



The Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies Newsletter

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RYERSON UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Business, 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario

In this Newsletter:

Director's Corner...1

A summer hive of activity at CVSS.....2

Talking volunteerism in Toronto's ethnic communities.....3

Is Canada's multicultural policy working for new immigrants?.....3

New CVSS publications and upcoming conference presentations.....4

Director's Corner

Agnes Meinhard

Summer of 2005 will be remembered as fun-filled and productive, with our team of four research assistants and three faculty members working on six different projects. By the end of the summer, two papers were submitted for publication, data collection was completed for another project, and interviews conducted in the spring were transcribed and analysed for the preparation of three papers, to be presented at the Annual ARNOVA conference held this year in Washington, DC.

The end of the summer meant saying goodbye to two of our mainstays of the past three years: Louise Moher and Pike Wright. We were fortunate in having Louise back for the summer, but now she is once again off to Osgoode Hall Law School (2nd year), and will probably spend next summer working at a law firm. While we are all sad that Pike Wright, our Research Coordinator since October 2004, is leaving CVSS, we wish her the best of luck in pursuing her career in literary editing and freelance writing. During her stay with us, Pike co-authored two papers along with all of the other tasks that she fulfilled so admirably. Now we look forward to reading her literary work.

Stepping in to fill the vacancy, I welcome Itay Greenspan to the position of Research Coordinator. Itay has recently completed a Masters degree at the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. His thesis focused on the roles and effectiveness of advocacy NGOs in creating policy change. Itay's previous work experience includes appointments at other research centres such as the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (JIIS), and the Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information (IPCRI). His research interests include nonprofit organizations, public participation, environmental and social justice, and mechanisms for dispute resolution.

Finally, congratulations to our associate Ida Berger on her appointment to the Provincial Consumer Advisory Council. The Council provides advice to the Minister of Government Services on consumer protection and consumer policy issues.

¹ **Fast Facts - Source:** Michael Hall et al. (2005). The Canadian Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector in Comparative Perspective. Toronto: Imagine Canada

FAST FACT #1

More than half (51%) of all nonprofit and voluntary sector revenue in Canada comes from government. Most government funding comes from provincial governments and the smallest share comes from the federal government ¹

A summer hive of activity at CVSS

The summer months are usually a quiet time of year on the 8th floor of the Business building. However, the Centre was abuzz with research activity and new staff. From readying papers for journal submission to organizing the volunteerism workshop, the team was happy to work in the blissfully air-conditioned building. Our research moved along in leaps and bounds thanks to the addition of several new (and returning) valuable research assistants.

Louise Moher, the erstwhile coordinator of CVSS (2002-2004), returned to us for the summer from her first year at Osgoode Hall Law School. A graduate of Ryerson's Radio and Television Arts program, Louise played a major role in completing a paper for journal publication this summer. Congratulations on the co-authorship, Louise.

A new face around CVSS belongs to Maame Barima, who graduated with an Honours BA from the Communications program at University of Ottawa in 2002. Currently studying Nursing at Ryerson, Maame came to CVSS through Ryerson's Work Study Program. CVSS will continue taking advantage of her valuable research and organizational skills in the coming months. This is Maame's first job in academic research.

Tamara Hecht was another new staff member at the Centre this summer. Enrolled in the 2nd year of a BA in Communications and Film Studies at York University, she is planning a future career in screenwriting. Tamara said she enjoyed the opportunity to do real research and especially liked working in the friendly atmosphere of CVSS.

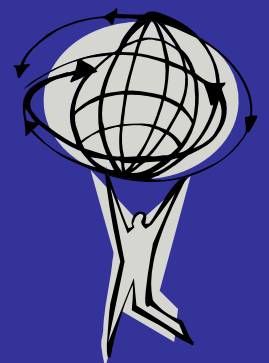


The 2005 CVSS team enjoying their end of summer lunch

L-to-R: (sitting): Maame Twum-Barima, Louise Moher, Ilan Alleson; (standing): Agnes Meinhard, Mary Foster, Pike Wright, Tamara Hecht, Ida Berger

CVSS Mandate:

The Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies exists in order to provide a focus for much needed research towards understanding the unique problems faced by voluntary organizations, and to be a venue for the coordination of educational programs, consulting, organizational development training programs, conferences, workshops, seminars and publications.



