

Free and Low-Cost Training Resources

For Students Building a Career in the **Non-Profit Sector**

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There is an abundance of free and low-cost training options available for the non-profit sector. These training opportunities are a great way to build your resume and show you are proactively building skills in your field.

The six areas covered in this resource will also help you build skills for social change and to be an active citizen in your community.



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TOP TIPS



If you are currently on a work placement, consider asking your employer if you can allocate work time for training and/or ask for them to cover all or part of the cost. Explain how the training relates to your current role and future career goals.



If you are interested in a particular training organization, sign-up for their newsletter to receive updates on their upcoming opportunities.



Post-secondary student clubs, student organizations, and career offices often organize free and low-cost training sessions on a variety of topics. Check with your post-secondary institution and student union websites to learn more.



MOOCs (massive online open courses) are a great way to audit courses for free from universities both locally and across the globe. Students can also pay a fee to receive assignment feedback and certification.

A few examples of MOOC sites include:

- [mooc.org](https://www.mooc.org)
- [coursera.org](https://www.coursera.org)
- [kadenze.com](https://www.kadenze.com)
- [classcentral.com](https://www.classcentral.com)



NON-PROFIT FOCUSED TRAININGS

CharityVillage

charityvillage.com

CharityVillage is a job and volunteer posting site for Canada's non-profit sector and has a wide range of free webinars on a variety of topics such as fundraising, digital marketing, human resources, and much more. They have a podcast called [CharityVillage Connects](#).

Non-Profit Ready

nonprofitready.org

Non-Profit Ready has hundreds of free online courses, videos, and downloadable guides to support many non-profit jobs including: fundraising, grant writing, leadership, governance, accounting and finance, operations, marketing and communications, volunteer engagement, and program management.

Project Management Volunteers (PM-Volunteers)

pm-volunteers.org

PM-Volunteers is a non-profit organization that provides professional development on project management to non-profit professionals. See their workshops page for all their upcoming workshops.

Tamarack Institute

tamarackcommunity.ca

The Tamarack Institute provides online learning, workshops, research, and more to solve major community issues across Canada and beyond. They provide a range of online learning opportunities for non-profit professionals including free webinars. They have two podcasts called: [Deepening Community](#) and [Communities Ending Poverty](#).

Vantage Point

thevantagepoint.ca

Vantage Point is a non-profit organization with workshops and labs on non-profit leadership, governance, volunteerism, human resources, and more. Vantage Point has a Youth Network bursary program to cover up to 100% of the cost of Vantage Point's training opportunities. They have a podcast called [From Our Vantage Point](#).



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental Careers Organization Canada (ECO Canada)

eco.ca

ECO Canada supports the Canadian environmental workforce across all industries. Students in their final year of post-secondary studies can apply to the Environmental Professional in-training (EPt) designation early and unlock valuable resources, mentorship, and access to experts in the environmental field. ECO Canada also has a range of free webinars available.

Leading Change Forum | Leading Change Canada

leadingchangeCanada.com/delegates

Leading Change Canada provides opportunities for youth interested in environment and sustainability to come together, network, and discuss pressing climate issues. The Leading Change Forum is a conference held in Vancouver, BC, in conjunction with the GLOBE Forum (every two years), where global leaders from business, government, and civil society come together to manage risk and capitalize on opportunities in the clean economy. There is a registration fee which is highly subsidized. Financial support is available should the Leading Change event registration fee present a barrier to participation. To be eligible, applicants must be between 19-35 years of age on the day of the event.

Connecting Environmental Professionals (CEP) Vancouver

cepvancouver.org

Connecting Environmental Professionals (CEP) Vancouver is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to creating opportunities for young and emerging environmental and sustainability professionals. CEP hosts a variety of events throughout the year and runs an annual mentorship program.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI)

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCID)

ccdi.ca

The CCID strives to move Canadian employers beyond diversity and towards inclusion. They provide free webinars, resources, and an annual unconference on diversity and inclusion. They also have a podcast called [Leader Talks with Anne-Marie Pham](#).

