

(re)starting the new year

The turn of the year is our perennial opportunity to start fresh, try different things, and somehow just “be better” than the previous year. At Pacific Center for Leadership we’re starting the New Year with a refresh of our website and a step into the social media arena, claiming our spaces on FaceBook and YouTube. Watch for our new pages, coming soon!

(re)training



This fall we got a little closer to understanding our core (the earth’s core, that is), working with an interdisciplinary geological and geophysical team on the Cardium rock formation out by Nakoda Lodge, a beautiful retreat location east of Canmore that we often use.

Designed to encourage sharing of expertise in a collaborative and trusting environment, the day was a combination of technical training and planned team development.

The feedback from one participant highlights how beneficial these intentionally designed team sessions can be:

“What I learned about my teammates has already been useful in several situations at the office where I have experienced better communication, improved sharing of ideas, and an expanded resource pool for me to access. I got to know my team better in a few hours than I had in the last two years of office time.”

Call us to find out how value in the form of increased collaboration, trust, and sharing can be added to your training sessions by including an intentionally designed team development component — <http://www.pcfl.com/geology-team>

(re)tension

Many of us have some self awareness of our behavioral preferences from having worked with personality type inventories, such as the MTBI, SDI, Insights, Colours or the DISC.

At PCfL we have several facilitators who are certified administrators of these tools, and we have created unique programs that combine these tools with some of our signature experiential activities. Clients have told us that these additions to the standard inventory programs have brought greater depth to, and understanding of, the inventories.

Our Dealing with Difficult People session is

a solution-focused experience that can act as a stand-alone session, or can be combined with any of the inventories to give participants a better understanding of the roots of workplace difficulties and of their own contributions to conflicts.

The program offers concrete tools for solving problems and gives participants the chance to personally discuss the issues that they have encountered.

Call us to find out how this session can be customized to build on to your organization’s development plans.

(re)think

The Banff Ideas Bank was created last summer by PCfL facilitator Colin Funk. Structured as a Conversation Café, the public is encouraged to generate and share ideas for positive change within the community. Ideas are collected and presented to local decision makers — i.e. Town Council — on a regular basis.

The next Conversation Cafe will be held on Wednesday February 2. The topic: *Why Do We*

Love to Hate Taxes, an exploration of our how our acceptance of civic responsibilities can clash with our personal interests.

The Banff Ideas Bank meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Wild Flour Cafe and Bakery in Banff. Those that are unable to attend the Cafés can send comments and ideas to the Idea Banff website — www.banffideasbank.ca

(re)grow

PCfL has had a long tradition of commitment to community development and creative initiatives. In early December Colin had the privilege of working with 20 Stoney Nakoda youth in a four-day drama/leadership workshop. Aged 14 – 18 years old, the students are part of the SAGE program — Stoney Adventure Group Experience — under the direction and guidance of Canmore Collegiate educator, Jeff Horvath. A full range of drama processes and techniques — theatre improv, movement, voice work, and storytelling- were introduced, culminating in short theatre vignettes highlighting the student’s reflections on the SAGE

program and their dreams, desires and personal aspirations for the future.

In October, another of senior facilitators, Geoff Powter, had the privilege of working with pair of colleagues from the Banff Centre, creating and running a very unique three-day facilitator training program for the participants at a national water issues gathering at the Centre. Geoff and his co-leaders immersed the participants in a hands-on experience of facilitating large groups which included many creative and innovative activities. The Waterlution gathering was described in the national media as a “groundbreaking event.”

(re)develop

Geoff’s work with the Waterlution group was part of a continuing pattern of requests for PCfL to help “train the trainers.” We have been hearing for years that we have a unique and powerful way of asking questions, looking at issues and engaging individuals and groups, and so, we are excited to offer *Foundations of Facilitation; Methodology and Best Practices*. Intended for those who lead meet-

ings, discussions and/or work in the area of training and development, this one day session will be an opportunity to learn from some of our most experienced facilitators on how to best work with groups to encourage engagement and productive outcomes.

This opportunity will be offered on April 12, 2011 at the newly renovated Nakoda Lodge. Call us for more details.

hearing from you

At PCfL we’re always committed to ensuring that our programs are designed with — and for — you. We want to hear your thoughts about your experiences with us, about what caught your attention in this newsletter, and what else you’d like to see PCfL doing now and in the future.

contact us

If you have any thoughts about what you’ve seen here, or would like to get more information on these or any other programs, please head to our website www.pcfl.com, or call Marianne Wasch or Mike Shaw at the office

(403-678-2230 or toll-free 1-800-661-9400)