

# LOT

LEADERS OF TOMORROW  
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

# YOUNGLEADER

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

## PLATINUM SPONSORS

Electronic Arts

## GOLD SPONSORS

University of British Columbia  
British Columbia Institute of  
Technology  
London Drugs  
Simon Fraser University  
Business in Vancouver

## SILVER SPONSORS

Business Objects  
HSBC Bank Canada  
Kwantlen University College  
Scotiabank

## BRONZE SPONSORS

Mill Creek Coffee Company  
Cantest  
Impark  
Citywide Printing  
Davis LLP  
TD Commercial Banking

## EVENT SPONSORS

BC Hydro  
Chartered Accountants of BC  
Ernst & Young LLP  
Grouse Mountain Resorts  
The Vancouver Sun & Province



Nate Payne presenting at the Speed Networking CYP/LOT event.

## Volunteering at the Governor's Banquet

By *Nicholas Ilyin*

Volunteering is much more than dedicating ones time without monetary compensation. Participants become a part of the community in which they volunteer, engaging people from all walks of life. At the *Governor's Banquet* earlier this year, **Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT)** students, **Company of Young Professionals (CYP)**, and other **Vancouver Board of Trade** members got together to volunteer at the banquet and silent auction. It was an excellent opportunity, not only to participate in the community, but also to network with a large crowd of other volunteers and banquet attendees. Not to mention the fact that it was a fun and engaging event. Volunteering offers a sense of accomplishment and all the participants ended the night feeling good about being able to help out in a great environment.

The Vancouver Board of Trade is an organization which offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities, not only to its professional members, but also to the LOT and CYP members. From volunteering as event co-ordination assistants at the *Working SuperFair* to helping set up and run auctions at the annual Governor's Banquet, The Vancouver Board of Trade has it all. In my personal experience of volunteering for various organizations, I have most enjoyed volunteering with The Vancouver Board of Trade, given all the great people I have met and various responsibilities I have had. So if you are looking to start volunteering, but want a great working environment and an opportunity to meet lots of interesting individuals, then start off by emailing Nicole Wears at [nwears@boardoftrade.com](mailto:nwears@boardoftrade.com). <sup>S</sup>



A proud **PLATINUM** sponsor of *Leaders of Tomorrow*

# Volunteer to kick-start your career

By *Lise Boullard*

Are you dragging your feet at work lately? Have you lost the feeling of excitement that used to have you bouncing out of bed and skipping to the office every morning? (Okay, maybe not skipping.) You may be in a career rut. Volunteering may not be the sexiest of concepts, but whether you're just starting out in your field, or have your eye on that promotion, you'll be surprised how much it can spice up your work life. Here are five smart (and fun) reasons to volunteer:

## 1. The skills

Working for free, you may be given tasks that you would never get to do with your same level of skill and experience in a paid position. In addition, you might even find that volunteering gives you the experience you need to make a desired career switch or a move within your organization, without having to further your education.

## 2. The sweet contacts

Volunteering in an organization that interests you will likely put you in close contact with key

people in your industry; a great way to meet potential mentors, references, well-connected and knowledgeable peers or even future employers.

## 3. The resume-boosting

Giving your time to an organization whose mandate you're passionate about shows your current and future employers that you're motivated to learn something new and are dedicated to a particular cause. They will be impressed with your initiative, and when that next promotion comes up, your volunteer experience could be what sets you apart.

## 4. The chance to play career dress-up

Volunteering is an opportunity to try on different hats, practice different skills sets and even 'test out' other careers without leaving your current job.

## 5. The perks

Organizations often offer perks as a way to thank volunteers. But if you are choosing to do something that you are truly passionate about (for instance you love writing and you decide to volunteer for a community newspaper), volunteering will be a perk in itself. [S](#)

# A personal experience

By *Roshena Huang*

I can still recall my first volunteering experience. In elementary school, each Tuesday morning, a group of three students accompanied a retired couple to a Downtown Eastside homeless shelter where those in need could receive various necessities, including warm socks and blankets. We were taught to share what we had – in this case, our time – to help others in the community. And, for the rest of our day, we were allowed to roam free on Granville Island as a treat!

