

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Red coats pipe up the Volunteer Flag in Strathcona County: just part of the \$9 billion Alberta Volunteers contribute every year

Strathcona celebrates Volunteers April 16, 2018, 10 -11am, Strathcona County Community Centre

EDMONTON, AB, April 9, 2018— Red coated Mounties, bagpipes, families, and balloons: the annual Volunteer Flag Raising ceremony has celebrated volunteers for over 25 years in Strathcona County. Speeches from the County Mayor and Council, MLAs, and local sponsors and volunteers follow the Mayor's flag raising, and then the neighbourhood party starts with live music, refreshments, and appreciation gifts.

"Our volunteers inspire us every day," says Susan Mihalievitch, Volunteer Centre Program Coordinator at Information & Volunteer Centre for Strathcona County. "This event is one way we can recognize them and thank them for all the great work they do in our community. It's a wonderful neighbourhood tradition that is a lot of fun for the whole family."

Communities across the province come together to celebrate their volunteers 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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