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New tools aim to bridge the gap between boomer volunteers and organizations

Volunteer Canada, in partnership with Manulife Financial, today launched two new interactive tools for use by baby boomers and organizations interested in engaging boomer volunteers. The tools are designed to address the gaps identified in the [Bridging the Gap](#) research report, between what baby boomers look for in volunteer opportunities, and what organizations currently offer.

The first tool, titled [Transitions, Milestones and Legacies Retirement Planning Module on Volunteering](#), highlights the benefits of volunteering as part of a robust retirement plan. The tool allows retired persons and those approaching retirement to discover volunteer opportunities that best suit their motivations and life circumstances.

[Click here](#) to view and download the retirement planning module on Getvolunteering.ca.

The second tool, titled [Building Blocks for Boomer Volunteer Engagement](#), describes the characteristics of baby boomers and highlights the opportunities and barriers to their engagement. *Building Blocks* provides organizations with strategies and resources for the effective engagement and retention of baby boomer volunteers.

[Click here](#) to view and download the *Building Blocks* tool on Getvolunteering.ca.

New Fact Sheet Identifies Behaviours and Characteristics of Boomer Volunteer Engagement

As part of the *Building the Bridge* campaign, Volunteer Canada is creating a series of four fact sheets examining the behaviours and characteristics of four distinct demographic groups identified in the [Bridging the Gap](#) research: youth, baby boomers, families, and employer-supported volunteers.

[The latest fact sheet on baby boomer volunteers launched today](#). The fact sheet identifies the unique characteristics of boomer volunteers, and outlines barriers and opportunities to their engagement.

[Click here](#) to view and download the baby boomer fact sheet on Getvolunteering.ca.

International Volunteer Day event listings

On December 5, 2011, voluntary organizations, government offices and volunteers from around the world will celebrate International Volunteer Day. First declared in 1985, IVD showcases the contributions of volunteers at the local, national, and international levels. Volunteer Canada will recognize IVD by participating in celebrations across the country. Below is a listing of IVD events Volunteer Canada representatives will attend:

In **Ottawa**, Volunteer Canada will co-host the Canadian launch of the United Nations [State of the World's Volunteerism Report](#) in partnership with [CUSO – VSO](#), [UNV](#), and the Right Honourable [David Johnston](#), Governor General of Canada. Ben Lough, co-author of the report, will attend the event and present the findings of the SWVR. The event takes place at Rideau Hall.

Ben Lough will also host a [Get Volunteering Facebook Conversation](#) on December 8, and he will field questions related to the report. To take part in the live interactive chat, simply "[Like](#)" [Get Volunteering](#) on Facebook and tune in to the Conversation page on December 8.

In **Halifax**, Volunteer Canada will recognize IVD by staging an event in collaboration with the Nova Scotia government. The [Honourable Minister Marilyn More](#), Minister of Education, Minister of Labour and Workforce Development, and Minister of Volunteerism, will speak at the event, which focuses on the role of the voluntary sector in Nova Scotia.

On December 5, the **Volunteer Bureau of Montreal** will host an event to celebrate their 75th anniversary. The Volunteer Bureau of Montreal was founded in 1937, and is the first volunteer centre established in Canada.

Also taking place on December 5 and 6, in **Montreal**, is the [Réseau de l'action bénévole du Québec Colloque](#). The Colloque is a symposium on volunteering. Colloque sessions will share resources, tools and knowledge for the effective engagement of today's volunteers. [Registration is available through the event website.](#)