



VOLUNTEER
BÉNÉVOLES
CANADA

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING

March 2020

Virtual Volunteering

COVID-19 and Volunteering

In times of community distress many individuals want to be of assistance. In almost every form of emergency, the offer of help and the willingness to gather to get things done is appreciated. In a pandemic, this is not the case. Social distancing is the recommended course for containing virus spread. This may mean looking for volunteer opportunities that can be done virtually or remotely from your home.

Please be patient and flexible at this time as volunteer roles and community organization needs are changing rapidly. Expect response times to be slower than normal as non-profits and their staff adjust to new work arrangements and prepare for new and rapidly evolving service realities. Search [resources](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer engagement.

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING

What is virtual volunteering? It's volunteering done online, via computers, tablets, or smartphones, usually off-site from the non-profit organization being supported. More and more, organizations are engaging people who want to contribute their skills and time via the Internet.

Virtual volunteers can complete one-time, short-term or ongoing tasks. If you have access to a computer, there are many different volunteer projects and roles available to you — and they can be done from your home, a coffee shop, the library, anywhere with an Internet connection.

FIND A VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Many volunteer centres across the country have volunteer matching platforms where individuals can find and apply to volunteer opportunities online. Here are a few to help you get started. If there is a specific organization you are interested in, check their website for a listing of virtual volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Canada

- The Pan Canadian Matching Platform centralizes volunteer opportunities by providing thousands of volunteer opportunities on one platform, from organizations across the country.
- Search virtual/remote positions currently available on the platform.

Volunteer Toronto:

- Over 100 virtual/remote positions currently available on Volunteer Toronto's website. Search by "position type" and selecting "Volunteer from Home".
- Volunteer Toronto's Volunteer Advisors (advisors@volunteertoronto.ca) are standing by to assist individuals/groups in accessing virtual volunteer positions. Support is being offered by phone/via email.

VMBC (Volunteer Mississauga Brampton Caledon)

- Select 'Virtual' under Location

Vantage Point (BC)

- Choose 'virtual' from Advanced Options

Volunteer Victoria

- Select Keyword Search: I would like to volunteer in Virtual/Remote

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING IDEAS

Consider the types of skills and talents you would like to share through your volunteering and match them to the needs of a non-profit organization.

- Administration
- Board support
- General Skills
- Literacy
- Marketing, Communications and Social Media
- Mentoring/Tutoring
- Research and report writing
- Technology and IT
- Website design or support

Here are a few ideas of the types virtual volunteer opportunities currently available.

Telephone Reassurance Volunteer: Use your phone to connect with an isolated senior or adult with a disability and bring some light to their day!

Public Relations Specialist: Are you a communicator who is interested in volunteering for a young and energetic organization where you'll enjoy flexibility in setting your own schedule and freedom to contribute your ideas? Your role will be to help support communications efforts and contribute to the development of a media relations, influencer engagement and social communications strategy.

Writer: Assist with writing marketing and communications documents such as newsletters, request letters, website content, and more.

Volunteer Social Media Specialist: Join an organization's marketing team to produce and implement social media strategies. You could manage, maintain and grow an organization's social media presence on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Book Buddies: Schools often have volunteers read stories or listen to stories of students. Become an online Book Buddy. Set a specific time of day, and time limit for the event. Have and help a child read a book via Skype, Zoom, FB video messenger, or Facetime. Allow enough time for a short visit and repeat regularly.

United Nations Volunteers' online platform connects volunteers with organizations working for sustainable human development. Volunteers contribute their skills online to help organizations address development challenges.