

VOLUNTEER BC



Volunteerism is undeniably a core component of a healthy British Columbia. 1.5 million BC volunteers contribute 114 million hours a year to better communities all across the province. That's equivalent to 60,000 full-time jobs. This volunteer force (combined with the 147,000 paid staff that work in the over 20,000 BC nonprofit and voluntary organizations) makes the voluntary sector one of the largest social and economic drivers in the province, generating \$11 billion in annual revenues.

For almost 30 years, Volunteer BC has been the provincial leader in promoting the value and impact of volunteerism and enhancing the abilities of volunteer-involving organizations. Volunteer BC mobilizes the collaborative spirit, expertise and energy of all participants in the volunteerism movement to build a better British Columbia.

(Statistics from the 2003 National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, Statistics Canada.)

OUR MEMBERS

As a provincial association, Volunteer BC has a diverse membership – from local volunteer centres to organizations involving hundreds of volunteers, from smaller rural community agencies to larger provincial societies with branch offices scattered across BC.

And through the common thread of volunteerism, Volunteer BC is one of the only provincial voices with a multi-sectoral membership, representing the common interests of organizations that traditionally fit into different sectors.

OUR NETWORKS

The Volunteer BC membership includes two strong and expansive networks that are at the centre of all aspects of the volunteer experience and that are capable of reaching almost every volunteer in the province.

Over 30 volunteer centres province wide form our primary network. They are local catalysts of community involvement, act as clearinghouses of resources to connect individuals to volunteer opportunities, and provide support to local and grassroots organizations in involving volunteers.

The Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC (VOCBC) is a convening network with a broad and growing membership, provincial and national connections, and extensive knowledge of the sector. Consortium members (over 30 organizations and counting) are provincial in scope and involve volunteers in a variety of areas, including sport, recreation, the arts, health, education, and social services, to name a few.

EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEERISM

to Build a Better British Columbia



OUR PROGRAMS



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Volunteer BC's VolWeb.ca™ Volunteer Opportunities Listing Tool (in partnership with 2010 Legacies Now) allows volunteer centres and communities across the province to promote volunteer opportunities online. Volunteer BC also partners on initiatives that help foster more volunteering, including the Culturally Welcoming Volunteer Program. Our annual Volunteer Week Photo Contest continues to grow each year.

INFORMATION BROKER AND COMMUNICATIONS

Our website, at www.volunteerbc.bc.ca, launched in 2001, is one of the most comprehensive online resources on volunteering. We connect our membership to news and up-to-date information with The Connector, our snappy (and aptly titled) monthly communiqué. And this year we will release our first State of Volunteering Report for the province.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Our commitment to supporting and providing quality learning opportunities is a key part of the overall growth and sustainability of the sector and the volunteer management profession. Volunteer BC regularly hosts workshops and training opportunities, many times partnering with our colleagues at the Administrators of Volunteer Resources BC (AVRBC), VOCBC, and others. This year we are focusing our training resources on learning opportunities for boards of directors.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthening the capacity of our network of volunteer centres is at the core of our history and continues to be a key part of the activities we undertake as an organization. A strong volunteer centre means a stronger volunteer core in a community. Volunteer BC continues to be involved in many capacity building initiatives, including partnering with the Vancouver Community Network (VCN) on the BC Societies Database (www.societies.bc.ca), which is a tool to help nonprofit societies in the province connect and collaborate.

OUR VALUES

Volunteer BC holds the following values:

1. Volunteerism is essential to the effective functioning of civil society;
2. A commitment to excellence in volunteering is necessary;
3. Everyone in BC should have the opportunity to volunteer;
4. Every volunteer has the right to receive support and recognition;
5. Infrastructure is essential to support volunteerism;
6. Volunteer centres play a valuable role in our communities; and
7. Volunteer centres should be community driven but need standards.



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