

**VOLUNTEER  
ALBERTA**

**2021 Annual Report**





## OUR FUNDERS

With the generosity of our sponsors, Volunteer Alberta has been able to further connect, promote and strengthen volunteerism and Alberta's nonprofit sector in 2021. We would like to send them a special thank you.



The image features a background of a light gray network graph with nodes and connecting lines. In the center, there is a prominent, irregular orange shape. Inside this orange shape, the word "Connector" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a thin black outline.

**Connector**







The image features a background network of light gray lines connecting various nodes, which are represented by small light gray circles. In the center of this network is a prominent, irregular orange shape. Inside this orange shape, the word "Champion" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a thin black outline.

**Champion**

# PROMOTE

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## Website Refresh

After months of team effort, we are thrilled to share our new website with you! Our site has been designed to make engagement easier. Visitors are guided to the area of the website that will be of most use to them, whether they are volunteers looking for volunteer opportunities, organizations looking for resources to support their volunteer efforts, or individuals learning about volunteering. Everything is one click away.

## VA & Alberta Student's Executive Council (ASEC) Partnership

We believe volunteerism and civic engagement are crucial for health and well-being and vibrant communities need voices from Canada and from around the world.

In 2021, Volunteer Alberta (VA) and Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) joined in partnership to bring international voices to Alberta's nonprofit and voluntary sector! Through this online campaign, our respective teams promoted joint messaging to bring global talent to help address local issues.

## National Volunteer Week (NVW) Enhancement Funding

Annually, the Government of Alberta (GOA) partners with VA to provide National Volunteer Week Enhancement Funding. As the program entered its 27th year, we distributed \$64,153 in NVW Grants to 67 organizations across 122 municipalities to celebrate and recognize Alberta's volunteers. We continued to expand the eligible expenses and extended the reporting timelines to provide communities with more flexibility in the time of the pandemic. To celebrate the NVW 2021 theme of "The Value of One, The Power of Many", communities demonstrated their creativity and adapted their celebrations to safely thank and cheer on their volunteers. During NVW, VA worked to demonstrate the resilience and brilliance of the sector by sharing volunteer stories, volunteerism facts and community celebrations online.

**On Facebook,  
we reached  
8,537 people &  
generated 355  
engagement**

## **PROMOTE**

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The VA Communications team is always looking for new ways to engage and build our audiences over social media while also driving online traffic to our website. Here are some of our stats for 2021:

**9,388  
Twitter  
Followers**

**2,309  
Facebook  
Page Likes**

**2,122  
LinkedIn  
Followers**

**81,645  
website visitors  
in 2021**

The image features a background network of light gray nodes and connecting lines. A central node is highlighted with a large, irregular orange shape. The word "Catalyst" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font with a thin black outline, centered within the orange shape.

**Catalyst**

# STRENGTHEN

## VA & Suncor Energy Foundation Intersectionality Project

Many organizations, including Volunteer Alberta, are integrating Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) into their work and operations, from hiring and recruitment to policy and procedure, from employee retention to stakeholder and volunteer engagement, and much more.

Volunteer Alberta and Suncor Energy Foundation are working in partnership to promote EDI in our communities and recently kicked off our [Intersectionality Project](#).

Intersectionality is a crucial element in EDI, and begins from the understanding that the different vectors of social diversity, (race, class, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, religion, language, age, etc.) do not exist separately; instead, the various vectors of social diversity are interwoven and affect each other.

With this project, we hope to encourage other organizations to consider the importance of creating an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community for the people we serve.

## Enhanced Capacity Advancement Program (ECAP)

With ECAP funding from the Government of Alberta, we help build the capacity of other nonprofits in the province, as well as build our internal capacity. As we implement our 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, this funding has supported a wide range of VA work including:

### External Capacity Building

- enabling us to convene, lead and participate in networks (provincial and national tables)
- providing programs and services that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve
- collaborating and partnering with nonprofits and other stakeholders on initiatives
- sharing resources, opportunities and referrals for public inquiries

### Internal Capacity Building

- alignment of our evaluation framework with our new strategic roles
- applications for funding and development of new funding streams
- the creation of collaborative workspaces in the VA office and for remote work
- (un)learning around equity, diversity, and inclusion

## Volunteer Screening Program (VSP)

Funded by the Government of Alberta and administered by Volunteer Alberta, VSP provides financial and educational support for nonprofits' volunteer screening. In 2021, our educational programming emphasized developing new content related to virtual volunteer screening, which will be released in 2022. We also spent important time engaging in emerging discussions about anti-racism and equity in volunteer screening. Lastly, we provided financial support to organizations by delivering Vulnerable Sector Check Fee Waivers to 11 communities throughout Alberta and distributing 13 Volunteer Screening Development Grants to a variety of nonprofit organizations from across a variety of sub-sectors.

## Allied Community & Cooperative Shared Services (ACCESS)

In 2021, VA joined the operational team of Allied Community and Cooperative Shared Services (ACCESS), a new nonprofit service co-op led by Alberta Community and Cooperative association (ACCA). ACCESS will offer backend services to nonprofits and co-ops through the shared service model, which shares the time of specialized service providers across multiple organizations. Right now, ACCESS is developing it's first suite of services: IT, bookkeeping, and legal.

## Youth @ The Table (Y@TT): Year 3 Launch & Community Practice

Volunteer Alberta's Youth @ The Table (Y@TT) is a leadership and civic engagement program that matches Alberta's young adults (aged 18-30) with nonprofit boards across the province. With support from Canada Service Corps, Youth @ the Table (Y@TT) launched its third program year composed of 23 young leaders and 15 host board organizations. We hosted several virtual, in-person, and hybrid events for participants to learn, connect, and engage amid changing COVID-19 restrictions.

