

Volunteer Centres: Investing in People

The Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN) is <u>the</u> provincial network and voice that strengthens the individual and collective ability of Volunteer Centres in Ontario to promote, support, and enhance volunteerism.

The role of Volunteer Centres in Ontario - the vibrant network of 14 centres - has been instrumental in connecting Ontario's volunteers with local organizations through the COVID-19 pandemic. <u>Local</u> solutions work to mobilize emergency volunteerism. Over the past 18 months, our Volunteer Centres have engaged **3.3 million Ontarians** and supported over **4,300 not-for-profit organizations** across the province with recruitment support, training, and coaching.

Every single Ontarian benefits from volunteer contributions because of their presence in our social fabric. Volunteers across Ontario have stepped up, leaned in, and invested time, energy, and human spirit in support of COVID efforts. Volunteers ensure our province's most vulnerable community members are not left behind. Their efforts have had a huge impact. Join us in thanking Ontario volunteers this Thanksgiving weekend for their investment to keep Ontario going during this pandemic:

- Find your local Volunteer Centre below and follow us on social media
- Post your Thank You to Volunteers message on your social media and website
- Tag @OVCNetwork and #StrongerTogether and link to www.ovcn.ca

The pandemic has impacted the volunteer infrastructure in Ontario. To recover from COVID-19, we can rebuild together by investing in people. **Ontario volunteers contribute \$2.07B to Canada's GDP** as volunteerism plays a critical role in delivering essential programs, building personal opportunity (skills and employment) and fostering social inclusion. Rebuilding the volunteer infrastructure includes investing in the people enabling volunteer involvement. One in two organizations have laid off or permanently redeployed volunteer management professionals. This trend has significantly disrupted volunteer engagement across Ontario as volunteer demand outstrips the supply of available positions.

OVCN members have built connections between not-for-profit organizations and volunteer seekers from every demographic. OVCN members are here to work with all levels of government in Ontario to aggregate province-wide volunteer data, support local recovery initiatives, provide valuable community insights, and engage a wide network of volunteers and non-profit organizations. We serve an essential role in keeping volunteers engaged, communities connected and Ontario's not-for-profit organizations afloat.

Why invest in people now? Because the future of volunteerism is in our hands.

Find your local volunteer centre below and connect with us today:

- Community Reach (Midland) CONTACT Community Services (South Simcoe) Flamborough Connects INCommunities (Niagara Region) Information Orillia Pillar Nonprofit Network (London) People and Information Network (Guelph-Wellington) Sarnia Gives United Way of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Volunteer & Information Quinte Volunteer Action Centre (Waterloo Region)
- Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau Volunteer Centre of United Way of Chatham-Kent Volunteer Centre of United Way Windsor-Essex County Volunteer Dufferin Volunteer Halton / Community Development Halton Volunteer Markham Volunteer Mississauga · Brampton · Caledon Volunteer Ottawa Volunteer Sudbury Volunteer Thunder Bay Volunteer Toronto

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