

IT'S TIME TO APPLAUD THIS COUNTRY'S VOLUNTEERS

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Let's all cheer for Canada's volunteers!

National Volunteer Week 2020 - April 19-25, 2020

National Volunteer Week is here, and it's a coast-to-coast-to-coast celebration of the commitment, dedication, generosity and selflessness of Canada's almost 13 million volunteers. The year's theme is: "It's time to applaud this country's volunteers." And especially during this public health crisis, Volunteer Canada would like to shine the spotlight on those volunteering in essential services and saluting those who help by staying home to protect themselves and their communities.

The spirit of volunteerism infuses and energizes communities of every size in our vast country. From April 19-25, we encourage all Canadians to loudly and proudly cheer for Canada's volunteers.

Without volunteers and their more than 166 million hours of volunteer time each month, so much of what must get done, would go undone. Meals would have no wheels. Seniors would miss medical appointments. Cats and dogs would have no foster homes. Walkways and driveways of elderly neighbours would pile up with snow. Groceries at food banks wouldn't make it to those in need. Children's sports teams would all be benched.

From coast-to-coast-to-coast, Canada's volunteers work tirelessly to achieve progress in their community, city and country. They give time in support of causes and programs they believe in and ask for nothing in return. Their time contributes billions of dollars to the Canadian economy every month, at last count over \$55 billion per year. Their smiles bring happiness and hope.

And for that and so much more, we owe them our thanks and heartfelt cheers. So, we ask all Canadians to participate by printing out, personalizing and decorating your windows with Volunteer Canada's clapping hands image with the message – *Cheers to Volunteers!*, or make your own. Also, post Volunteer Canada's supplied images/gifs on social media with the hashtags #CheersToVolunteers #NVW2020.

At Volunteer Canada, it is our honour to reach out to our partners and friends across Canada to encourage them to help make National Volunteer Week 2020 a cross-country celebration of volunteers of all ages. From April 19-25, let's join together and make sure Canada's volunteers receive the applause, thanks and recognition they so richly deserve.