

## MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Vegreville Youth & Community Boards Speed-date for Success: just a few 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 Vegreville, the innovative “Youth Making a Change” program is creating a new culture of volunteerism in the community. Funded by the local Rotary Club and coordinated by FCSS, the program is open to ten youth in grades 10 through 12 and offers six weeks of sessions in leadership training, community engagement, personal mission statements, conflict resolution, and public speaking—and finishes with a team building field trip.

At the end of the program, students match with a community Board through a ‘speed-dating’ event, and serve a term on their chosen Board. And because there’s often a generation gap when engaging youth in volunteer roles, this program also incorporates learning for the organizations—things like how to communicate with youth, and how to be an effective mentor.

“The feedback I hear from organizations is, ‘Wow!’” says Nadine Crain, Community Programmer at Vegreville FCSS. “This program builds capacity with youth, but it also offers existing organizations new perspectives and new ideas.”

Communities across the province celebrate innovations in volunteerism 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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