

# Volunteer Alberta

## How Can a Volunteer Centre Help You?

### What If My Community Doesn't Have a Volunteer Centre?

Some communities are not able to sustain a volunteer centre, but have other agencies that perform some of the functions of a volunteer centre.

These can include:

- Family & Community Support Services offices,
- Municipal Parks & Recreation departments,
- Culture boards,
- Health Authorities' volunteer services departments &
- Adult Learning Councils.

### How Can My Community Start a Volunteer Centre?

Starting a successful and sustainable volunteer centre involves assessing the community's need and involving enthusiastic, committed individuals from the private, nonprofit, and government sectors. For more information on starting a volunteer centre, contact Volunteer Alberta toll free at 1-877-915-6336.

### What Is a Volunteer Centre?

Volunteer centres are nonprofit organizations that work with volunteers and the community organizations that utilize volunteers. Volunteer centres serve a broad cross section of voluntary organizations in the community including:

Arts & Culture	Health & Social Services
Education	Environment
Sports & Recreation	Faith
Agriculture	Youth & Seniors

### What Does a Volunteer Centre Do?

Volunteer centres foster and develop volunteerism in the community. In general, they do four activities.

#### Promoting volunteerism

Volunteer centres raise awareness of the power of service and encourage people to volunteer. They provide information about volunteerism and recognize the contribution of volunteers. This could mean celebrating National Volunteer Week or conducting volunteer fairs.

#### Capacity building for effective local volunteering

Volunteer centres help voluntary sector organizations – and other groups and individuals that work with volunteers – do a better job of recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers. They can offer training programs, one-to-one consultations, or provide support to organizations that work with volunteers.

#### Providing leadership on issues relating to volunteerism

Volunteer centres serve as a catalyst for action. They work through local partnerships and collaborations with various groups and organizations. These include government, schools and community leaders. Together, they identify needs and mobilize volunteer response. Some examples include speaking on behalf of volunteers, convening or participating in committees, and advising volunteers of community needs.

#### Connecting people with opportunities to serve

Volunteer centres provide people with easy access to a wide variety of opportunities to connect to their community through service. Some examples include targeting programs for special populations, offering recruitment and referral services, and managing direct services involving volunteers.