

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER CENTRE?

Volunteer Centres* work in local communities to strengthen volunteering and citizen engagement. With more than 200 in Canada, each volunteer centre's name, size, structure and services reflect the unique characteristics of their community.

Many volunteer centres are independent nonprofit organizations, while others are part of a United Way, Social Planning Council, Community Information and Referral Centre or municipal services.

Though diverse in many ways, they share the following common functions:

- Promote volunteering
- Build the capacity of organizations to engage volunteers
- Facilitate connections between people with volunteer opportunities
- Provide leadership on issues related to volunteering and citizen engagement

*[*Excerpt from Volunteer Canada](#)*

HOW MANY IN BC?

Today there are over 35 volunteer centres in British Columbia, each providing common services as well as a unique mix of programs to fit the needs of their communities.

To find a volunteer centre in your area go to our [Volunteer Centre Listing Page](#).

WHY CONTACT YOUR VOLUNTEER CENTRE? HOW CAN THEY HELP YOU?

Here are some of the great things your local volunteer centre does:

- Host volunteer fairs
- Matching volunteers to organizations
- Host online listings of volunteer opportunities
- Training for organizations and volunteers on volunteer engagement
- Training for Board of Directors on Board Governance
- Support for corporate volunteer involvement
- Specialize support for seniors, persons with disabilities, youth & immigrant volunteerism
- Lending libraries on Volunteer Management/Board Development
- Celebrate National Volunteer Week and International Volunteer Managers Day
- Host blogs about volunteer involvement and engagement
- Organize networking opportunities for Managers and Coordinators of Volunteers
- Manage volunteer awards and appreciation events
- Operate Volunteer Programs (ie. Meals on Wheels; Better at Home)
- Explain how to be a volunteer