



# FCC NEWS

APRIL 2007

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We make your business look good.  
Official Digital Printing & Signage  
supplier of the FCC

## FCC Inserts

Planning Update  
Treasurer's Update  
Treasurer's Workshop—Registration  
Insurance—Did You Know?  
Community Hero Award—Nomination ✓  
Partnership Group—Services

## Advertising Inserts

Alberta Sports—Poster  
Calgary Artists' Society—Spring Show  
Calgary Police Services—News  
Calgary Reads—Book Sale  
City of Calgary—Workshop  
Community Mediation—Flyer  
WP Puppet Theatre—Flyer  
YouthInkIt—Journalism Classes  
Youth Singers—3 items

✓ Denotes Communities only

The FCC does not endorse anyone nor do we encourage you to engage specific people. We provide you with information (marketing & advertisements), but we leave the decision up to you.

We have informed people of our policy, so if anyone says that they are supported by the FCC, please keep this policy in mind.

## FCC Begins a Strategic Planning Process

The Federation of Calgary Communities is on the move. In the fall of 2006, the FCC board began the strategic planning process. A new vision, mission and values were struck and five potential strategies for the next three to five years were developed. The figure below outlines this beginning:

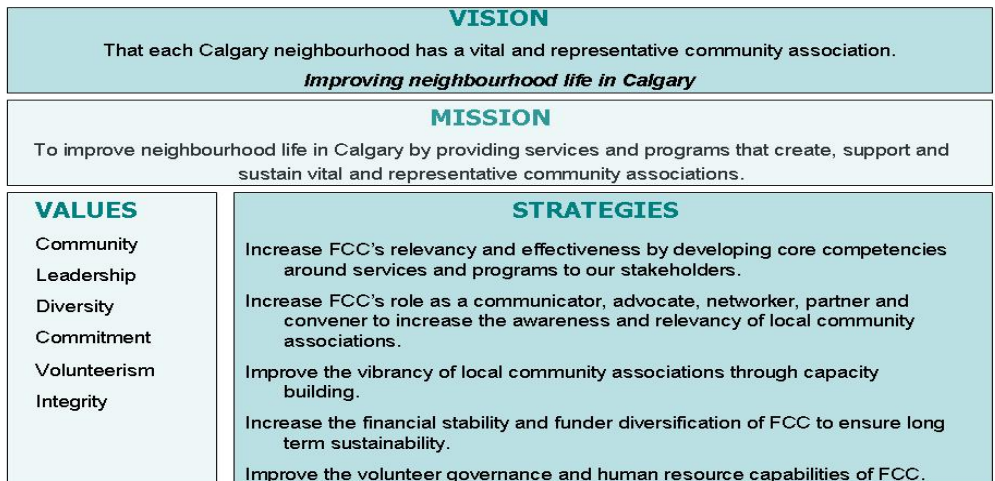


**FCC**  
Federation of Calgary Communities

### Strategic Plan At a Glance

2007-2010

DRAFT



THE NEXT STEP: FCC cannot finalize the Strategic Plan or the accompanying business and operation plan without input from our stakeholders. So we need your help!

Over the course of April and the first part of May, FCC will be hosting stakeholder meetings. There will be meetings for Administrators, Board Presidents or their delegates, and city representatives. Input is required to help determine the areas where FCC should focus its resources over the next three years. The meeting will take about 3 hours and will be advertised via email once dates are finalized. Be part of building a future for FCC – sign up when you receive the invite!

## Goodbye to Long-Time FCC Staff Person

It is hard to believe that 14 years has passed since Charlotte joined FCC as the Administrative Assistant. Since that day, Charlotte has worn many hats and has been instrumental to FCC and our member organizations. Charlotte's hats included: Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Executive Assistant, Computer & Technology Technician, Webmaster, Database Manager, Volunteer Manager, General Office Coordinator, Bookkeeper, Receptionist and keeper and organizer of all important information and history. Charlotte has decided to pursue her passion to work in Executive Assistant and Administrative roles as this is also where her strong skill set lies. Please join me in wishing her well as she leaves FCC. I know FCC will feel a void!

## Strategic Planning—What is it?

Simply put, strategic planning determines where an organization is going over the next year or more, how it's going to get there and how to know if we got there or not. The focus of a strategic plan is usually on the entire organization, while the focus of a business plan is usually on a particular product, service or program.

