

## MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cochrane Volunteers offer free income tax program for low-income families: Just a few of the 189,560 full-time jobs Alberta Volunteers contribute each year**

*Communities celebrate Volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2018*

EDMONTON, AB, April 9, 2018—Come April, it's everyone's daydream: Someone to do your taxes! For low-income families in Cochrane, this dream is a reality. Two volunteers from the Cochrane Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) run a free income tax program for individuals who earn under \$30,000. Last year, these volunteers processed more than 500 tax returns for people in their community.

"They're like full-time employees here," says Brenda Dennis, Volunteer Services & Community Programmer at Cochrane FCSS. "When we're ready to go home, they're still working away. The service and expertise they offer is outstanding—they go above and beyond to provide this program. And they are just two volunteers out of so many in this community."

Communities across the province celebrate inspiring volunteers and volunteer initiatives like these during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2018. Each year, nonprofits across Canada host community-wide events to recognize their volunteers and promote the value of volunteerism. Volunteering is as diverse as Canada itself, but one thing remains timeless—volunteerism creates positive impact in all our communities.

Alberta volunteers contribute over **345 million hours** to the provincial economy every year—the equivalent of **189,560 full-time jobs** or upwards of **\$9 billion**. That's over 2% of Alberta's GDP in unpaid, volunteer human resources.

"It's difficult to imagine how our communities and social structures would function without the generosity of those who offer their time and skills," says Jann Beeston, Executive Director of Volunteer Alberta. "So it's important to recognize the immense value volunteers bring to our province, and the country."

Learn more about NVW [events in your community](#) and be inspired by [local volunteer stories!](#)

-30-

**MEDIA CONTACT**  
for National Volunteer Week:  
Katherine Topolniski  
Creative Director,  
Volunteer Alberta  
780 482 3300 x 235  
ktopolniski@volunteeralberta.ab.ca

**MEDIA CONTACT**  
for Local Events & Stories:  
Brenda Dennis  
Volunteer Services & Community  
Programmer, Cochrane FCSS  
403 851 2252  
brenda.dennis@cochrane.ca



Empire Building - Suite 609  
10080 Jasper Ave  
Edmonton AB T5J 1V9

**P** 780 482 3300  
**TF** 1 877 915 6336  
**F** 780 482 3310

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