Since then, volunteering has played a significant role in my life and in those of my peers. We have grown up in a time when volunteering is not only a graduation requirement and resume-filler but, more importantly, a societal responsibility and a personally-rewarding experience. I have met some of my closest friends through volunteer activities, while performing

at a charity event or organizing games for underprivileged children at their very first sleep-away camp.

Companies are beginning to see the value in their employees volunteering, with some organizations allowing their workers to spend a work day building houses for Habitat for Humanity, for example. Others even give employees the option to use a predetermined number of hours, built into the standard work week, for volunteering at the place of their choice.

As we enter what many would consider to be humanity's most challenging times, perhaps it would be best to foster the habit of volunteering at a young age, to instill the value of giving to others in our community. The generation of young employees, executives, and entrepreneurs are a testament to the success of this practice. [S](#)

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

### Editor-in-Chief

Nicole Wears

### Committee Lead

Laura Thomas

### Assistant Editor

Nicholas Ilyin

### Contributors

Lise Boullard  
Varun Chandran  
Vanessa Choot  
Carla Culos  
Roshena Huang  
Nicholas Ilyin  
Meghan Roberts  
George Wogiatzis



A proud **GOLD** sponsor of *Leaders of Tomorrow*

## Give a little - get a lot

By Lise Boullard

Fall is a time of new beginnings: new goals, new class or work schedules, and for some, new evening activities. As you establish your fall routine, consider adding a new volunteer project to your extracurricular calendar. Contact any of the follow organizations and discover the volunteer opportunities that exist right here in the Lower Mainland:

### Volunteer opportunity databases

#### Go Volunteer

[www.govolunteer.ca](http://www.govolunteer.ca)

Access a database of opportunities across B.C. and Alberta.

#### Board Match

[www.boardmatch.org/flash-splash.html](http://www.boardmatch.org/flash-splash.html)

Search this database for available positions on the board of directors for charitable organizations in Canada.

#### Charity Village

[www.charityvillage.ca](http://www.charityvillage.ca)

Search volunteer opportunities across Canada.

#### Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/VolunteerOpportunities>  
Search and apply for opportunities to volunteer with the games in the years leading up to, and during, the Olympics.

### Resource centres

#### Volunteer BC

[www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca)

### Local volunteer organizations

#### Volunteer Abbotsford

<http://www.abbotsfordspiritofbc.com/volunteer.php/load/file/volunteer.html>

#### Volunteer Chilliwack

[http://www.comserv.bc.ca/index.php?p=1\\_8](http://www.comserv.bc.ca/index.php?p=1_8)

#### Volunteer Richmond

<http://www.volunteerrichmond.ca/>

#### Surrey Volunteer Centre

<http://www.scss.ca/index.htm>

# Volunteerism and reputation

By Vanessa Choot

More often than not, our interests and activities are a public extension of who we are. Especially in our volunteering activities, it is important for students to involve themselves in endeavours which reflect their personal interests. These will facilitate personal and professional growth, ultimately leading to a solid reputation in commitment, credibility and continuity. What we choose to do, voluntarily, is a more genuine reflection of our attitudes, work ethic and commitment to a certain organization, position or task.

True to the nature of the four pillars of Leaders of Tomorrow, volunteering gives us a leadership position in our community, a strong network to connect with in our future endeavours and the opportunity to be a mentor to those we help through our volunteerism. Whether it's raising money for children through Starlight

Starbright Children's Foundation, inputting our thoughts and opinions into economic development or contributing ideas for Vision 2010, outstanding work will be recognized.

Companies are equally renowned for what they do at work and what they do after work. The ideal is to give back to the community infinitely more than you take out. Similar to the corporate world, there are opportunities to rise up in the spirit of volunteerism. Instead of that two week event, you may be helping out for two years...or even twenty! So when you're fulfilling your LOT duties on a Vancouver Board of Trade taskforce or committee, don't see it as an obligation; rather, see it as another way to express your interests and hobbies. Let the work that you do as a volunteer generate excitement and positive feedback. The way you present yourself as a volunteer will carry through to your reputation. §

## A global phenomena in networking

By Varun Chandran

As Leaders of Tomorrow students, we have sought to refine the art of networking through the range of external events provided to us by The Vancouver Board of Trade. Although the art of networking has been poignantly explored by Darcy Rezac; the art of volunteering has been taken into an exciting new paradigm whose organizations and opportunities now attract a global audience.

