



MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteer MBC Celebrates Canada 150 by Celebrating 150 Hours of Volunteer Commitment

December 12, 2017 – Brampton, ON – Volunteer MBC, a well-known and highly regarded matchmaker of volunteers to not-for-profit organizations in the Peel region, celebrated its 'Peel Cares Canada150' campaign on December 5, 2017, a day on which International Volunteer Day annually is recognized worldwide.

The celebration was marked by a cocktail reception at the Brampton Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, the highlight of which was the presentation of commemorative Canada 150 pins and Volunteer MBC "Peel Cares" certificates to 101 Peel residents who had contributed at least 150 volunteering hours in 2017 to local organizations and causes. '150' was chosen to commemorate Canada's 150th Birthday.

Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC, reported to those assembled that the 101 volunteers who were to be recognized over the evening almost doubled the historical average for hours volunteered by Peel residents (130), returning an average of 248 hours each over the past calendar year. She added, "You have all realized that your time is very precious, and you know that it takes just one person to make a difference." Her remarks were echoed by special guests who attended the celebration, notably Peel Police Chief Jennifer Evans, with reflections upon personal positives about volunteering and how volunteers contribute towards a safer community, and with heartfelt acknowledgements by the Mayor of Brampton Linda Jeffrey and the Mayor of Caledon Allan Thompson, both of whom were joined by Regional councillors Joanna Downey and Jennifer Innis.

The Government of Ontario was represented by MPP Amrit Mangat (Brampton-Mississauga South), who signed letters of appreciation on behalf of the Province to present to the Mississauga and Brampton volunteers and on behalf of the Canadian Government, letters were signed by MP David Tilson.

A clearly delighted Board President of Volunteer MBC, Jake Dheer, emceed the occasion, and with the assistance of the elected officials he was thrilled to reveal the total number of hours participating volunteers generated in 2017 - an astounding 36,297 hours! He also presided over a silent auction together with raffles for special prizes, the proceeds of which will be used to sustain Volunteer MBC's contributions in Peel. The Bank of Nova Scotia in Brampton committed to match this fundraising up to \$5,000. Many others donated in kind.

On a patriotic note, guest artist Victoria Gotcheva, accompanied by Michael Domet, lead those gathered in 'O, Canada!', later singing some Broadway favourites during the reception.



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About Volunteer MBC:

Volunteer MBC is the volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The centre strives to be a strong voice to support and promote volunteerism. The core services by the centre are offered in four key areas of connecting and collaborating, active participation, recognition, and education and learning within the Peel region. The centre is a one stop shop that offers a referral and matching service connecting anyone who wants to volunteer with a volunteer opportunity and serves the corporate community with various programming services that engage individual and team volunteering. Our Learning Centre provides a wide range of education and learning opportunities for community service organizations, volunteers and board directors. For more information about Volunteer MBC, and to find more details on the Centre's four convenient locations in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, visit www.volunteermbc.org.

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