

# **10 Ways The South Okanagan Similkameen Volunteer Centre Membership Benefits Your Organization**

## **1. Access to best practices and strategies for engaging volunteers and improving operations**

- Learning Events include: Best Practices for Volunteer Involvement, Creating a Welcoming Volunteer Program, Board Development Consulting Services and Shared Resources available: grant writing, accounting, plus more Volunteer Centre Resource Library at [www.volunteercentre.info](http://www.volunteercentre.info)

## **2. Back vital regional work to strengthen citizen engagement and catalyze voluntary action**

- Volunteer Information Centres are currently located in Oliver (Recreation Centre) Okanagan Falls (Furniture and Cabinet Company), and Penticton -102-696 Main Street (United Church Annex)

## **3. Increase your organization's profile throughout the region with:**

- A listing in Volunteer Opportunities Directory
- A Poster on Volunteer Centre Poster Boards permanently located at Volunteer Information Centres
- Posters at Regional Trade Shows and Health Fairs with the Volunteer Centre Exhibit
- Your volunteer opportunities e-mailed to registered volunteers (1500 and growing)
- A listing on the Volunteer Centre Webpage, as member organization and a link to your organizations' website
- A listing on the Volunteer Centre Webpage of volunteer opportunities in your organization
- Use of Volunteer Centre Logo

## **4. Stay current and connected at the provincial and national level**

- Be better equipped to meet your mission with access to information related to engaging volunteers, improving operations and developing board members.
- The Volunteer Centre maintains current memberships with Volunteer Canada, VolunteerBC, BC Charitable Gaming Association, Imagine Canada and Board Voice. Through our membership with VolunteerBC members automatically become an associate.

## **5. Recognize and Celebrate Volunteers**

- The Volunteer Centre hosts annual learning events and celebrations for all volunteers during National Volunteer Week each year.

## **6. Make a Greater Impact**

- The Volunteer Centre looks for opportunities to partner with members to strengthen program delivery both for them and for us. In 2011/12 we partnered with South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services to create welcoming volunteer programs for new Canadians. Provide feedback to the Volunteer Centre to help shape member benefits and programs.

## **7. Letters of Reference and Recommendations**

- The Volunteer Centre provides support to help validate our member's ability to deliver programs through volunteer support providing greater success in obtaining, and greater impact of funding dollars.

## **8. Networking Opportunities**

- Through Learning Events, Board Development and Volunteer Celebrations, members connect with potential new board members, potential volunteers and each other.

## **9. Access to a network of professionals**

- Glean information from and contribute to a network of professionals in the voluntary sector who are passionate about advancing the cause of volunteering.

## **10. Save your organization money**

- Members receive valuable discounts on learning events and services, and many are offered at no cost.

## **Your membership supports:**

- Promotion of volunteering through press releases, newspaper advertisements, news stories and articles
- Promotion of Youth volunteerism
- A support system for community volunteers