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Metro Vancouver Alliance is a broad based alliance of community groups, labour, faith and educational institutions working together for the common good.

—“Our project is to build an organization that is powerful enough to enable people to act on the issues that affect them most and to do so with a much better chance of success than before.”



Coming up:

MVA Leadership Institute

Part 1 - Feb 7, 6-9 pm
Part 2 - Feb 14, 6-9 pm
Japanese United Church, 4010 Victoria Dr. V5N 4N2
To register email: metrovancoveralliance@hotmail.com

A ground-breaking year

2011 marked a new phase for Metro Vancouver Alliance

Efforts to build a broad-based community in Vancouver were boosted in April, when MVA secured funds to hire full-time organizer. Deborah Littman comes to MVA from London Citizens, a thriving broad-based community organization in the UK. (See www.citizensuk.org.uk)

Leadership training



MVA Leadership Institute, November 26th and 27th at Fairview Baptist Church, Vancouver. The workshop drew over 40 participants from a diverse range of faith, labour and community organizations.

One of the most important ways in which MVA builds leadership skills and links between potential member organizations is through our program of training. Over the past year MVA has trained several hundred participants from more than 100 institutions, in the principles and practices of community organizing.

MVA's Leadership Institutes bring together people from diverse communities. Training sessions have also been specifically designed for faith organizations, labour unions or community groups. A full program of training events is planned for 2012. If you are interested in being contacted about future training, email us at: metrovancoveralliance@hotmail.com.

Public events

On April 14th MVA held a public forum at SFU Harbour Centre on Community Organizing for Justice in Vancouver. Participants heard about the achievements of London Citizens and other broad-based community organizations in the US, Canada, Germany and Australia. The event drew over 60 people interested in learning how to build community power in Vancouver. This followed the successful launch of Australian academic and organizer, Amanda Tattasal's book *Power in Coalition in September 2010*. You can see the full report here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBTccFcyGg>

MVA projects

MVA has been funded by a major Catholic foundation to provide Catholic parishes and schools with grassroots leadership training. The aim is to help parishes surface untapped leaders from within the congregation, provide them with ongoing training, and build teams that work with other civil society organizations to exercise power to confront systemic ills in society.

We are also engaged in a community mapping and listening project with REACH Community Clinic. The project is forging new relationships within Vancouver's east-side community. The community its mapping is also enabling the REACH clinic to renew

existing connections to better meet the evolving health needs of its target community. If you are interested in being involved in either of these projects, please contact us..

MVA membership

Metro Vancouver Alliance has over 25 member institutions and is continuing to grow. Most recently, the BC Government Employees' Union agreed to become a sponsoring member of the Alliance. For a full list of our member institutions see: <http://iafnw.org/canada/metrovancoveralliance/member-institutions>

CONNECTED

You can now find MVA on the web at <http://iafnw.org/canada/metrovancouveralliance>. MVA shares the site with fellow Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) organizations in the Northwest US and Canada.

You can also follow MVA on Twitter @MetvanAlliance, or 'like' the MVA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Metro-Vancouver-Alliance>.

MVA MOVING FORWARD



NEW OFFICE

In January MVA will be moving into a new office at the Japanese United Church, 410 Victoria Dr. We are pleased to be sharing a space with this historic and vital institution. Watch out for an invitation to MVA's 'office warming' open-house sometime early in 2012. Donation of surplus office equipment would be very welcome.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have IT or design skills and would like to help with the website or newsletter, please get in touch on metrovanancouveralliance@hotmail.com



In August 2011 MVA said goodbye to one of its founding members. Sr Elizabeth Kalaher was known to all as a tireless campaigner for social justice and advocate for social housing, increased benefits for those on assistance and better health care. Five days a week her order, the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement, provided soup and sandwiches to the people of the Downtown Eastside.

Before coming to Vancouver, Sr Elizabeth lived and worked in the very poor Lower East Side of Manhattan, where she encountered the work of the Industrial Areas Foundation. She was convinced that Vancouver needed this kind of broad-based community alliance, if there was ever going to be a chance to win significant social change..

Unfortunately, her order's ranks had dwindled and after eight decades serving the poor in the Downtown Eastside, the Franciscan Sisters, including Sister Elizabeth, had to move to join their colleagues in Edmonton.

Sister Elizabeth's commitment in fighting for social justice inspired everyone who knew her. She will be sorely missed here in Vancouver, but we're sure that she is bending ears and prodding consciences in her new city.



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