what you are asking for and use your voice on policy and keep doing programs. Let the public know about your prospective on funds, as the Government help is going down in all areas. Know what solution you are proposing and who else is working on this. Are you the only solution on this problem? Engage with other decision makers and other stackholders. Why should they care? Communicate with public, governments and municipalities. Change can be good or bad. Know what is going on at all times.

**After Lunch****Gaming Policy and Enforcement Guidelines - Anna Fitzgerald**

All grants will be audited sometime within 1 – 10 years after being received. The way to help yourself is tidy up your records on gaming funds. Always spend your funds on what program you asked for the funds. Deposit funds in a separate Gaming Account and ensure proper recording of all funds and revenues. Keep it simple. You must keep 5 years of records of all the funds that are part of the gaming account. Make sure someone other than your self has knowledge of this account as backup.

Mission statement on the web site of Audit team says they carried out 390 audits last year by 10 gaming Auditors. This is done as part of their mandate or it can be because of a complaint from the public.

The province is split in 4 areas for the 10 auditors to look after.

Public Awareness of BCLC – only 60% of BC is aware. Only 48% of the public know that charities get funds from BCLC. The public should be told how the charities do benefit from the funds, but they could do better if we got all we were promised.

**Michele Gauthier, Ph.D.,**

**Vice – President Public Policy and Community Engagement, Imagine Canada**

1. We strengthen the sectors with a collective voice.
2. We create opportunities to correct and learn from each other.
3. We build the sectors to succeed.

Private members Bill C-470(defeated), Compensation Cap, Salary disclosure. It was considered a threat to autonomy of Board of Directors. Also a wakeup call for the sectors.

#### **10 WAYS TO ENGAGE THE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Set out own agenda and speak with one voice.
2. Reclaim and reframe our narrative.
3. Enhance financial sustainability and independence.
4. Engage the continuum of talent (studentsverb charities.ca)
5. Be as transparent as possible, focus on Charity
6. Lead the way on standards internationally.
7. Hold them mutually accountable.
8. Encourage the sector to engage in public policy.
9. Use all available channels for education and engagement.
10. Create infrastructure to rally the sectors.

Some sites to help (imaginecanada.ca) ([publicpolicy@imaginecanada.ca](mailto:publicpolicy@imaginecanada.ca))

**Susan Dolinski, Vice-President of Communications and Social Responsibility at BCLC**

What if just over half of the people who know you said they trust you. In 2011 only half of BC trusted BCLC. We are trying to resolve this since BC doesn't know what we are. We are working with BCACG to improve this problem.

1. Trust is earned over time, but can be eroded in a flash.

2. Competition for share of mind/ public awareness in 140 characters
3. Undertaking meaningful engagement with limited resources.

We work with 36 communities with only 4 employees. Costs are rising, what are we doing differently.

1. We are listening and learning instead of communicating
2. It's not about us
3. Trying new approaches.
4. Connecting at the grass roots level.

**NEW PRINCIPLES** - Transparency, integrity, shareholder engagement.

### **Responsible Gambling**

1. Understanding and knowledge, game sense and responsible gambling.
2. What is done with the money?

### **Michael Blatchford, Associate, Charities & Tax exempt Organizations**

Current Issues?

Corporate Governance?

Legal obligations of directors?

1. Social Enterprise and the rise of Alternative revenue generation.
2. Fund raising guidelines.
3. Mergers and amalgamations.
4. Dissolutions

There are over 86,000 charities in Canada and approximately 500 new every year. In tough times do get organized, strengthen governance, redefine and comment.

Rules: Provincial, Federal, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules of order, and policies. All these should be reviewed annually.

**URSULA COWLAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the Licencing and Grants Division**

Ursula has been in the Public Service for 35 years – the last 12 years with Gaming and Enforcement Branch. During that time the Division has distributed over one billion dollars of community gaming grants to non-profit charities.

Effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 applications can only be submitted on line. Be sure your information is updated and follow all the new guidelines. Be clear about amounts, memberships and board members. Financial reports must be included and if not answered when asked, this is the fastest way to have an Audit. Money is not increased by the government (135 million) but the need has increased. Multi-year grants are not available and short applications can be used for 2 years only. Keep applications simple, keep same amount for short forms and don't bury everything with too much info. Funding for social benefit programs must meet specific criteria. Be sure everyone who does the grants is aware of the conditions and send in every year.

In kind volunteer hours are a benefit and should be included to help with the amounts you are contributing to the program when asking for grant funds.

Program eligibility must be for the benefit of others and the community. Community involvement letters of support can be included in application, but send photocopies not originals. If you are denied any part of the grant you have 30days to reapply and should be sent to Ursula. You also can phone duty analyst about your grant for more info.

If your Board of Directors changes, make sure at least 2 people on the board know how grants are done. All information you have should be given to new Directors as soon as possible. The fastest way to be denied a Grant is to have a new person doing them with no info passed on from previous years.

**KEEP IT SIMPLE.**