Gender and Sexuality: Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace | University of Pittsburgh

MOOC via Coursera

coursera.org/learn/gender-sexuality

What is sex? What is gender? What is sexuality? What do we mean by LGBTQIA? How are these concepts related to the workplace? How have our understandings of these terms changed over time, and how have these changes impacted work and culture? To help you answer these important questions, this course will introduce you to the exciting field of gender, sexuality, and women's studies, and to LGBTQIA identities. This course will use a range of interdisciplinary concepts, tools, and methods to understand and analyze how identity shapes our experiences in culture and in the workplace. Because we all live with gender expectations, this course is crucial for any profession, and for understanding the world around us.

Inclusive Leadership: The Power of Workplace Diversity

University of Colorado

MOOC via Coursera

coursera.org/learn/inclusiveleadership

Do you want to promote diversity and inclusion? This course will empower and equip you to develop inclusive cultures where everyone feels valued and respected. You will learn how highly inclusive leaders from around the world use processes of social influence to interact effectively with individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds.



Many of the Non-Profit Focused Training organizations on page 3 also have courses and resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Learn more about how ACE-WIL can support your non-profit at acewilbc.ca/talent-4-non-profits

RECONCILIATION & DECOLONIZATION

Indigenous Canada Course | University of Alberta

MOOC via Coursera

coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada

This course is from the Faculty of Native Studies and it explores the different histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples living in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores complex experiences Indigenous peoples face today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations.

Land Back Course | Yellow Head Institute

yellowheadinstitute.org/land-back-online-course

This course will be a dynamic, community-focused approach that guides students through a self-directed learning experience loosely structured on the Land Back report. Students will learn about the denial of Indigenous self-determination but also the concept of consent and how it can be coerced, negotiated, or enforced. The course offers tangible examples of Indigenous-led strategies of consent-based jurisdiction.

Nahanee Creative

nahaneecreative.com

Nahanee Creative is a small dedicated team led by Squamish creative professionals. They centre Indigenous teachings, connection to land, and visual cultural sovereignty. They have a series of [on-demand workshops available](#) including: Cultural Protocols, Empathy, and Safety; Territorial Acknowledgements; Restorying Colonialism; Are you Serving it Right?; Introducing Decolonizing Practices; and Etiquette for Allies.

Reconciliation through Indigenous Education | University of British Columbia

MOOC via UBC

pdce.educ.ubc.ca/reconciliation

This course will help you envision how Indigenous histories, perspectives, worldviews, and approaches to learning can be made part of the work we do in classrooms, organizations, communities, and our everyday experiences in ways that are thoughtful and respectful. In this course, reconciliation emphasizes changing institutional structures, practices, and policies, as well as personal and professional ideologies to create environments that are committed to strengthening our relationships with Indigenous peoples.

TECHNOLOGY, SOFTWARE & MARKETING

HubSpot Academy

academy.hubspot.com

The HubSpot Academy offers free online training modules for upgrading technical, marketing, sales, and customer service skills. Hubspot grants globally recognized certification upon course completion.

Digital Accessibility Foundations

WAI Web Accessibility Initiative

[w3.org/WAI/courses/foundations-course](https://www.w3.org/WAI/courses/foundations-course)

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) creates protocols and guidelines that ensure long-term growth for the web. This online course provides the foundation you need to make your digital technology accessible, so that it works well for people with disabilities, meets international standards, and enhances the user experience for everyone.



TECHNATION

technationcanada.ca/courses

TECHNATION, Canada's leading technology industry association prioritizes future workforce development as a major area of focus. They have developed a suite of free, online, student-ready courses on topics including SEO, Microsoft Excel, time management, and more. Students can register and work through courses at their own pace and receive certificates upon completion.

TechSoup Canada

techsoup.ca/techsoup-courses

TechSoup is run by a small team dedicated to empowering charities, nonprofits, and libraries with the effective use of technology. [Visit their learning centre](#) to access training and resources on a wide range of technology tips and best practices.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Volunteer Canada

volunteer.ca

Volunteer Canada has a range of webinars and past webinar recordings on volunteerism in Canada. They also have resources for youth seeking to build their volunteer experience.

Volunteer Resources Administration Online Training | Volunteer Burnaby

volunteerburnaby.ca/training

Volunteer Burnaby helps organizations and connects people with volunteer opportunities. They offer a Volunteer Resources Administration Online Training. If your current non-profit employer is an organizational member, you will be eligible for a discount.



Many of the Non-Profit Focused Training organizations on page 3 also have training available on volunteer management.