

## MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Okotoks Volunteer delivers hot dinners shoveling through a snowstorm:  
just a small part of the \$9 billion Alberta Volunteers contribute every year**  
*Communities celebrate Volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2018*

EDMONTON, AB, April 9, 2018—In Okotoks, winter's first major snowstorm barricades doors and driveways. Luckily the weather didn't faze one volunteer driver for the local Meals on Wheels program. Instead, she shoveled her way through the snow to deliver hot dinners to housebound seniors. Halfway through, she accidentally locked her keys in her car! Instead of giving up, she recruited her husband who joined her with a spare key, and together they delivered the rest of the meals—still warm.

"She's very motivated and committed," says Sian Anderson, Volunteer Administrator, Town of Okotoks, "with a good sense of humour."

Communities across the province celebrate volunteers like this stalwart shoveler 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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