



***Excellence in Volunteerism to Build a Better British Columbia***

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In an open letter to British Columbians we recognize the value and impact of volunteerism in BC.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> is National Volunteer Week in Canada, and 2001 is the United Nations International Year of Volunteers. One of the ways we mark Volunteer Week is by recognizing and thanking the people who touch all our lives.

One third of British Columbians - over one million – give their time to organizations. Many more volunteer informally in their neighbourhoods. This means that in «**Region**» at least «**VolPop**» are active in the community.

Volunteer BC is a provincial association committed to building excellence in volunteerism in BC. We at Volunteer BC want you to know that as a volunteer you do make a difference. From essential services in your community to global humanitarian efforts. Whether you drive, coach, visit, tutor, advocate for change, clean up the countryside, care for animals, sit on a committee or Board, raise funds, you make all our lives richer.

Imagine our lives if we did not encourage and support volunteering. This is a time to celebrate the contribution of over a million British Columbians and promise to do what we can to help them help others effectively.

This year is International Year of Volunteers. This year is about the value of one and the power of many.

Sincerely,

*Carol Biely*  
President, Volunteer BC