



Community Experience Initiative d'Expérience Communautaire

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN BUSINESS SCHOOLS AND THE VOLUNTARY & RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS SECTORS IN CANADA

Canada's Developing Human Resources in the Voluntary Sector Initiative (HRVS) learns from the CEI Experience!

On October 17th and 18th 2003, in collaboration with HRVS, CEI gathered its alumni for a first *Alumni Learning Community Event*. The event took the form of a facilitated workshop with specific goals:

Increasing the understanding of career barriers and opportunities for business graduates in the voluntary sectors.

Identifying the critical questions and issues relevant to building stronger bridges between young people, young professional 'talent' and the voluntary sector in Canada.

Sponsored by the HRVS (an initiative of Community Foundations of Canada, United Way of Canada – Centraide Canada, and The Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations) the workshop sessions produced a report entitled:

"ATTRACTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR LEADERS: LEARNING FROM THE CEI EXPERIENCE",

The report is available on our web site. At the opening dinner, Rahul Raj, founder and director of Meal Exchange, gave an address that motivated us all to recognize our potential as social change agents! On Saturday, we organized a day-long facilitated workshop, which got CEI Alumni thinking about topics such as 'Defining the Voluntary Sector', 'The CEI Internship Experience' and 'Recruiting & Retaining Young Professionals in the VSO'.



The weekend was a resounding success, not only for the quality of the report produced, but also for the incredible sense of community established among CEI interns! It was great to see students from the past three years meet each other for the first time, share their stories and experiences and get to know each other. It was equally as wonderful to see familiar faces again, one or more years after their CEI internships! Of the 26 CEI Alumni, 18 were able to attend the event from as far away as Vancouver and Halifax.



Alumni Events in the Future

The students were clear in their message to us – "we need more events like this!". Next summer CEI will hold mini-alumni events in those cities where interns are placed, inviting alumni to meet with 2004 interns, exchange ideas and join forces in building a stronger CEI community.

New news since the last newsletter!

Eric has become a father! He and Ilke are the proud parents of beautiful little **Robin!**

The **CEI Board** is getting bigger! We are pleased to welcome three new members to the CEI Board of Directors : Rahul Raj, Founder and Director of Meal Exchange; Jocelyne Younan, Director of the McGill Management Career Centre, and Charles Faubert 2002 CEI Intern.

We have produced a **promotional video** which you can view on our website!