

# 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 25 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 every volunteer in the province.

Our network of over 30 volunteer centres throughout the province 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 WORK



## ONLINE INITIATIVES

Since 2001, Volunteer BC has built a strong and expansive online program. Our website, at [www.volunteerbc.bc.ca](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca), is one of the most comprehensive online resources on volunteering. We are also partners in two exciting web initiatives launching soon, one with the Vancouver Community Network (VCN) and another with 2010 LegaciesNow – VolunteersNow.

## CONNECTING INITIATIVES

Our strong web presence is at the centre of our efforts to connect with stakeholders. As well, we connect our membership to news and up-to-date information with The Connector, our snappy (and aptly titled) monthly communiqué.

## CONVENING INITIATIVES

Through our VOCBC initiative, voluntary sector leaders have opportunities to gather and discuss the many issues facing the sector. Volunteer BC's Provincial Summit is an opportunity for volunteer centres and other champions of volunteerism to connect, network and support each other's efforts.

## LEARNING INITIATIVES

Our commitment to supporting and providing quality learning opportunities is a key part of the overall growth and sustainability of the sector and the profession. Volunteer BC was a key partner in the National Learning Initiative and is currently a partner in Langara College's Summer School on Building Community.

## 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.



**Volunteer BC**  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

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