

Join the Victoria Activist Network (VAN)

Posted by

Monday, 27 February 2006 16:05 - Last Updated Monday, 27 February 2006 16:05

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VAN - Are you passionate about building compassionate communities? Do you desire democratic renewal of our political and economic institutions? Can you see the need for ecological sustainability? You're not alone!

Concerned citizens in Victoria are transforming their global thinking into local action! You can too. Join the Victoria Activist Network (VAN) and connect with others in your community who are working towards the realization of this vision for liberating and lasting change.

<http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/van>

Subject: Activist network?

Date: Mon, 27 Feb 2006 18:08:52 -0800

From: "Bob Wilson" BWilson@heu.org

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What is the objective of the VAN?

To coordinate broad and effective participation in nonviolent forms of environmental, social, economic, and political activism in Victoria.

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What services does the VAN provide?

1. Listserv

VAN's listserv allows you to post and to receive email containing letters or proposals promoting creative and compassionate action in the Victoria community.

All members are encouraged to post to the listserv, and to use material posted by others.

A digest of the submissions to van@lists.riseup.net will be sent out about once a week (so you won't have to worry about email overload!).

2. Web-based Activist Resources

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We are currently constructing a website that will provide further resources for Victoria's activist community, such as a web discussion and planning forum, a categorized archive of local letters, petitions, and action plans, contact info for local media agencies and government officials, and more!

What are the core principles shared by members of VAN?

Ecological Wisdom

* We acknowledge that human beings are part of the natural world and we respect the specific values of all forms of life, including non-human species.

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* We honour and value the Earth's biological and ecological diversity together with the cultural, linguistic, ethnic, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity within the context of individual responsibility toward all beings.

Social Justice

* We assert that the key to social justice is the equitable distribution of social and natural resources, both locally and globally, to meet basic human needs unconditionally, and to ensure that all citizens have full opportunities for personal and social development.

Sustainable Economics

* We recognize that economic growth should not be equated with economic health.

* We believe that a more inclusive and empowering approach towards employment is possible.

* We accept that the Earth's resources are precious and limited, and that present rates of production and consumption are not sustainable.

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* We advocate a more equitable distribution of the Earth's resources, acknowledging that the Western world in general, and many of the World's rich in particular, presently consume far more than is fair or necessary.

Participatory Democracy

* We strive for a democracy in which all citizens have the right to express their views, and are able to directly participate in the environmental, economic, social and political decisions which affect their lives.

Non-violence

* We declare our commitment to nonviolence.

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* We believe that security should not rest on military strength but on cooperation, sound economic and social development, environmental safety, and respect for human rights.

* How Do I Join the VAN?

* To join the VAN listserv, **to find out how you can help**, or for more information... Visit:

lists.riseup.net/www/info/van

<http://>

* **Or, contact list coordinator, Tim Thielmann:**

* **Phone: (250) 889-8418**

* **Email: timothythielmann@yahoo.ca**

Peace and solidarity,

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Tim Thielmann

Moderator, Victoria Activist Network