STEWARDSHIP CENTRE
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Stewardship Works! *Funding For Success* Workshop *Discussion Points*

Stewardship Works! Pilot Program Background and Accomplishments

The Stewardship Works! program was created as a result of several research studies demonstrating that stewardship and conservation groups were struggling with core funding and ongoing expenses.

The BC Ministry of Environment was leading a multi-partner project, Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People, that served as a starting point for developing the idea of Stewardship Works!, a funding program to help organizations engage volunteers, enable greater visibility in their communities, and to assist with ongoing operational costs. As the idea built momentum, Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program joined MOE in providing funding to explore the impacts of providing core funding to stewardship organizations in areas throughout BC.

After a formative workshop in 2007, the three-year pilot program was launched in 2008, with small amounts of funding granted to 10 stewardship organizations in regions throughout BC.

With guidance from an Advisory Committee, and the assistance of an experienced evaluation consultant, Stewardship Works! was able to demonstrate that small amounts of core funding resulted in many short and medium term benefits, including an increase in volunteers, better staff and volunteer training, greater ability to fundraise, increased organizational capacity, enhanced programming, more community engagement, and enabling policy participation. Several reports were produced throughout this project and are available on the Stewardship Centre website.

Capacity Building Initiative

The Stewardship Centre is also keenly interested in building organizational capacity by providing tools other than core funding. To date we have developed an inventory of capacity building resources, as well as a self-assessment tool to enable organizations to gauge their current capacity levels and determine where to focus their ongoing capacity development efforts.

Where Do We Go From Here?

As the pilot draws to a close, we need to examine how to continue supporting core funding initiatives in BC.

Possible Mechanisms of Support

The models for supporting core funding are avenues that either currently exist or are potential models. The following ideas are meant to encourage discussion on opportunities for continuing to support core funding.

Give Green Canada (www.givegreencanada.ca)
Interested donors are able to discover their giving options and search for environmental organizations to support.

Micro-credit Inspired Giving
Micro-credit and community focused initiatives, such as Kiva.org and others, have become popular in today's social media environment. This type of platform could be adapted to enable donations on a more personal level to projects of interest.

Conservation Lottery
BC Lottery and Gaming Corp have *Sports Funder* lotteries/games where proceeds are directed towards provincial sporting organizations. Could a similar model be created to benefit conservation in BC?

Traditional Fundraising
SCBC and partners organizations could continue to seek funding from governments and funding organizations to enable ongoing support of Stewardship Works.

Shift in Funders Criteria
Funders themselves may wish to expand their funding criteria to enable a greater portion of their grants to be spent on core expenses such as administration and coordination.

Social Enterprise
Non-profit organizations can also run a business and direct all profits into the organization.

About the Stewardship Centre for BC (SCBC)

The Stewardship Centre has been providing resources and tools for the stewardship community since 1994. Learn more at www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca.

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program

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www.PWBREWING.com

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