There are a variety of perspectives, models and approaches used in strategic planning. The way that a strategic plan is developed depends on the nature of the organization's leadership, culture of the organization, complexity of the organization's environment, size of the organization, expertise of planners, etc. Some plans are scoped to one year, many to three years, and some to five to ten years into the future. Some plans include only top-level information and no action plans. Some plans are five to eight pages long, while others can be considerably longer.

Quite often, an organization's strategic planners already know much of what will go into a strategic plan (this is true for business planning, too). However, development of the strategic plan greatly helps to clarify the organization's plans and ensure that key leaders are all "on the same script". Far more important than the strategic plan document, is the strategic planning process itself.

### Benefits of Strategic Planning

Strategic planning serves a variety of purposes in organization, including to:

1. Clearly define the purpose of the organization and to establish realistic goals and objectives consistent with that mission in a defined time frame within the organization's capacity for implementation.
2. Communicate those goals and objectives to the organization's constituents.
3. Develop a sense of ownership of the plan.
4. Ensure the most effective use is made of the organization's resources by focusing the resources on the key priorities.
5. Provide a base from which progress can be measured and establish a mechanism for informed change when needed.
6. Bring together of everyone's best and most reasoned efforts have important value in building a consensus about where an organization is going.
7. Provides clearer focus of organization, producing more efficiency and effectiveness
8. Bridges staff and board of directors
9. Builds strong teams in the board and the staff
10. Provides the glue that keeps the board together
11. Produces great satisfaction among planners around a common vision
12. Increases productivity from increased efficiency and effectiveness
13. Solves major problems

Your City of Calgary CRC can be an excellent resource if you are interested in beginning a Strategic Planning process.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS... for more details call us at 244-4111

### NEW....Success Stories

We would like to profile and share your success stories with all our communities and other subscribers.

Please email your stories to Leslie Evans at [leslie.evans@calgarycommunities.com](mailto:leslie.evans@calgarycommunities.com) before the posted Deadlines on Page 4.

### FCC MEETINGS

**Regular Board of Directors Meeting**  
Monday, April 23rd at 7:00pm

**Central Council of Presidents**  
Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007

### Area Council Meetings

April to May 2007  
Watch for your email meeting notice

### FCC WORKSHOPS

April 26 .....Treasurer's Workshop

# FCC UPDATE

## March was a busy month

March was a very busy month for both the Board and staff. On March 10<sup>th</sup> we held a retreat as part of our continuing transition process. We reviewed our financial challenges and discussed how we are going to deal with them. As you know we had a successful fund raising event in February with Barbara Colorado. We have recently signed a six-year sponsorship deal with Apex Credit Union. And we are looking at other opportunities.

CentrePoint facilitated our discussions on the transition of having a new Executive Director. We also talked about what some of our goals will be during the next while. We are working on a new strategic plan. Some of you will be asked to assist in defining our strategic direction. We hope to bring the results to our September 15<sup>th</sup> Central Council meeting. We also discussed recruitment of Board members and some of the skills we feel would be a real asset to the organization. We will communicate more on this as we work through the process. Part of the process will be to review our bylaws to ensure there are no barriers to achieving our goals and strategic direction. If there are amendments resulting from this, we will bring them to the September Central Council meeting.

## March 17 Central Council

The next Saturday after our retreat was Central Council. It was held at Deerfoot Meadows Marketing Centre. The venue was excellent and they were superb hosts. We want to thank them for doing this for us.

We had positive feedback on the program. We had an interesting presentation on the affordable housing situation in Calgary. Central Council passed two motions on this. One was in support in principle of the initiatives being undertaken by SPRI. Second was to support the proposal being made by United Way/SPRI to City Council on the new Land Use By-

law to allow secondary suites as a discretionary use in R-1 districts in new subdivisions. This was communicated to Council at the March 19<sup>th</sup> public hearing on the proposed Land Use Bylaw. Community Mediation Calgary made a presentation on mediation services available to your communities and residents at no cost to them. They are having a special evening (7 to 9 pm) on April 18 at Fort Calgary for communities to discuss how to deal with conflict, which is a naturally occurring process in our lives.

## March 24 Partners in Planning

By now you can see we had a Saturday morning club going in March. A new Partners in Planning workshop on Community Sustainability was held on March 24<sup>th</sup>. 59 people attended. Noel Keough of Sustainable Calgary was a key presenter/facilitator of the workshop. He gave us all much food for thought.