I have been fascinated with the depth and breadth in which volunteering has evolved on a global scale encompassing a fabric of themes related to international development, eco-tourism, health and medicine, law, politics and numerous other academic disciplines. Students and working professionals now have the opportunity to attain global experience in their line of career interests. This new style of volunteerism encompassing the 21st century theme of global mobility rapidly revolutionizes the entire job market. Young professionals can now strengthen core career skills in a multifaceted, culturally sensitive environment which provides a challenging experience for many.

Volunteerism on a global scale expedites our ability to network and build career linkages, which greatly increase our chances of obtaining stable jobs. It also demonstrates our ability to navigate responsibilities in a foreign environment, which is analogous to our ability to handle complex challenges within the work place. §



Sam Thiara, the student affairs officer at Simon Fraser University, speaks to students about vision, choices, limitations and persistence at the Leadership Through Stories event.



A proud **SILVER** sponsor of *Leaders of Tomorrow*

# Consolidating career choices through volunteering.

By *Varun Chandran*

*"I can't get a job because I have no job experience. I can't get experience because nobody will give me a job!"*

This statement above reflects a burgeoning trend among post-secondary graduates as they sort out in which direction they would like to pursue their career. Many of us are still flabbergasted at the fact that we have completed four years of university limiting our time and ability to effectively explore concrete positions within our line of work.

Evidently, today's employers seek out graduates that reflect a strong match in terms of education and skills, but also look for community involvement and the degree of interaction with industry professionals. Indirectly, volunteering serves as a bridge between education and its applicability to the working world.

How can students get a better picture of which career direction they would like to pursue?

Rather than attending information sessions and interviews with a lackluster attitude; one must get into the habit of exercising opportunities within volunteering.

- ✓ Explore volunteer choices the same way you would career choices, as they reinforce each other. Being a volunteer provides you with a hands-on approach to self-assessment and an easy way to explore various career choices.
- ✓ Set clear and realistic goals for your volunteer experiences in order to improve skills and career assets.
- ✓ Be professional; these positions open a whole set of doors in terms of references or job opportunities.
- ✓ Relish the fact that your community service balances your professional life and provides satisfaction—not to mention providing employers a chance to assess your leadership skills. §

## A special thanks!

*A special thank you to the Leaders of Tomorrow students who have worked diligently and creatively over the past year to produce this newsletter for peers, mentors and sponsors.*

*Students Nicholas Ilyin, Lise Boullard, Varun Chandran, Roshena Huang, Carla Culos, Meghan Roberts and George Wogiatzis have volunteered their talents and time during their involvement with the Leaders of Tomorrow program. Good luck to these and all of the Leaders of Tomorrow students as they take their next steps as leaders in our community.*



## Congratulations!

A special congratulations to the following **Leaders of Tomorrow** graduates for their outstanding efforts:

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Milla Zaenker     | Charles D.C. Lee      |
| Jason Xu          | Alice Ko              |
| Sarah Wong        | Roshena Huang         |
| Adrian Wan        | Nicholas Ilyin        |
| Sandy Tseng       | Parag Khare           |
| Sterling Tran     | Kathleen Kilroe       |
| Robyn Thomson     | Christine Elliott     |
| Julia Thorner     | Carla Culos           |
| Yue (Otto) Sun    | Chris Demwell         |
| Ivy So            | Sami Dong             |
| Sanja Sivic       | Varun Chandran        |
| Natasha Sharwood  | Bowen Cheung          |
| Kevin (Hoan) Pham | Emily Chan            |
| Jaya Panwar       | Leah Camenzind        |
| Nathaniel Payne   | Dan Bubyn             |
| Fanny Ly          | Colin Bussiere        |
| Justin MacDonald  | Lise Boullard         |
| Graham Lovely     | Anita Bhatti          |
| Wendy Liang       | Kia Afshari           |
| Jennette Leung    | Chinatsu (Tina) Aikyo |



## A new cohort of LOT students

On July 2, 2008, Leaders of Tomorrow program applicants participated in speed-interviews and networked with mentors and business professionals involved in LOT. All the candidates had the opportunity of being interviewed by many interviewers. The candidates will know the results of their applications in the coming weeks. §



A proud **BRONZE** sponsor of *Leaders of Tomorrow*