

# NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

## April 17-23, 2005

National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration of the spirit and energy of Canadian volunteers. Every individual volunteer makes a difference in the lives of those he or she serves and the combined effect of Canada's 6.5 million volunteers is a force that shapes our society.

- Canadian volunteers give approximately one billion hours a year, the equivalent of 549,000 full-time jobs.
- The contribution of volunteers is valued at \$17 billion dollars per year (using national average wage)

National Volunteer Week also provides an opportunity to thank the people who help to shape the experiences of volunteers. Across the spectrum of 180,000 non-profit and charitable organizations are thousands of people - both volunteers and paid personnel - who participate in recruiting, training, supporting and recognizing volunteers. In communities across Canada, many of the 180,000 not-for-profit organizations that make up Canada's voluntary sector set aside National Volunteer Week as a time to hold events that recognize, honor and celebrate volunteers. National Volunteer Week is a project of the Canada Volunteerism Initiative funded by the Government of Canada through the Community Partnerships Program of Canadian Heritage.

If you are interested in recognizing volunteers who contribute their time and energy to your organization The Champion is publishing a special section on Tuesday April 19, 2005.

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