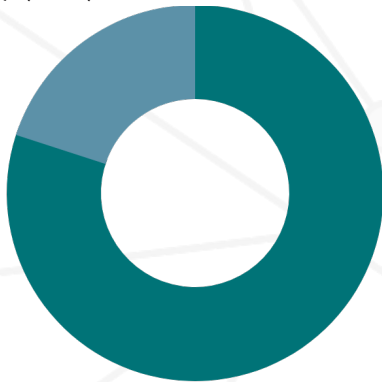


## 2021 STAFF RETREAT

in September 2021, the VA team met in person at Queen Elizabeth Park in Edmonton for a staff retreat. The sun was shining, and although our planned ghost tour of Edmonton was cancelled due to resurging health regulations, the team had a delicious lunch from Farrow, and spent the day chatting, walking, and getting to know each other. We shared many laughs and learned a lot about who we are as individuals, how we work together as a team, and that we all care deeply about the work we do.

## FINANCE

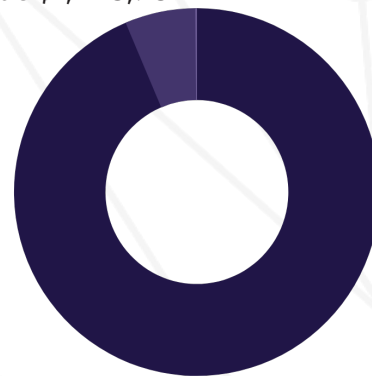
Expenses \$1,483,058



*Programs/Services/Resources*  
\$1,186,446

*Management/Admin*  
\$296,612

Revenue \$1,445,982



*Contracts/Grants/Contributions*  
\$1,344,432

*Membership/Workshop/Donation*  
\$89,391

*Interest*  
\$2,159

## A Message from our Executive Director

Well, hello.

It's nice to be here with you. And by "here," I mean in this remarkable time that we collectively find ourselves. This is a time where we are trying to find our way through an evolution, where old structures and systems are giving way, and new ones are emerging. Where dominant world views and narratives are being challenged. Where we, as individuals and as a collective, are being asked to step in and step up to create the futures we want to see in the world.

It is simultaneously exhilarating and daunting to join Volunteer Alberta during this pivotal time. Volunteer Alberta is in the midst of a transition. We are already working to better understand how our organization and the communities we serve must evolve to meet the needs of the changing sector. This means looking hard at our structures and systems: which need to be hospiced? It also means exploring which of the new practices, knowledge, and environments that are emerging do we need to embrace and champion.?

My role is to steward the organization through this transitional time and to nourish the conditions for success for all of the organizations and individuals we serve.

In order to do so, we are deeply curious about the future of volunteerism. As an (un)learning organization, some of the questions we hold in this realm include:

- What is the role of civic engagement and volunteerism to restore trust in and between people, communities, organizations, and institutions?
- What does re-investing in volunteer infrastructure require from an intersectional perspective?
- What are alternative models of volunteering and civic engagement, beyond the dominant models based on good will?
- How might we best support others to mobilize people in their communities in ways that are meaningful for them?
- How might we cultivate a culture of caring through civic engagement and volunteerism in Alberta?

Of course, while we explore pathways towards answering these questions, Volunteer Alberta will continue to cultivate our organizational health and sustainability. In the year ahead, we will experiment with new practices to nurture a positive employee experience, we will actively seek to diversify our organization's revenue streams, and we will look for ways to boost our operational dexterity.

As Volunteer Alberta embarks on this journey in 2022, I look forward to connecting with and deepening our relationships and connections across the sector. My door is always open, and I am excited to (un)learn alongside you.

With appreciation,

Miki Stricker-Talbot (she/her)  
Executive Director



## BOARD MEMBERS 2021

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### Board Members

**Hero Laird** - President

**Morgan Bamford** - Past President

**Lisa Gilchrist** - Vice President

**Naomi Mahaffy** - Secretary

**Sian Anderson** - Treasurer

**Bonnie Chiu** - Director

**Corinne Ethier** - Director

**Dave Maffitt** - Director

**Lesley MacKinnon** - Director

**Meera Kassam** - Director

## VA STAFF 2021/22

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### Operations & Finance

**Miki Stricker-Talbot** - Executive Director

**Cindy Walter** - Manager, Operations & Board Relations

**Jennifer Brownridge** - Manager, Finance

**Michael McOuat** - Coordinator, Operations

### Networks & Engagement

**Alison Besecker** - Senior Coordinator, Networks & Engagement

### Learning & Development

**Graeme Dearden** - Manager, Learning & Resources

**Vicki Shaughnessy** - Senior Coordinator, Learning & Resources

**Kendra Fincaryk** - Senior Coordinator, Evaluations

### Youth @ the Table

**Eunice Doroni** - Manager, Youth Engagement

**Darryl De Dios** - Senior Coordinator, Youth Engagement (Evaluations & Research)

**Melody Santiago** - Senior Coordinator, Youth Engagement

### Marketing & Communications

**Haylee Freake** - Coordinator, Communications

*The Volunteer Alberta Team expresses its appreciation to Karen Link, who served as Executive Director of Volunteer Alberta from 2018 through 2021.*

*We would also like to share our gratitude to everyone who was apart of the VA Team throughout 2021 who have left to explore other opportunities! Thank you for having chosen to share your knowledge and expertise with Volunteer Alberta.*

# The Association of Volunteer Centres and Volunteer Engaging Organizations in Alberta

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## MISSION

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To enable Alberta's nonprofit/voluntary sector organization through knowledge exchange and strategic connections.

## VISION

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A strong, engaged, and conneted society serving the common good in Alberta.



[volunteeralberta.ab.ca](http://volunteeralberta.ab.ca)



Volunteer Alberta



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