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*The future rests in our helping hands*

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Volunteer MBC Acknowledges International Volunteer Managers Day on November 5th

**November 5, 2014 – Brampton, ON** – Today, on Wednesday, November 5th, Volunteer MBC is pleased to acknowledge International Volunteer Managers Day. This year marks 15 years of celebrating the dedication and leadership that volunteer engagement professionals bring to their role.

Volunteering does not take place in isolation. Behind each and every volunteer there is someone who takes on the responsibility of coordinating, supporting, training and recruiting volunteers who help to fulfill a specific need that the organization may have, but also to help fulfill the personal objectives that a volunteer may have and the reason behind why they give of themselves.

Over the years this day has grown to now receive support by volunteer involving agencies and organizations – both large and small – from all around the world. Just as important is the opportunity to educate others about this important work, which is why the catch phrase “*Education through Celebration*” is used to acknowledge International Volunteer Managers Day.

Volunteer MBC, the local Volunteer Centre serving the Region of Peel, provides a direct link in helping volunteer engagement professionals find individuals to support their organization’s programs and services through the Centre’s on-line volunteer opportunities database and their referral/matching service. Through their “Training Centre for Service Excellence”, volunteer engagement professionals gain access to a wide array of sector-related topics to include: volunteer engagement recruitment (following the *Canadian Code for Volunteer Engagement*); the *10 Steps of Volunteer Screening*; volunteer retention and training; and standards related to the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

#### **Quote from Carine Strong, Executive Director, Volunteer MBC:**

“Today we extend our thanks to volunteer engagement professionals for doing all that they do to make volunteers feel special and for their outstanding ability to engage volunteers in various roles within their organizations. It is through the leadership, support and dedication of volunteer engagement professionals that individuals can find true meaning in volunteering. They guide volunteers towards using their expertise and talents in helping others, and provide appreciation and recognition for the volunteers’ contribution. It’s important to let them know that the spirit of volunteerism is enhanced and enabled by volunteer engagement professionals, so on behalf of our entire team at Volunteer MBC, we thank you for all that you do.”

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**Quote from Patricia Weiler, Chair, Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN):**

“In Ontario over 6 million residents participate in their communities as volunteers. The manager of volunteers provides the foundation for the work that these volunteers contribute. The Ontario Volunteer Centre Network would like to take the opportunity on International Volunteer Managers Day (November 5th) to extend our appreciation for the work of the professionals and volunteers who provide support to volunteers.”

**Quote from Kathleen Douglass, President, Professional Association of Volunteer Leaders - Ontario (PAVR-O):**

“The world is a better place because of the commitment of volunteers and internationally, we honour them on an annual basis through the United Nation’s International Volunteer Day on December 5 and in Canada during National Volunteer Week every April. These volunteers are engaged, led and managed by professionals who create, build, maintain and evolve volunteer programs in hundreds of different sectors in thousands of organizations. Leaders of volunteer engagement are those professionals who translate their passion into making a difference on a daily basis as motivators, role-models and team builders in the not-for-profit and voluntary sectors. Anyone who has benefited from the efforts of volunteers can thank volunteer engagement professionals who continually educate themselves, go above and beyond organizational expectations, advocate for volunteers, creatively utilize limited resources and champion community programs. On behalf of PAVR-O, I commend my colleagues for their energy, their enthusiasm and their perseverance as a group of professionals for whom I have great respect. Well done everyone!”

Volunteer MBC is a Volunteer Centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The Centre offers a referral and matching service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages. They also provide education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations, and serve the corporate community with various programming services that engage individual and team volunteering. Additionally, the Centre strives to be a strong voice to support and promote volunteerism.

For more information about Volunteer MBC, to access their on-line volunteer opportunities database, and to find more details on the Centre’s three convenient locations in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, visit [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org).

Other links:

- Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN): [www.ovcn.ca](http://www.ovcn.ca)
- Professional Association of Volunteer Leaders - Ontario (PAVR-O): [www.pavro.on.ca](http://www.pavro.on.ca)
- International Volunteer Managers Day: [www.volunteermanagersday.org](http://www.volunteermanagersday.org)

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