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International Volunteer Day December 5



In 1985, the United Nations General Assembly established International Volunteer Day (IVD) to commemorate the contributions and dedication of volunteers worldwide. Today, IVD is celebrated globally, by volunteers, voluntary organizations and by all those who benefit directly from the endless help of the volunteer.

Click [here](#) to read a statement by the Executive Coordinator of United Nations Volunteers, Flavia Pansieri, on International Volunteer Day 2009

The Government of Canada Encourages New Canadians to Volunteer

As many of you probably know, the Government of Canada has brought out a new study guide for immigrants called Discover Canada. This initiative has been the subject of quite a bit of press coverage and commentary - mostly focused on the fact that Discover Canada is much more detailed than earlier documents of its sort.

Little noticed is the fact that, in the section on citizenship responsibilities, the document mentions volunteering very prominently.

The exact words are:

"Helping others in the community – Millions of volunteers freely donate their time to help others without pay – helping people in need, assisting at your child's school, volunteering at a food bank or other charity, or encouraging newcomers to integrate. Volunteering is an excellent way to gain useful skills and develop friends and contacts."

We hope this recognition of volunteering signals an interest on the part of the Canadian Government to take seriously the need to integrate New Canadians into Canada's volunteering community.

Volunteer Canada's Public Policy Manager attended the launch of Discover Canada. Immigration and Citizenship Canada officials in attendance told him that they consider volunteering an important indicator of newly arrived immigrants' degree of integration. Those officials are now interested in finding ways to work collaboratively with Volunteer Canada in the future.

2nd Ottawa Timeraiser: 6,450 hours raised!

On Saturday November 14th, 2009, Volunteer Canada attended the 2nd Ottawa Timeraiser as an agency. The Timeraiser is presented in part by Volunteer Ottawa and United Way Ottawa. Here are some quick Timeraiser results:

- Over 400 people attended with 215 participants making "the pledge"
- 6,450 volunteer hours were pledged to local charitable groups
- 100% of the artwork reached their maximum bid (a Timeraiser first!)
- \$14,000 was invested in the careers of local artists
- 20+ community leaders in attendance

Introducing Vantage Point

Volunteer Vancouver has some exciting news to share. As of November, Volunteer Vancouver starts doing business as [Vantage Point](#). So why the change? The world is changing. Since 1943, Canadian society and the ways of volunteer engagement have undergone significant change – particularly with regard to technology, demographics and the workplace.

The organization has always changed to keep pace and stay relevant in the communities they serve. At one time Volunteer Vancouver focused primarily on volunteers, but in the past 66 years they have established a unique vantage point - a new way of looking at how organizations work with people to achieve their missions.

As noted by Vantage Point, "We inspire and build leadership in the voluntary sector by inviting organizations to engage people who share a passion for their mission. We believe our new name will encourage organizations to see the world through "a people lens" and look for new ways to engage the time and talent of paid and unpaid people."

Resolve to Get Involved

In celebration of International Volunteer Day, Future Shop & The Home Depot Canada Foundation are encouraging their employees across the country to Resolve to Get Involved! Employee volunteers from coast to coast will be volunteering in their communities alongside co-workers, and other members of the community.



You too can Resolve to Get Involved!

Go to [Power of the Hour](#) and join the ranks of business leaders, like Future Shop & The Home Depot, across the country.

International Volunteer Managers Day 2009

International Volunteer Managers Day (IVMDay) has passed again for another year and was a grand success. The day continues to be celebrated and used as a tool to further the profession of Volunteer Program Management.

[Click here to read the report highlighting some of the achievements of IVMDay 2009.](#)

Network of National Volunteer-Involving Organizations Member Profile

UNICEF Canada

UNICEF Canada has been an active member of the Network of National Volunteer-Involving Organizations (NNVIO) represented by Manager of Human Resources, Stephanie Guillen.

"Managers of volunteers in national organizations are in a unique position to demonstrate two kinds of skill sets; both volunteer management skills, and strategic leadership, planning and coalition-building skills amongst regional/branch offices. This network has proved invaluable to me to share best practices and meet with people who are dealing with the same kinds of issues I face in my position. It allows me to keep on the cutting edge with trends, events and new technologies that I would not necessarily be made aware of outside of the network. I highly recommend the value of this network."

Stephanie Guillen, Manager, Human Resources, UNICEF Canada

UNICEF is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. Volunteers play a key role in Canada in our fundraising and education/advocacy work; including organizing special events and fundraising activities, selling cards and gifts, speaking in schools, and with administration. For more information about UNICEF, please visit www.unicef.ca.