

## Community Services

### Capital News: Volunteer Centre Column 2013 August 23

#### **Volunteer Fair**

Today's youth are taking initiative and defining their own ways of volunteering. They are career-focused and see volunteering as a support for employment, skill development and networking.

So when they come to the volunteer fair on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at Parkinson Recreation Centre, what questions might they have?

Is the charity active in social media? Youth want to connect online and they like to donate online as well.

Does your charity value input by youth? Gone are the days of being told what to do, when, where and how. Young people want to help plan, create and implement.

Is there a mentoring system in place? Youth want to gain skills that are transferrable to the workplace. This means communication, management and interpersonal skills.

People moving to our community from other countries also have questions.

Has your charity trained frontline staff and volunteers to welcome people from a variety of cultural backgrounds?

Think about your cause. How is your message being presented? Think about translation, interpretation, visuals and non-verbal communication?

Are there practical ways to help newcomers practice English, learn more about Canadian culture and make social contacts?

Retired people have their own unique perspective on volunteering.

Many of like to travel and volunteering to be flexible? Is there an opportunity to learn something new? To do something totally different than they did at work?

Is there a way to work with alongside youth? Seasoned volunteers can learn technical skills while youth gain other skills and learn from practical experience.

People of all ages, youth, baby boomers, families and employer-supported volunteers are looking to build relationships through volunteering. Will they find a fit at your charity's display?

The volunteer fair will be held Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 3 pm at Parkinson Recreation Centre.

**Dawn Wilkinson manages the Community Information and Volunteer Centre at Kelowna Community Resources. View all the Volunteer Centre columns at [kcr.ca/volunteercolumn](http://kcr.ca/volunteercolumn). Contact 250-763-8008 ext 24 or [informkelowna@kcr.ca](mailto:informkelowna@kcr.ca).**