

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In Lac La Biche, the whole town volunteers: a small part of the 345 million hours Alberta Volunteers contribute every year

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

EDMONTON, AB, April 9, 2018—In Lac La Biche, volunteering is second nature. After fire ravaged the area around Fort McMurray in 2016, the town became a refuge for evacuees. Every single person in town stepped up to volunteer—although many wouldn't identify as such. One resident remembers of the time his friends and neighbours were handing out food and necessities at local stores and businesses, "Nobody organized this, nobody told us what to do... we all just did it anyway."

"That nice, warm, community feeling is what we want to keep alive every year with our National Volunteer Week celebration," says Christine Martin, Community Outreach Worker at Lac La Biche FCSS. "We want to remind people what it's like when we work *together*. We have such great volunteers and wonderful programs—it's a reminder that it really does take a village."

Communities across the province celebrate volunteers like the Alberta Strong residents of Lac La Biche 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!](#)

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