

WEB|TEAM MAKES NON-PROFIT BUDGETS WORK

The VCN [web|team](#) was launched a decade ago with the intent to increase the web presence of non-profit organizations and VCN individual members. Often working with limited budgets, our staff and volunteers create the sites envisioned by the client at a price they can afford. This team will also freely assist learning on a DIY!



Solidary Notes began in March 2000 as a strategy to bring community activists and unionists together. They came to the [web|team](#) because they were struggling with their old site. It hosts a large number of MP3 files for the music they share and the administrative management of the site wasn't working for them. It's a busy place with scheduling, event listings, links to mission-enhancing pages newsletters and an opportunity to book them for a show. The [web|team](#) made it all work for them blending professional design with WordPress training so they (well Penny Goldsmith...) could do it themselves.

Find out more - **Visit and listen to fun music here:** <http://solidaritynotes.ca/> AND Join them MAYDAY to sing for affordable housing.



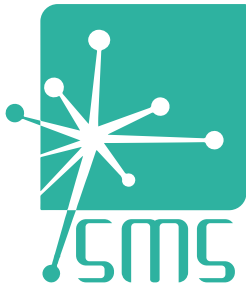
MAYDAY 2016
Unitarian Church of Vancouver
949 West 49th Ave
Sunday, May 1 7-9:30 pm

HOTTENANNY
for Homes!

Singalong & raise your voices
with Solidarity Notes Labour Choir
& many of our musical friends
MC: BC MLA Melanie Mark

Tickets available from Choir members
& at the Door: \$15 or pay what you can

Fundraiser for Raise The Rates, the Unitarian Refugee Program & Solidarity Notes



Street Messaging System News

VCN has been reimagining itself in recent years. A key aim is to reduce the reliance we feel on government funding and projects that are getting more complicated to deliver every year. For that reason we have been focused on increasing our

tech|team and web|team fee-for-service work. It also means being innovative around internet technology service that can lead to positive change. This is why the work we do with the **Street Messaging System (SMS)** is so worthwhile.

In the Fall, we heard from the beta-users of the SMS that they wanted to use the system for their more direct messaging needs so we have re-coded for the last few months to allow for internal groups and lists that can instantly reach the intended persons quickly and easily. In April SWAN (Sex Worker Advocacy Network) started using the system to text the bad date list. Prior to this, they would send each text message many individual times. Now it reaches all their lists in one step. I

Other upgrades include:

- **Uniform code allows for multiple languages**
- **Much larger text field to allow for messages longer than 140 characters**
- **Neighbourhood selection criteria to limit messages to the city & community most relevant to reach.**



Mobile is the future.

Text messaging has a 100% open rate while emails are 48%. The potential of this system is huge!

“If you haven’t got a home – you have a phone. “

The first half of our fiscal year looks good!

VCN’s vision to ‘bridge the digital divide’ has never been more essential. Our work began with offer local people a public amenity for each to freely access what is now the single most important economic instrument of our time – the Internet. It’s a fabulous success story!

As VCN approaches its 23rd year of operation, help to keep VCN’s open and inclusive program going by keeping your membership dues paid, and donating what you can - including your time! Many of our volunteers have left for employment recently!

Please give: <http://www2.vcn.bc.ca/get-involved/donate/>



VCN would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the **retiring Executive Director of 411 Seniors Centre Sandra Gebhardt**

411 Seniors Centre has been a wonderful supporter of VCN for many years. Our tech|team are called upon to make upgrades, ensure their income tax filing support centre is ready to help as many people as possible and that their computer access points do the same thing.

Sandra was always ready to give us a reference for work or a grant. She will be missed.



Regular maintenance of sites developed with WordPress is essential for stability and to remain free of bugs.

Keeping your website up-to-date with the current version key to preventing hacking/hijacking of your website.