[Find your MP's name, email and mailing address by entering your postal code at ourcommons.ca/members/en. Mail to any Member of Parliament is postage-free. Delete this note before sending.]

[Date]

[Name of your Member of Parliament]

Member of Parliament for [Riding]

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear [Mr./Ms. Last name],

I am writing as a resident of [community] to ask you to support Volunteer Canada's recommendations for Budget 2026.

[In one or two sentences, say what volunteering makes possible where you live: the program, the team, the food bank, the crisis line, the search and rescue crew, or the person. If you volunteer yourself, say where and what you do.]

Volunteering is declining across Canada. Between 2018 and 2023, the country lost approximately 900 million hours of formal and informal volunteering, and the formal volunteer rate fell from 41% to 32%. Between 2020 and 2025, more than 3,500 churches and community charities closed. Every one of those lost hours was help a person was counting on. It means fewer people to run food banks, answer crisis lines, coach children, respond in emergencies and check on older neighbours. When volunteers stop showing up, that work does not disappear. It lands on paid staff who are already stretched, it moves onto systems that are more expensive to run, or it does not get done at all.

Volunteer Canada has asked the federal government to take four practical steps:

- Recognize the National Volunteer Action Strategy as Canada's national framework for volunteering, with a federal department accountable for moving it forward.
- Keep collecting the national data that shows who volunteers and how much, and report it publicly.
- Invest $15 million over three years to prepare Canadians to help when a flood, fire or other emergency hits their community.
- Invest $20 million over three years so a volunteer's police record check is done once, is affordable, and is accepted everywhere in Canada.

People in communities like ours want to help. These measures would remove the costs and repeated paperwork that stop many of us before we start, and would make sure that when a flood or fire comes, those of us who show up can be put to work instead of turned away. The

community would get the help, and those of us who show up would get to care for the people we know and love. They would also keep the national count of who volunteers and how much. The volunteering figures above come from that count. Without it, the first warning that a community is losing its volunteers is a food bank cutting hours or a crisis line going unanswered, and by then the help is already gone. With it, you would be able to see whether any investment government makes is working. The full submission is available at volunteer.ca.

The organizations that carry this work in [community] are the ones your office hears from when they cannot meet demand. These measures would ease that pressure without a new program or a new department.

I ask you to voice your support for these recommendations with the Minister of Finance as Budget 2026 is prepared. Communities like ours depend on people showing up for each other, and on a government that supports what makes showing up possible.

Sincerely,

[Full name]

[Community, province or territory]

[Postal code]

[Email address]