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## BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

### VOLUNTEERISM IN B.C.

- B.C. has about 845,000 volunteers filling over 1.5 million volunteer positions. (Sources: 2004 National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations and 2000 National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating)
- In 2003, B.C.'s volunteers provided more than 114 million hours of service, or the equivalent of more than 60,000 full-time jobs. This volunteer force, combined with the 147,000 paid staff who work for voluntary and non-profit organizations, generates \$11 billion in annual revenues. (Source: Time to Act: Positioning the BC Voluntary Sector. A Roundtable Discussion Summary Report 2001 Volunteer BC)
- Of those who volunteer, about 25 per cent account for about 71 per cent of total hours volunteered in B.C. (Source: 2000 National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating)
- On average, British Columbia's volunteers contribute 169 hours each year. (Source: 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating)
- There are 20,000 registered not-for-profit or voluntary organizations in B.C. (Source: 2003 National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations)
- There are more than 161,000 sport volunteers in B.C. (Source: 1998 Census)
- B.C. has more than 30 volunteer centres providing recruitment, referral and support services for a broad range of organizations across the voluntary sector, including human and social services, health care, education, arts, sports and recreation. (Source: Volunteer BC web site)
- Each year, B.C.'s communities present more than 2,400 festivals and events. These events are largely dependent on the work of volunteers. (Source: Tourism BC)
- VolunteersNow is a core area of 2010 Legacies Now that works in partnership with community organizations, non-government organizations (NGOs), and all levels of government to develop sustainable legacies in the volunteer sector leading up to, during and beyond the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

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