Talking volunteerism in Toronto's ethnic communities

Call for Papers:

International Society
for Third Sector
Research (ISTR)
Seventh Annual
Conference

Bangkok, Thailand
The Royal Orchid
Sheraton Hotel
July 9-12, 2006

Focus: Civil Society
and Human Security:
Raum Jai

**Abstract
submissions due:**

September 30, 2005

Please consult
www.istr.org for
additional
information.

This summer the Centre hosted a volunteerism workshop at Ryerson's Pitman Hall for representatives from Toronto's ethnocultural communities. Members from Chinese, Jewish, Polish and Russian communities gathered for a full-day brainstorming session on June 17 to discuss the challenges of volunteerism in Toronto.

Since 2001, our research team has been looking at how ethnicity is related to volunteerism and civic participation. We have sought to understand the influence of diverse ethnic backgrounds on the motivation to volunteer. We have also asked how volunteerism affects an individual's sense of belonging, trust, empowerment and integration in Canadian society. This workshop not only contributed to our Ethnic Diversity Study (led by Ida Berger), but also gave participants the opportunity to network, to develop a stronger awareness of their own views regarding ethnic identity and to share ideas to better serve their communities.

Is Canada's multicultural policy working for new immigrants?

The Centre is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a \$14,000 grant from the Centre for Excellence in Research on Immigration and Settlement (CERIS) to address this important research question. Multiculturalism is a cornerstone of Canadian social policy and identity. Ideally, this policy will promote integration – when a group embraces the values of its new country, while maintaining its ethnic traditions. This is markedly different from a process of assimilation, when groups do not retain and celebrate their unique culture. To determine if the policy is working for new immigrants to Canada, we will be studying the role of nonprofit ethnocultural associations in facilitating the economic success and social integration of newcomers. We plan to interview executive directors of immigrant associations to identify how they promote or hinder Canada's official policy of multiculturalism.

We are pleased to report that this project will also offer research positions to two graduate students enrolled in Ryerson's new Masters of Arts program in Immigration and Settlement Studies.

New CVSS publications and upcoming conference presentations

New publications

Foster, M.K. and Meinhard, A.G. (Forthcoming, 2005). The Diversity of Revenue Sources among Voluntary Organizations in Canada. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*

This paper explores the use of revenue diversification as a response to policy changes. The findings indicate that the factors related to embracing revenue diversification to support program delivery differ for voluntary organizations run by women and nongendered organizations.

Foster, M.K. and Meinhard, A.G. (2005). Women's Voluntary Organizations in Canada: Bridgers, Bonders or Both? *Voluntas* 16(2), 143-159

This study explores the differences between women's voluntary organizations and gender-neutral organizations in their propensity to form a bridging or a bonding interorganizational relationship.

Meinhard, A.G., Foster, M.K., and Wright, P. (Forthcoming). Rethinking School-based Community Service: The Importance of a Structured Program. *The Philanthropist*

In a critical examination of the 40-hour mandatory community service program set in Ontario as a curriculum requirement for the Ontario Secondary School diploma, this article demonstrates that the program structure is more important than whether or not it is mandatory.

Upcoming ARNOVA conference presentations by CVSS faculty (November 2005, Washington D.C.)

- "Civic Engagement, Social Cohesion and Social Integration in Canada", I.E. Berger, M.K. Foster, and A.G. Meinhard
- "Closing the Loop: Corporate Links to the Voluntary Sector", A.G. Meinhard, M.K. Foster, and I.E. Berger
- "From Philanthropic Strategy To Strategic Philanthropy: Selected Case Studies", M.K. Foster, P. Wright, A.G. Meinhard, and I.E. Berger
- "I'm Dancing, but What's the Tune? - do voluntary sector - government agreements work?", Peter Elson

FAST FACT #2

*Canadian businesses provide only 3% of the total revenues of nonprofit and voluntary organizations. However, there are indications that many corporations are recognizing the importance of demonstrating good corporate citizenship and increasing their contribution to Canadian communities.*¹

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