

DAVID VENN

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Over seven years of public relations, communications and social marketing experience.
- Highly effective communicator with practice building relationships with stakeholder, donor and media relations personnel.
- Experience coordinating events and workshops, developing communications strategies and managing public awareness campaigns.
- Strong knowledge of issues related to mental health, international development and knowledge exchange.
- Familiarity in use of web 2.0 technologies, social media networks, content management systems and web portals.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Public Relations Strategist

Self-employed

January 2011 – Present

- **Focus:** empowering nonprofit and public sector organizations to create positive social change through integrated PR and communications strategies.
- **Services:** strategic planning, communications planning, social media strategies, web content writing, annual report writing, grant/funding proposals, copy-editing

Public Relations Officer, IWK Health Centre/Dalhousie University

Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health

March 2007 – September 2009, Halifax, NS

- **Focus:** improve the mental health of youth by the effective translation and transfer of scientific knowledge
- **Responsibilities:** knowledge exchange/translation, advocacy, research, media relations, communications & strategic planning, fundraising, stakeholder relations, community partnership, art and film projects, branding & marketing, writing/blogging, graphic design, web development, curriculum delivery, advisory board member.

Communications Assistant, Atlantic Film Festival

July 2006 – March 2007, Halifax, NS

- **Responsibilities:** media relations, communications planning, writing, copy-editing, volunteer coordination, web development, event planning, youth film festival coordination

Account Coordinator Intern, Extreme Group

April 2006 – June 2006, Halifax, NS

- **Responsibilities:** research, editing proposals, media relations, media monitoring, events management, marketing, strategic development, creative brainstorming
- **Clients:** Blue Nose Marathon, PEI Lung Association, Workers Compensation Board, Smoke Free NS, Aliant

Research Assistant, Dalhousie University

Jan. 2005 – Sept. 2005, Halifax, NS

- **Focus:** Health and well-being of vulnerable populations, such as female sex workers and injection drug users
- **Responsibilities:** copy editing, writing, literature research, budgeting, workshop assistance, preparing funding proposals for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Editorial Staff, Shambhala Sun Magazine

Nov. 2003 – Nov. 2004, Halifax, NS

- **Responsibilities:** copy editing, editorial survey design & marketing, independent research projects

Fundraising Coordinator, Canadian Mental Health Association

April 2002 – Aug. 2002, Halifax, NS

- **Responsibilities:** fundraising, marketing, event planning, public relations, finance

VOLUNTEER & DELEGATE EXPERIENCE

- Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon, Public Affairs Co-chair, April 2009
- 4th World Youth Congress Delegate, Quebec City, Aug. 2008
- Canadian Mental Health Association National Conference Exhibitor, Aug. 2008
- International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Gift of Giving Coordinator, Dec. 2006
- Global Microcredit Summit, press room and panel facilitator, Nov. 2006
- NSLC Port of Wines Festival, volunteer coordinator, public relations, Sept. 2006
- Blue Nose International Marathon, public relations committee, May 2006
- JunoFest, media relations, March 2006
- Writing tutor, Saint Mary's University Writing Centre, 2004
- OXFAM International, Western University campus representative, 2002
- Residence advisor/orientation counsellor, Western University, London, ON, 2000
- CHRW radio show host, Western University, London, ON, 1999-2002

MEMBERSHIPS, AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- Graduated with Merit, Masters of Arts in International Development, Institute of Social Studies, 2010
- Gemstone Award of Excellence in Web Communications for teenmentalhealth.org (w/ Impact Communications), 2009
- Web Health Award for teenmentalhealth.org (w/ Impact Communications), 2009
- International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) – Maritime Chapter Board Member, Co-VP of Professional Development, 2007
- Honours distinction, Advanced Diploma in Public Relations, NSCC, 2006
- Recipient of Petroleum Communication Foundation Legacy Scholarship (\$1,250), 2006
- Mentorship with United Way of Halifax Region, 2006
- Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) member, 2006
- Certified ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher, St. Mary's University 2002

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

1. Venn, D. (ed) (2010) 'An Exercise in Worldmaking: Best of Student Essays 2009-2010'. The Hague: Institute of Social Studies.
2. Venn, D. (2010) 'Confronting the Monoculture of Scientific Knowledge' *HIVOS Knowledge and Change Conference*, Online Essays.
3. Venn, D., Wishart, J., Corriero, J. & Kutcher, S. (2009) 'Leading the Way: A Guide to Mental Health Action' *Moods Magazine*.

