

How technology can enhance
the non-profit organization:
What it can do for you and
how to make it happen



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by Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton

Main points

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Activity #1
- ❖ Computers for non-profits
- ❖ Free resources to make your life easier
- ❖ New opportunities through video-conferencing
- ❖ Activity #2
- ❖ Conclusions

Introductions

- ❖ Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton
 - ❖ educator, researcher, international speaker, author, consultant
 - ❖ dedicates her professional life to working with educational leaders to help them advance their organizations

Task #1 - Dream a little

- ❖ Work in groups of 2-3. Make sure you include at least one new person. Please take notes.
- ❖ Discuss the following questions (15 mins.):
 - ❖ What is your current situation for technology in your organization? What is working?
 - ❖ What could make it work better?
 - ❖ In an ideal world, how would technology help you?

Computers for non-profits

- ❖ www.era.ca - Electronic Recycling Association
- ❖ <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/cfs/about.asp> - Computers for Schools (10% of computers go to non-profits.)

Free resources to make your life easier

- ❖ Techsoup.org - “the technology place for non-profits” - <http://home.techsoup.org/pages/default.aspx>
- ❖ www.freebyte.com - A page with lots of resources for free tech stuff - hardware and software.

Free resources to make your life easier

- ❖ www.openoffice.org - Free, reliable, office software for PC O/S. Includes word processing, presentations & spreadsheets.
- ❖ www.avg.com - Free anti-virus software.
- ❖ www.primopdf.com - Free .pdf maker. Keeps your files secure.
- ❖ www.skype.com - Reduce your long distance bill with this free VOIP system.

Free resources to make your life easier



- ❖ Reduce your long-distance bill
- ❖ Have a voice call or a video call
- ❖ Use it at home or at the office
- ❖ Add Skype to an iPhone

New opportunities through video-conferencing

- ❖ Interactive meetings, PD sessions and learning opportunities.
- ❖ Geographical boundaries dissolve.

New opportunities through video-conferencing



- ❖ www.iccan.ca
- ❖ The Innovative Communities Connecting and Networking (iCCAN) project is harnessing the power of the SuperNet and videoconferencing to enable lifelong learning and collaboration among Alberta's not-for-profit organizations, including adult learning and literacy groups.
- ❖ iCCAN aims to create videoconferencing capability in at least 180 new sites across Alberta. This includes both desktop capability and life-sized equipment.
- ❖ The three partners behind iCCAN are [Community Learning Network](#), [Literacy Alberta](#) and [Volunteer Alberta](#).
- ❖ Funding from Advanced Education and Technology's Access to the Future Fund makes this project possible.

Activity #2 - What to do next?

- ❖ In the same groups as before, reflect on today's session:
 - ❖ What did you learn?
 - ❖ What helped you the most?
 - ❖ What will you do next? How will you do it?

Conclusions

- ❖ Non-profit organizations need up-to-date technology in order to better serve their clients, and to connect with other professionals and for PD.
- ❖ Resources exist to help non-profits acquire technology at reduced costs or for free.
- ❖ The iCCAN project is linking non-profits throughout Alberta.

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