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Minister and philanthropist meet

Relationships between the community and voluntary sector and the government in Canada and New Zealand were discussed recently when the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, met with Bob Wyatt, the Executive Director of the Muttart Foundation in Canada at Philanthropy New Zealand's Funders Forum.

The Muttart Charitable Foundation was set up in 1953 by Canadian philanthropists Merrill and Gladys Muttart.

Minister Laban thanked Bob for presenting his research and welcomed the opportunity to hear comment from beyond New Zealand's shores. She said the relationship between the government and the community and voluntary sector is complex, but evolving in a positive way and there is a healthy tradition of dialogue between the two.

"Government, businesses and community organisations need to continue to work respectfully together in order to have a strong and vibrant society.



Luamanuvao Winnie Laban and Bob Wyatt.

"The *Keeping It Legal E Ai Ki Te Ture* resource is an excellent example of collaboration, as it is a joint initiative between the New Zealand Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations and the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector."

Bob noted that New Zealand could not survive without the voluntary sector, describing it as the "root of democracy in our countries". He also said there needed to be an ongoing dialogue between all parties, noting that relationships need work, mutual understanding and respect.

View *Keeping It Legal E Ai Ki Te Ture* at www.nzfwo.org.nz/keepingitlegal

Good practice in action

The successful series of Good Practice in Action full-day seminars organised by the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector is continuing throughout 2006.

Building trust in government was the theme at the May event, which included presentations from the State Services Commission, Inland

Revenue and Work and Income.

The August event will focus on managing risk and accountability, with volunteering the focus for 24 November 2006.

Each event is held at the Overseas Terminal in Wellington.

For more on the seminar series visit www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/good-practice-in-action.html

Volunteering research

Six New Zealanders, including the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector's Director, Brenda Ratcliff, recently attended the 11th National Conference on Volunteering and the Inaugural Volunteering Research Symposium in Melbourne.

Highlights were a report on Japanese perspectives of volunteering, a discussion on the policy consultation framework, and the Giving Australia research, which explored the relationships between volunteering and philanthropy.

"The research indicated that people who volunteered their time donated more money than non-volunteers. And more people were volunteering but doing fewer hours," Brenda says.

Perceptions of volunteering are a challenge according to another study. Keynote speaker Dr Jeni Warburton's research showed that baby boomers are resistant to the language of volunteering as they feel it makes them look old. Baby boomers see themselves as undertaking fitness and youthful activities, and the surveyed group did not consider themselves to be in the appropriate (i.e. older) demographic to undertake volunteering.

An overall theme was the importance of involving community organisations and volunteers in the government policy process.

"I came back with ideas for work we might do here, but also an immense sense of pride about what New Zealand is achieving and the relationships we're building between government and the community and voluntary sector," Brenda says.

For more about volunteering research in NZ visit www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/volunteering-research.html

Creating a pro-volunteer culture

When Volunteering NZ brought Martin J Cowling and Andy Fryar to New Zealand to run seminars for community groups, the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) hosted a presentation for public servants.

Martin works internationally on effective volunteer management and personal development. Andy served as Director of Volunteering Australia for seven years and is Director of OzVPM (Australasian Volunteer Programme Management).

Martin and Andy emphasised the huge contribution volunteering makes to all sectors of society, and participants explored what government agencies can do to foster this.

They outlined five signs of a pro-volunteer Government, which align well with OCVS work:

- Government sees volunteering as fundamental to building social capital
- Government support complements

sector expertise, strengths and existing infrastructure

- Government encourages everyone to view volunteering strategically – it builds partnerships and develops infrastructure



Australian volunteering expert Martin J Cowling makes a point during his presentation.

- Government provides protection for volunteers without excessive legislation and statistical requirements
- Government helps strengthen and increase the professionalism of those managing and co-ordinating volunteers.

Participants were challenged to identify steps to ensure the five signs

are developed and supported. Discussion also focused on existing tools that encourage greater collaboration and consistency between government agencies, and which support the work of the community and voluntary sector. These include the new Policy Development Toolkit on the Public Sector Intranet, Mosaics – the good practice guide for regional co-ordination and integrated service delivery, and the Funding for Outcomes (Integrated Contracts) project.

OCVS intends holding more such presentations when Volunteering NZ hosts visits later this year by international consultant Linda Graff and President of the International Association for Volunteer Effort Liz Burns.

Visit www.ocvs.govt.nz/news-updates/ for details on forthcoming events.

View Mosaics at www.msds.govt.nz/work-areas/cross-sectoral-work/mosaics.html

Public servants can access the Policy Development Toolkit at <https://psi.govt.nz/pdtoolkit>

Building Trust

Building trusting relationships can open doors to broader sources of information and influence, and lay a sound foundation for real partnerships.

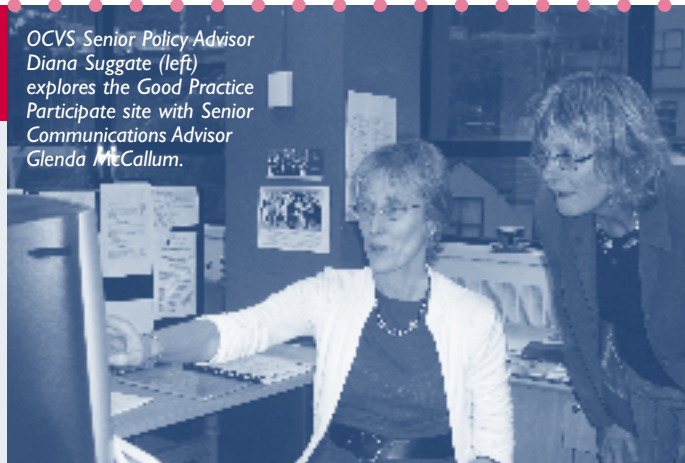
“That’s the philosophy behind Good Practice Participate,” Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) Senior Policy Analyst Diana Suggate says.

This online resource is designed to help public servants engage successfully with community, voluntary and Māori organisations. It was initiated by a working group of community and government representatives to enhance government’s participatory processes.

“The section on engaging with Māori is consistently one of the most visited areas, as is the section on key sectors and specific population groups. This indicates that visitors to the site recognise a ‘one size fits all approach’ doesn’t always get the most effective engagement, and it’s pleasing to see an appreciation of the fact that the community and voluntary sector isn’t a homogenous group,” Diana says.

“The site was launched in September 2003, so this year we’ve reviewed all the content to ensure we still

OCVS Senior Policy Advisor Diana Suggate (left) explores the Good Practice Participate site with Senior Communications Advisor Glenda McCallum.



have the most useful and relevant material available. The standard for determining what is good practice is always being raised, so we welcome feedback from users, new case studies, templates and ideas about what has worked or not worked.

“We rely on contributions to the site to help enhance responsiveness and effectiveness, reinforce a culture of constant learning, and create a co-ordinated approach that ensures the total contribution of government agencies is greater than the sum of its parts,” Diana says.

Visit www.goodpracticeparticipate.govt.nz or email ocvs@msds.govt.nz to contribute ideas or feedback.