

Thursday, March 14, 2013

In this issue:

- Countdown to National Volunteer Week 2013
- Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards - Call for nominations
- State Farm Neighborhood Assist Program
- Remember to renew your Volunteer Canada membership!

Countdown to National Volunteer Week 2013



National Volunteer Week is now less than six weeks away! If you are still in the planning stages of your volunteer recognition activities this year, our [Campaign Kit](#) is here to help, with templates, tip sheets, seminars, thank you cards and more. If you are looking for affordable and meaningful gifts to thank your volunteers with, visit our [online gift store](#) today!

Are you an expert in volunteer recognition? Watch Ruth Vant's NVW [video seminar](#) and take the "volunteer recognition challenge." Or, read the transcript of our recent [Facebook chat](#) with her.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for the unveiling of our NVW online "Thank you wall" – designed to recognize Canada's volunteers via social media!

Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards – Call for nominations



The Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards recognize the exceptional contributions of volunteers, businesses and not-for-profits in improving communities across Canada. With almost half of all Canadians volunteering, the Government of Canada wants to make sure that outstanding voluntary efforts are recognized. Award recipients will be recognized at a ceremony and can identify an eligible not-for-profit organization to receive a grant for \$5,000 (regional award) or \$10,000 (national award). To learn more about the PMVAs, eligibility, and submit a nomination, please visit [their website](#). Nominations will be accepted until April 15, 2013.

State Farm Neighborhood Assist Program



This year, State Farm will be awarding \$1,000,000 in 40 grants of \$25,000 each to organizations and causes working within the realms of safety, education, or community development. Check out the [Neighborhood Assist Facebook](#) page to vote for the causes most important to you!

Remember to renew your Volunteer Canada membership!

The renewal period for the majority of Volunteer Canada members is fast approaching! Please keep an eye out for your renewal notice coming soon by mail.

This past year has been an exciting and productive one for Volunteer Canada and our partners and members throughout the country. Here are just a few of the initiatives we've pursued:

- Launched a new version of the [Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement](#), which includes two new standards for technology and risk assessment;
- In collaboration with Public Safety Canada and the RCMP, we developed the [2012 Edition of the Screening Handbook](#), which covers social policy and legislative changes;
- Hosted the first Governor General's Round Table discussion on professional standards for volunteer engagement, where participants identified challenges and inspiring practices for organizations of all sizes;
- Launched our newly refreshed website – www.volunteer.ca – your connection to Canada's volunteering community.

Maintaining a Volunteer Canada membership supports the national organization that promotes and strengthens volunteerism in Canada. Your membership demonstrates belief in and support for the many volunteers that contribute to organizations such as yours across the country. Simply put, a Volunteer Canada membership enables our efforts to strengthen citizen engagement and catalyze voluntary action.

If you have any questions surrounding your membership renewal, please contact Chantale Bessette by email at cbessette@volunteer.ca or by phone at 1-800-670-0401 ext. 298. We thank our members in advance for their ongoing support.