
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

PROVINCIAL FUNDING TO HELP BUILD VOLUNTEER CAPACITY

VICTORIA – Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Olga Ilich announced the Province will provide Volunteer BC with \$100,000 to help the provincial organization increase its capacity and take on a greater leadership role in B.C.'s volunteer sector.

Volunteer BC will use the funds to create the new organizational infrastructure needed to provide research and recommendations on how government can best assist in the growth of B.C.'s volunteer sector. Volunteer BC will also take on an increased role in research, capacity building, training and education for the 30 regional volunteer centres and other provincial non-profit umbrella organizations it serves.

“B.C.'s volunteer force is the backbone of our society – 845,000 dedicated citizens who touch everything from social services and community education to arts and culture and sport hosting,” said Ilich. “With an aging population, numerous international sport hosting events taking place in the years leading up to 2010 and new cultural institutions in development, the next 10 years will see an unprecedented demand on our volunteers. As a provincial association, Volunteer BC is ideally positioned to help government identify issues, priorities and trends so we can effectively support the growth of B.C.'s volunteer sector.”

“We were delighted to learn of the grant and are most grateful for this substantial support from the Provincial government,” said David Kimpton, president of Volunteer B.C. “These funds will help to strengthen our provincial organization and enable us to better serve our member volunteer centres and provincial voluntary organizations to enrich the volunteer experience in B.C.”

Volunteer BC is a provincial association representing the province's 30 volunteer centres, provincial voluntary organizations and individuals working together to strengthen the growth and development of voluntary action in British Columbia. For more information, visit www.volunteerbc.bc.ca.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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