

Communication #11: On the Horizon

September 2017



Freezer Burn 2017, Where the Wild things Roam

Photography by: The Raven's
Gaze

We've been busy and have a lot to share and celebrate. Our new board has been getting into the swing of things and so has our volunteer-stocked Conduct Committee. We have grants on the go, AToTTitD opportunities, a new Leadership Interest Form, and have a report-back on what we learned at the Global Leadership Conference. Read on!

Freezer Burn 2017

Holy smokes! That was one for the books! By all accounts, Freezer Burn: Where the Wild Things Roam was a raging success.

Thank you to all the volunteers, artists, theme camps, sound stages, performers, and participants for bringing your best and doing your thing. Your contributions, big and small, are what make this event so amazing.

We also want to take a moment to thank the Production Team for your efforts as you work tirelessly year-round to pull off such a fantastic event. Thank you to Nadz, Spacey, and Partytime for the hard work, love, and dedication you put into this event.

Alberta Leadership Interest Form

We are pleased to introduce the [Alberta Leadership Interest Form!](#)

The LEA is entirely volunteer-driven, and our activities and future growth depend on our ability to connect with leaders in our community. This form is intended to be an easy channel for leaders to indicate their interest in volunteering, and for us to keep track of who they are and what they can bring to the table.

This form is a great way to get on our radar. As volunteer roles open and new opportunities are created, we will look to the form to match people appropriately. You might not get matched with something right away, or to a particular position, but we will look to the list over time to fill open spots.

Click [here](#) to fill out the form!

Committee Update

We are pleased to announce that we have a team of fantastic volunteers who have joined the LEA's Conduct Committee. Thank you to all our members who took the time to participate in the Community Vetting Survey we circulated earlier this year.

Our Conduct Committee volunteers are:

- Andrew 'Drucifer' Holt
- Dae 'DaZed' Dummer
- Dennis 'Brother Bear' Horvath
- Dina Dumonceaux
- Genevieve 'GennaFox' Bedard
- Heather 'Favrah' Fincati
- James 'Cubby' McCubbin
- Vanessa 'Nessa' Zajko

Playing an investigatory role, the volunteers will engage in conversation with the parties involved in violations of the LEA's Code of Conduct and make recommendations to the LEA Board on how to proceed. Their initial work will involve getting structures in place to conduct their work.

Contact the Conduct Committee at albertansconductcommittee@gmail.com

Learn more at www.extraordinaryalbertans.ca/conduct-committee

Beakerhead: A Taste of "That Thing in the Desert"

Planning for this year's AToTTitD is well underway! This year's event takes place **Friday, September 15th** in the same excellent location as last year: Parking Lot 6B at 311 8th Street S.W. Festivities run from 6pm until 11pm, with the fire conclave and effigy burn starting at 9pm. This family friendly celebration also offers interactive art, free food, workshops, music and dancing. Invite your friends and family for a real taste of Burning Man without having to leave the city!

If you want to participate by volunteering, we have plenty of opportunities available. Sign-up [here](#).

If you have art to share, or if you know of an art piece that would be perfect for this event, email the details to atottitd@gmail.com

See you there!

Board Update

We want to extend a warm welcome to Dina Dumonceaux, who joined the LEA Board of Directors in June. Dina give us some welcome Edmonton representation, and is taking on the role of Communications Officer, in addition to being a member of the Conduct Committee.

GLC Report Back

In April, seven representatives from Alberta headed to the Burning Man Network's annual Global Leadership Conference. The GLC is an important opportunity for the LEA to learn and connect with other regional groups, which is essential to helping us level up in big ways. It is also an opportunity for us to showcase our own community, share what we do well, and the amazing things we do.

A newsletter is a difficult space to convey everything we learned, but here's a bit on what we took away:

Spacey "I learned so much. I learned about event production and how to excel at that while staying true to the ten principles. I learned all about Safety Planning and Risk Management, making sure that I can keep our community safe at our events. I learned about keeping our art, structures and fire safe for participants to enjoy. I learned how other regions are handling ticketing. I learned strategies for growth and scaling our events sustainably.

I was amazed and inspired by the civic art and engagement of other communities. These people are really doing some cool shit! They're having a ton of fun, but it's not focused on the party. They're really fighting for what they believe in and bringing that to masses. They are bringing the Burning Man spirit to their broader communities in creative and exciting ways. The amount of time and effort that they are gifting is so inspirational. So now I ask myself, how can we step our game and engage more with our communities here in Alberta."

Gill: “What really floored me were all the passionate people that I met! They are taking what they have learned from Burning Man and bringing into their communities. It was all the conversations and connections that really resonated with me. Burning Man has really touched a lot of people from all over and is influencing positive change and community building that is really inspiring... Home is really outside of the playa now.”

