

## MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Volunteers in Fort McMurray work to help the community come home: 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—Parts of the Fort McMurray community are still reeling from the impacts of the devastating Horse River Wildfire in 2016. Two years ago, Habitat for Humanity Wood Buffalo and FuseSocial collaborated with outside community organizations Samaritan's Purse, World Renew and Mennonite Disaster Services to create NGOs Supporting Uninsured and Underinsured Residents (NSUUR) working group. NSUUR focuses on repairs and rebuilds for primary resident homeowners who are uninsured and underinsured.

Two years later, volunteers continue to provide the majority of the labour needed for NSUUR projects. Without these volunteers the rebuild projects could not move forward, and members of the community would never have the opportunity to come home.

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@volunteeraberta.ab.ca

**MEDIA CONTACT**  
for Local Events & Stories:  
Sheri Donovan  
Champion of Change,  
FuseSocial  
780 791 9333 x 8211  
sheri.donovan@fusesocial.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  
[volunteeraberta.ab.ca](http://volunteeraberta.ab.ca)