
150 Profiles: Russell Kueber

As we mark the 150th anniversary of confederation, The Philanthropist is profiling Canadians from across the non-profit sector and putting a face to 150 individuals who work or volunteer in Canada's social sector.

Name: Russell Kueber

Current role in the sector: Manager of Programs & Community Development, Community Health and Social Services Network

Years working and/or volunteering in the non-profit sector: 20 years.

What was your first job in the sector or a defining moment?

A defining moment for me was my first experience as an executive director of a small non-profit community organization located in the inner city of Calgary, Alberta. At an early age, this is where I found my passion, working alongside volunteers that were creating positive change in their communities. I later went on to work for the City of Calgary and Alberta Health Services but am now back in the non-profit sector where my true passions lie!

Describe your desk/workspace.

I spend a lot of my time traveling throughout this beautiful province of Québec meeting all kinds of wonderful, unique and passionate community volunteers. Community centres, one on one meetings in coffee shops, spending time around people's kitchen tables seems to be where I find myself.

What are you reading or following that has expanded your understanding of the non-profit sector?

I like to read community newsletters. It anchors me to what community members are proud of, to what they are doing, to the impact the community is making. I am a big fan of community development and leadership development so you can often find me with a book or on a website related to one of these two topics.

What do you think our sector needs to be thinking about?

I have come across some of the smallest nonprofits making the most incredible difference in their communities. They have such a positive and engaging way of involving all kinds of diverse citizens, in making them feel special and then helping them discover and contribute their talents. Our communities are the product of their contributions. The development and contributions of volunteers however are sometimes overlooked and I personally feel we need to get back to being more volunteer focused.

Do you know someone we should profile as part of this series? Email us at philanthropistprofiles@gmail.com