Princess Sophia: “The most immediate thing I learnt that I want to bring back to the community is ways to cultivate new leaders... I believe it's important for other people who are not known very well to know that they too can step up and take on leadership roles. I spoke to this guy from SOAK who [passed on their] "Leadership Interest Form" that we [edited] it so it works with our community.

I also met valuable contacts, had an absolute blast, connected with the leaders I went down with and learnt that we are doing things much better than a lot of other regions. Example. in one of our plenary sessions I learned that "Over 80 regionals exist, and combined we invest over \$218K in art grants." (everyone claps) Which made me think... we're one regional... we invest over 26K in to Freezer Burn art grants alone... math... wa... a;k???? We amount for over 10% of all art grants money? Go us! That's just one of the many thing I learned that makes me feel we are one the right track.”

Leslie: “One of the biggest pieces of this year’s GLC for me was speaking on a panel about our Conduct Committee process. At last year’s GLC, LEA reps attended sessions that brought our attention to some pretty scary things around responsibilities and liability related to our events that made for some very intense and challenging work. For this reason, to have been invited to speak at the GLC on our work over the past year was pretty momentous for the LEA. I wound up having a number of really amazing conversations with reps from other regions who were dealing with similar issues. In some cases I was able to provide advice and resources, while in others I made key connections that would fill gaps in our skills and resources.

Outside of that experience, I attended many sessions on burnout and succession planning. These sessions gave me some interesting insights, confirmations, and epiphanies. I have lots of new ideas to implement for our board, that will hopefully prove effective in supporting a healthier, higher-functioning set-up for the future.”

Granola: “This was my first time at the GLC and I had no idea what to expect. It was like the coolest, nerdiest summer camp you’ve ever seen. I learned about leadership and the importance of inward reflection to make sure you’re acting in the best interest of the group. Other big “take aways” were:

- We’ve all heard about Regional Events and how they’re important but I was floored at just how many regionals events there are ALL OVER THE WORLD. Burning Man is not just an event but a GLOBAL NETWORK of like-minded folks who want to make the world a better place AND throw a party while doing it!

- Fitting with this year's GLC theme ("Sparking a New Citizenship") [Ronan Harrington](#) gave a profound talk about how politics within western democracies have given up on searching for a deeper sense of personal meaning or connection with each other. To find a way forward, "[Alter Ego](#)" brings progressive political leaders and thinkers together to consider how we can change the conventional thinking that led us to here. Listening to this, I felt like I was witnessing history in the making. Seriously, I felt a shiver.
- And lastly, Larry Harvey told an inspiring story about how Burners can change the world without really trying. You really need to hear it:
It's the late 90's and everyone is on-Playa getting ready to raise the Man. Larry noticed two working class tough guys nearby, standing outside of their truck (complete with gun rack), watching and scoffing. Concerned that they might start trouble, Larry approached them and **explained what they were seeing in a way that would be meaningful to them**: how big and heavy the Man was, the technicalities of the work that needed to be done, how challenging it was and that the group could really use their help. These two locals hesitantly agreed to help and were working their asses off alongside other Burners for several more hours. That night, Larry came across one of these guys: he was naked, covered in body paint and full of smiles. ***Isn't that what we all want for the world?"***

Signing off,

Dina, Favrah, Granola, Leslie, Partytime, Remi
The LEA Board of Directors

Alberta Leadership Interest Form

Places to share the info:

- Email
- Website
- ~~Website blog post~~
- ~~FB post~~
- Quarterly Comms

1. Email/blog posting on website

[Greetings nerds or other appropriate greeting]

Volunteers are at the core of the LEA and all our activities, from one-off civic engagement events to gargantuan ordeals like Freezer Burn. We know our community is full of leaders and that a diversity of perspectives and experiences make us stronger. We also know that there can be barriers to getting involved, such as not knowing the right person or what opportunities exist.

For this reason, we are pleased to introduce the [Alberta Leadership Interest Form](#).

This form is intended to be an easy channel for leaders to indicate their interest in volunteering, and for us to keep track of who they are and what they can bring to the table.

Click [here](#) to fill out the form!

The more detail you include in the Alberta Leadership Interest Form, the better. Based on the information you include, we will be able to connect you to appropriate opportunities as spots open up or new roles are created.

Filling out the form isn't a guarantee you'll be picked for a particular role or that you will be matched with something right away, but it is certainly a great way to get on our radar for future opportunities.

We're looking forward to hearing about your skills, experience, and vision for the LEA and its initiatives.

Cheers!
The LEA Board

2. Facebook post

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