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[Taking Sides in the Volunteerism Debate](#)

Blog
[Virginia Edelstein](#)
December 7, 2009
0

Ok, it's time. It's time to talk about volunteering.

For those of you who know Vantage Point well, you know that we've been students of volunteerism and the voluntary sector for more than 60 years. And in that time, we've dramatically changed the way we look at volunteer engagement.

Specifically, we've changed the way we approach inspiring volunteer engagement. We start with the organizations and *not* the volunteers. Think of this as supply and demand. If volunteers are the supply, many, including President Obama, seem to think we're lacking. "There aren't enough people volunteering" = "there..."

[Read more about Taking Sides in the Volunteerism Debate](#)
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[The Mission Statement - Your Most Valuable Resource](#)

Blog
[Virginia Edelstein](#)
November 24, 2009
0

Today's guest blogger, Jennifer Sweeney, is one of the most active and dedicated volunteers I've ever met. She is a tireless community builder and a value to any organization with which she works. I asked Jennifer to talk about her experience attending our recent Leadership Series Workshop with author and management guru [Peter Brinckerhoff](#). Jennifer shares the key points from Brinckerhoff's materials here. Certainly many great lessons were learned. And a reminder that we all need to start from mission - always - is a good one.

The Mission Statement - Your Most Valuable Resource
By Jennifer...

[Read more about The Mission Statement - Your Most Valuable Resource](#)
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[A Rising Tide](#)

Blog
[Virginia Edelstein](#)
November 18, 2009
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I spent time this month at a [conference](#) hosted by the [Minnesota Council of Nonprofits](#) and the [Minnesota Council on Foundations](#). 1800 attendees! Who says professional development budgets are dead?!

I was struck by the realization that I am a conference lover. Now I know some of you are not, and with reason, but I heart conferences. Not for the crappy food or overly long and useless awards ceremonies, but for the time to sit back and actually think. The opportunity to learn from others.

Sadly, in the not-for-profit sector, I think there is too little of this happening. Think about it - is it...

[Read more about A Rising Tide](#)
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[Dieting at Work](#)

Blog
[Virginia Edelstein](#)

October 29, 2009

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So I have embarked on what is supposed to be a life-transforming health journey. Namely, a program at a gym where everyone is already totally fit and hot (that always kind of irks me) that requires I work out from 6-7 am SIX DAYS A WEEK! In addition, we get nutrition counseling and sign up to follow a relatively strict regimen of food. All of this for eight weeks.

If you know me, you're saying that I don't need to diet. And you're pretty much right. But I do need to change my eating habits. Ever met the kid that grew up on sugary cereal and no veggies? That's me. And now I'm just the adult...

[Read more about Dieting at Work](#)

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[Building an Organization for Change](#)

Blog

[Virginia Edelstein](#)

October 13, 2009

1

Today's guest blogger is one of our extraordinary volunteers, Suzanne Boyd - who blogs [here](#). Suzanne is an HR professional - and one of those incredibly smart, lively and engaged people that makes me feel a little bit inadequate in the best possible way. Suzanne facilitates training for Volunteer Vancouver. In this case, she was the presenter at a Books for Breakfast event. For more information on that program, check out the propaganda at the bottom of this post.

Building Your Organization to Change

Guest blog by Suzanne Boyd

Partner, [Noverra Consulting & Capital Partners](#)

Several months...

[Read more about Building an Organization for Change](#)

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[Buses, Employment and Work](#)

Blog

[Virginia Edelstein](#)

October 6, 2009

1

If you're following this blog regularly, then you know I haven't posted in a while. I've been in transition as I move to Minneapolis, Minnesota and take up residence. And yet, here I am, from Minneapolis, writing this blog. I'm paid to write this blog; it's part of my job description.

"So how does that work?", you may ask. Well, I am continuing to work for Volunteer Vancouver on contract, remotely. And pretty part-time. Which leads me to today's topic of buses, employment and work. At Volunteer Vancouver we are very dedicated to getting the "right people on the bus", as [Jim Collins tell us...](#)

[Read more about Buses, Employment and Work](#)

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[Organizational Pilates](#)

Blog

[Virginia Edelstein](#)

September 21, 2009

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Today's guest bloggers are Anil Patel, Executive Director and Jen Grebeldinger, Program Manager of [The Framework Foundation](#), possibly better known for their Timeraiser events across Canada. And in the name of full disclosure, Volunteer Vancouver does work with the Timeraiser crew so it's a tainted, but genuine full endorsement that I can offer on everything these guys touch. Their model of engaging all their stakeholders, via their [Civic Footprint](#), might be one of the coolest things I've ever seen.

Quick Propaganda from the authors: We are quite excited to be a few days away from the 2nd...

[Read more about Organizational Pilates](#)

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[When Will the Next Leaders Flourish?](#)

Blog
[Colleen](#)

September 10, 2009
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Today's guest blogger is Colleen Kelly, Executive Director of Volunteer Vancouver. This topic is near and dear to my heart, as I work on a program to create learning and networking opportunities for the next leaders of Vancouver's not-for-profit sector through our [Next Leaders Network](#). It's a completely selfish effort, as I think I might be one of these "next leaders", and certainly don't know exactly how or when the "next" may turn into "current". Perhaps it has already?

When Will the Next Leaders Flourish?

by Colleen Kelly

When I walked by the [Water-Wise Garden](#) in Surrey City Hall Park this...

[Read more about When Will the Next Leaders Flourish?](#)
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[But How Do I Become An Outlier?](#)

Blog
[Virginia Edelstein](#)

August 28, 2009
2

I recently read Malcolm Gladwell's newest book, *Outliers*. And I'll start this post by noting that I am a fan of *The Tipping Point* and never got around to *Blink*. I read the book because I agreed to present the material to a workshop, and talk about how to apply Gladwell's theories to the not-for-profit sector. Being a cynic, I contemplated getting up in the front of the room and saying "you can't" and sitting down.

Because this presentation was to be attended by my boss, I decided not to do this. But here is what I essentially think of this book: like many other reviewers I've found online...

[Read more about But How Do I Become An Outlier?](#)
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Blog
[Virginia Edelstein](#)

August 20, 2009
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Do you talk about knowledge transfer at your office?

We certainly do at Volunteer Vancouver. We actually offer training to other organizations on how to create a continuity of leadership among their staff, but that doesn't exactly solve the problem of what's in my head and how to get that out and put it in someone else's.

Knowledge transfer is a tough topic, and I find it's hard to find "experts" on knowledge transfer. Often people start to talk about IT systems when you mention knowledge transfer, but it's more than that to me. Knowledge isn't someone's phone number and alma mater - it's why...

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