Volunteer Recognition, Incentive and Retention Policy
For Vital Canadian Non-profit Volunteer Services

Whereas:
1. Without more volunteers Canada will lose vital services. Healthcare, culture, recreation, political movements and other endeavours depend on volunteers.

2. Many volunteer dependent organizations risk of closing down as existing volunteers burn out, hours increase and recruitment shrinks, especially in rural and small-town Canada where a smaller volunteer pool, urban migration and an aging population exacerbate the problem. Ethno-diversity volunteerism also remains low.

3. Competition for volunteers is growing. Fewer volunteers perform fewer hours while volunteers age out and hour contributions drop, a trend set in motion in 1997.

4. Charitable giving in the form of financial donations are considered in the Canadian tax code, yet time and energy Canadians donate to keep vital services running are not recognized.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT:

1. Develop a volunteer recognition, incentive and retention strategy to support the vital services our many non-profit organizations provide.

2. Collect statistical data and information on volunteerism in Canada via the long form census in order to better understand and address this important facet of Canadianism.

3. Develop a Volunteer Tax Credit to help retain existing volunteers and for new volunteer incentive. For example, donating 150 hours at $20 per hour would be eligible to claim 30 percent ($900) as a Donation Tax Credit.

4. Recognize the greater need for dwindling volunteer help in rural and small communities that depend on volunteers for many services readily available in urban Canada.

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https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2015001-eng.pdf?st=kZzuwkZH
http://sectorsource.ca/research-and-impact/volunteering-research