## March 22 Grant Workshop

This one was on a Thursday (we ran out of Saturdays). It too was extremely successful. They had to bring in a lot of extra chairs and had to cap the attendance at 25 because of limited space. Heidi is planning a repeat next year.

## Looking Forward

We will continue to be very busy for the remainder of the year. We have a very ambitious schedule of targets we are hoping to meet. We will keep you updated as they unfold.

*Bob Lang*  
President



Available at no cost to Community Associations

1. **ALBERTA FINE OPTIONS PROGRAM**—This is a Community Service Program for individuals who can not pay their fines. Your community can access this FREE labour program by contacting Helen Barnaby at **297-2345**. It is preferred that work be done in the evening or on weekends.
2. **COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM**—Does your community have a facility upgrading project to be done? [ie: painting, spring/fall clean-up] The Alberta Department of Justice can provide FREE, a crew of 8-12 individuals (who are minimum security adult offenders) These crews are available 7 days a week. To arrange for a crew, please contact Darren McFarlane at **312-8895** or fax your request to 297-2623 to receive the necessary application forms.
3. **ALBERTA JOB CORPS**—Can provide at no charge to non-profit organizations, labour and expertise for light renovation projects, [ie: painting, flooring, carpentry-no electrical or plumbing]. If you are interested and would like more information about this program, please call **297-7667**
4. **U of C STUDENT'S UNION VOLUNTEERS**—available only from October to April. If your community is looking for individuals to help with a special event or project, call the "In To the Streets" Program Coordinator at **220-8919** to make a request. They are able to provide between 6 and 25 volunteers for a day to help your community.
5. **CALGARY YOUTH ATTENDANCE CENTRE**—Alberta Justice Youth Program is offering communities help with projects that require stuffing envelopes, folding flyers or assembling newsletters. To arrange for a crew call **863-1452**.
6. **COMMUNITY MEDIATION CALGARY**—This program is available, at no cost, for resolving disputes between individuals, neighbours, board members, or organizations within your community. Conflicts can involve: property, pets, fences, parking, policies and nuisances. For assistance please call **269-2707**.
7. **BOARD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**—Designed to build the governance skills of not-for-profit boards. This hands-on workshop lets you apply new ideas immediately! There is no charge to individuals or boards for workshops sponsored by Alberta Community Development, Grant MacEwan College and the Wild Rose Foundation. For more information contact the Board Development Program by telephone **310-0000 + (780) 422-7854** or Email **bdp@gov.ab.ca** with your request.
8. **LEGAL SERVICES PRO BONO**—Highly skilled students are available to non-profit organizations to conduct legal education seminars; draft policies and manuals; and help organizations provide legal information and assistance under adequate legal supervision. For more information on the PBSC program at the University of Calgary, call the Faculty of Law at **220-2690** or Email **probonos@ucalgary.ca** with your request. Visit website at [www.law.ucalgary.ca/pbse](http://www.law.ucalgary.ca/pbse)

## FCC Newsletter Deadlines For 2007

Submissions are accepted until 4:00 pm on the following dates

ISSUE	Deadline
Jan _____	Jan 10
February _____	Jan 31
March _____	Feb 28
April _____	Mar 28
May _____	Apr 25
June _____	May 30
July _____	June 27
August _____	July 25
September _____	Aug 29
October _____	Sept 26
November _____	Nov 07
December _____	Nov 28

Full details can be found on our website  
[www.calgarycommunities.com](http://www.calgarycommunities.com)

### Services at the FCC

ED / Organizational Support & Advocacy ..... Leslie Evans  
 Financial—Audits & Accounting ..... Heidi Brauer  
 Community Planning & Development ..... Bob van Wegen  
 Communications & Marketing ..... Vacant  
 Fund Development Officer ..... Phyllis Snider

### November 2006–2007 FCC Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Lang</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>John Wakoluk</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Neil Hughes</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bill Scott</b>
Director	Gus Barron
Director	David Brown
Director	Kendrick Charles
Director	Sean Chu
Director	Alan Cuthbertson
Director	Raleigh DeHaney
Director	Maurice Espey
Director	Val McLean
Director	Robert Matheson
Director	Ralph Meyer
Director	Stanley Vong
<b>City Liaison</b>	<b>Cynthia Busche-Hiebert</b>

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