4. Meldrum, L., Venn, D. & Kutcher, S. (2009) 'Mental Health in Schools', *Canadian Teacher Magazine* 90(1).
5. Kutcher, S. Venn, D. & Szumilas, M. (2009) 'Mental Health: The Next Frontier of Health Education', *Education Canada* 49(2): 44-45.
6. Kutcher, S. & Venn, D. 'Youth Depression can be beat, if treated' *Metro News* (National), May 5, 2009
7. Venn, D. 'Healthy Brain, Healthy Body', *Chronicle Herald Newspaper*, May 5, 2009.
8. Venn, D. & Kutcher, S. (2009) 'New resource helps make academic transitions easier for students', *Canadian Psychiatry Aujour'hui* 5(2).
9. Kutcher, S. & Venn, D. (2008) 'Why Youth Mental Health is so Important' *Medscape J Med.* 10(12): 275, 2008
10. Venn, D. (2008) 'Making the Transition Easier for Students' *Moods Magazine*.
11. Kutcher, S. & Venn, D. "Facing Mental Illness: a 10-step plan for Nova Scotia", *Chronicle Herald*, Oct. 8, 2008.
12. Kutcher, S., Carmichael, M. & Venn, D. (2008) 'Rise and Shine Sleepyhead' *Moods Magazine*.
13. Teen Mental Health Blog, 2008-2010 (<http://blog.teenmentalhealth.org>)
14. IamExpat Contributor, 2011 (<http://www.iamexpat.nl>)

PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

1. Presentation: Right to Play Netherlands, "Social Media and Fundraising Platforms", The Hague, NL, March 23, 2011
2. Panel Discussant: World Congress on Information Technology. Session: "The Changing Society: Vision on How IT is Changing Society and Government". Amsterdam, NL. May 25, 2010
3. Poster: Kutcher, S., Venn, D. & Chehil, S. "Adolescent Depression: An Evidence-based Course for First Contact Health Providers" (poster), Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 29th Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON. Nov. 12-14, 2009.
4. Poster: Kutcher, S., Venn, D. & Chehil, S. "Adolescent Major Depressive Disorder: An Evidence-based Professional Development Course for First Contact Health Providers" (poster), American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 56th Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, Oct. 27-Nov. 1, 2009.
5. Poster: Kutcher, S., Venn, D. & Chehil, S. "Adolescent Major Depressive Disorders: An Evidence-based Course for First Contact Health Providers" (poster), Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres Annual Meeting, Halifax, NS, Oct 18-21, 2009.
6. Workshop, 22nd International First Year Experience Conference. "Transitions Student Reality Check: A Mental Health Literacy Project". Montreal, QC, July 20-23, 2009.
7. Poster: Kutcher, S., Venn, D. & Chehil, S. "Adolescent Major Depressive Disorder: An Evidence-based Professional Development Course for First Contact Health Providers" (poster), 17th European Congress of Psychiatry, EPA. Lisbon, Portugal, Jan. 24-28, 2009.

EDUCATION

Masters of Arts in International Development (with Merit)

International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University

Sept. 2009 – Dec. 2010, The Hague, Netherlands

- **Specialization:** Child and Youth Studies
- **Research Paper:** Adolescent Mental Health in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Advanced Diploma in Public Relations (Honours Distinction)

Nova Scotia Community College

Sept. 2005 – June 2006, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Bachelor of Arts

University of Western Ontario

Sept. 1999 – April 2002, London, Ontario, Canada

- Major: Philosophy