

Ch . . . Ch . . . Ch . . . Changes . . . Life Strategies Last Newsletter

Our first Life Strategies newsletter was sent in 1996. After 20 years of various iterations from the earliest WordPerfect versions through name changes, format changes, and a wide range of “looks and feels,” we’ve used this as a vehicle to stay connected with clients, students, and colleagues.

However, recently we had a team meeting where we looked at all of the tools that we were currently using to stay connected and realized that this “staying connected” task had taken on a life of its own. Just as we advise our clients to do, we took stock, assessed value, and prioritized – the newsletter didn’t make the cut. Neither did some of our blogs and websites – I’ll provide a summary at the end.

We decided for our last “newsletter” to go retro – back in the beginning, our newsletter was more of a personal reflection and update from me (Roberta) to you. So – I’ve been given the chance to write this update. ☺

Wow, how times have changed in 20 years! Without looking it up, I’m not even sure if we had a website back then. Now we have websites, blogs, and social media accounts. Just within the past 24 hours I’ve communicated by phone, email, and Skype, with individuals across 12 time zones and on 6 continents. Within the past year, we’ve connected through conferences, courses, webinars, professional journal articles, and chapters in books. I’ve met, in person, with colleagues, students, and clients – in Canada, of course, but also in the USA, Australia, Zimbabwe, China, and Japan, and I’m currently working on preparing training materials for upcoming work in Saudi Arabia.

Lots of changes . . . but also lots the same. What still inspires me is capacity-building . . . doing some small bit to make the world a better place (it’s just that my world is a little bit bigger than it was 20 years ago – making my commute to work a wee bit longer at times! ☺). I’m still excited about the potential of career development – and the differences it makes to individuals, organizations, and national/global economies. I still love working with the team we’ve built together – and the ever-expanding range of local and international partnerships we’ve formed.

This isn’t goodbye – or the end of connecting. It’s just acknowledging that there are so many other ways to stay connected that a periodic newsletter can’t possibly match. Here’s a quick list of what’s “retiring” and what we’ll continue to keep active:

Our main hub for updates is, of course, our website: www.lifestrategies.ca. The tip sheets that were the cornerstone of the most recent format of our newsletters are all available at:

<http://lifestrategies.ca/resources/tip-sheets.cfm>

Life Strategies is also active on social media:

Twitter (@LifeStrategies_)

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/lifestrategiesltd/>)

LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/1765121>)

We’ll focus our blogging activities on our Career Engagement blog (<http://career-engagement.lifestrategies.ca/>).



You can always find a current list of our courses at: <http://lifestrategies.ca/services/programs-and-courses-main.cfm>

To consolidate, we've chosen to retire our LearnOnline blog (<http://learnonlineblog.lifestrategies.ca/>) and our Diversity at Work website (<http://diversity.lifestrategies.ca/>), though content on both will remain available. We remain fully committed to our long history of supporting e-learning, helping employers embrace diversity; supporting global careerists, immigrants, expatriates, and repatriates; and increasing the cultural competence of career development practitioners, career counsellors, and human resource professionals. We're just migrating our musings to the Career Engagement blog and our social media sites.

As this is also a season of celebration and giving, we want to send our personal wishes for a wonderful, restorative holiday season to you. Christmas is a big holiday for all members of our core team and we know that's true for many of you. In the midst of the busy-ness we encourage all of you to acknowledge your blessings and find someone to share those blessings with. We have colleagues helping Syrian refugees, supporting orphanages, and giving time and money generously to a wide range of charities. For many years, our core team has chosen not to exchange gifts but, instead, to choose gifts relevant to our business (e.g., supporting education and small businesses) from the World Vision catalogue: https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/?_ga=1.67085482.566223038.1448398086. Deirdre Pickerell, Life Strategies VP, was instrumental in starting the Canadian Horse Rescue and Re-homing Society (<http://cdnhorsescue.wix.com/canadianhorsescue>) in an attempt to save Canada's national horse from extinction – check out their site if you're looking for an innovative cause to support! 😊

We enjoy our connections to you and don't want to lose those. We hope that our connections will be more interactive through our blog (please comment!) and our social media accounts – what we enjoy most is hearing back from you!

For those of you who are local and looking for free Christmas activities, check out this list for Metro Vancouver <http://www.miss604.com/2015/11/free-christmas-activities-in-metro-vancouver.html>. There are similar lists in Victoria (<http://www.tourismvictoria.com/christmas/events/>) and Kamloops (<http://www.tourismkamloops.com/christmas-and-other-holiday-activities-in-kamloops-bc>). We hope you're able to find something in your local community.

Not looking to go out? Stay in and catch one of the 50 best Christmas movies of all time. See <http://www.timeout.com/london/film/the-50-best-christmas-movies> for the full list. Do you see any of your favorites?

And for those who don't celebrate Christmas, there's no need to miss out on the binge watching movies over the holiday season. Check out this list from Netflix <http://www.andpop.com/2015/12/03/shows-to-binge-watch-if-you-dont-celebrate-christmas/>

With warmest Christmas greetings and personal thanks for our connections –

Roberta and the Life Strategies team

