Volunteer
Bénévoles
Canada

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Volunteer Canada Budget 2026 Response, November 9, 2026.

Budget 2026 invests in a year of celebration and support for Canada's 160th anniversary. It funds rinks and recreation centres in every region, strengthens the country's ability to respond to wildfires and earthquakes, and expands care at home for older adults. Volunteers are integral to the success of these celebrations and to building strong communities. Volunteer Canada is eager to work with the federal government so that our network, and the organizations that support the volunteers essential to Canada's cultural sovereignty and social connectivity, are ready to make 2027 a year to remember.

Volunteering is part of our social fabric: it strengthens community resilience and sustains the shared stories and traditions that define us. As the national voice for volunteerism, Volunteer Canada's network spans over 1,000 organizations and over 200 volunteer centres coast to coast.

Yet that foundation is under strain. Fewer people in Canada are volunteering through organizations: rates fell from 41 to 32 percent between 2018 and 2023, and the value of that work fell by $5.2 billion. People haven't stopped caring, and about 73 percent of people living in Canada volunteered in some form last year. But the systems that support participation need investment to meet the changing realities of Canadians.

"A budget can build a rink in every town. It cannot make someone show up on Saturday morning to run the practice. That is the work in front of us, and we are ready to work with every department that has just invested in Canada 160." Megan Conway, CEO, Volunteer Canada.

Together we can ensure we have the volunteers needed to celebrate Canada's 160th anniversary and create a model for ongoing participation that builds future generations of volunteers. Volunteer Canada is inviting partnerships with the federal government so that communities have the supports they need to make the 160th anniversary not just a year to remember, but a year that builds the foundation for years to come. Volunteer Canada and the federal government have enjoyed a strong partnership for fifty years, and together we can rebuild the infrastructure that supports volunteers and keeps volunteering an integral part of what it means to be Canadian.

We support the investment in Canada's 160th anniversary and invite the government to also invest in the infrastructure that supports the volunteers who will make the year a success. That means a year when people across the country are invited to give their time, trained responders are backed by ready neighbours, and new facilities have the coaches and officials to run them. Investing in volunteerism will ensure the volunteers who sustain our stories, traditions and communities are supported in protecting Canada's cultural and social sovereignty.

We are ready to get started.

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About Volunteer Canada: Volunteer Canada is the national body for volunteering, working with over 1,000 member organizations and over 200 volunteer centres across the country. We have been providing leadership, expertise, standards of practice and resources to support volunteerism in Canada since 1977.