

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 10 - 16, 2016

Volunteers are the roots of strong communities



Government Relations Tip Sheet

Communicating with elected officials

PLAN AHEAD

- Reach out to municipal, provincial or federal elected representatives months in advance.
- Make sure your ask is clear.
- When meeting with an elected official, make sure a board member or senior volunteer is present.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- To inform the official about National Volunteer Week and your community's planned activities.
- To inform them about the work that volunteers perform in your community and its impact.
- To ensure they understand the value of volunteer work.
- To make them aware of the impact of their policies on volunteers and the organizations they work for in your community.
- To develop a good working relationship so that your organization can be a source of information about issues related to volunteerism in your community.

Provide elected officials the information they need to make good decisions that affect volunteers.

TO DO:
Know what issues they make policy on or are able to influence.
Make yourself aware of elected officials' positions on issues that affect volunteers in your area.
Be flexible if you are meeting with an elected official. Their schedule may change on short notice.
Prepare a concise one-page handout summarizing your main points.
Explain the impact of their government's policies and programs on your organization.