

Community Information & Volunteer Centre

Kelowna Capital News 2011 May 6

A big thank you to volunteers who make election day work

Election results are in. Acceptance speeches have been made. Pundits have offered analyses.

Behind the thank you statements made by each party leader stand thousands upon thousands of volunteers. These individuals voted with their time and talent in addition to their votes. This is the mark of true democracy!

Canada ranks second in the world for volunteerism. We are second in terms of economic contribution to our Gross Domestic Product and in terms of the number of volunteer hours and dollars donated. There are over 400 nonprofit organizations in our community alone.

So what does this mean to us in practical terms?

We have the NHL because of the nonprofit sector. Where else do Canadian boys first learn to play hockey except through minor hockey leagues in communities all across our nation!

We are more fit because of sport and recreation associations that organize baseball, soccer, ringette, swimming, adaptive sports, and marathons - to name a few.

We are more creative because of the nurture of our community through music schools, children's theatre, art classes -- the broad variety of visual and performing arts.

Our environment is healthier because of gardening organizations, preservation groups, lake stewardship, trail improvement, and natural resource conservation.

We are more tolerant and compassionate because of our Canada Day Celebrations, festivals, ethnic groups, and places of worship.

Our community is safer because of policing volunteers, community response networks, crisis lines, shelters, thrift stores, food banks, and supports to people remaining in their homes.

Whether you call it the Voluntary Sector, Non-profit Sector, Not-for-profit Sector, Non-government Sector, Third Sector, or Community Benefit Sector -- WE ARE THE RICHER FOR IT! Richer in our wallets. Richer in our diversity. Richer in our connectedness. -- All because of the influence of volunteers.

Volunteers are needed all over our community. Go online to www.kcr.ca, Volunteer Opportunity Search.

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