

Community Information & Volunteer Centre

Capital News: Volunteer Centre Column 2012 April 5

Volunteers make a difference

Volunteering is a very Canadian thing to do. We create community and support one another through gifts of money and time.

In preparation for National Volunteer Week April 15 – 21, 2012, Statistics Canada released the 2010 Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering & Participating (CSGVP).

Every other person you pass on the street volunteers. Here in BC, we average 178 hours each year. We are above the national average and rank seventh among the provinces and territories.

BC youth between the ages of 15 to 24 years volunteer the most. Are you surprised? They make up 15.5% of our population and yet they make up 58.8% of volunteers.

People aged 25 to 34 volunteer at a 53.2% rate and those aged 35 to 44 volunteer at a 57.5% rate. They represent 16.5% and 16.6% of our population respectively.

BC seniors volunteer the greatest number of hours, 301 hours on average. This represents 22.4% of the total hours volunteered.

During the 2011 Central Okanagan Volunteer Fair held last September, Jin Park surveyed the public who attended.

“People told us that their most satisfying volunteering provided a sense of belonging, included family members, involved new learning experiences and resulted in seeing needs being met,” said Park

“We were surprised by the number of people who were new to the community and saw volunteering as a way of connecting,” she added.

Jin Park is a volunteer, a newcomer to Canada and in her early 30s. Volunteering plays an important role in meeting people and sharing her love of knowledge management.

She has found a niche at Kelowna Community Resources because it provides training and support to charities looking for volunteers as well as online matching for individuals wanting to volunteer.

Have you found a satisfying place to volunteer? Check out www.kcr.ca, volunteer opportunities search.

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