



First Time Volunteer

Here are some tips for getting started as a Volunteer.

If you are interested in volunteering, but aren't sure where to begin, try asking yourself the following questions to determine what kind of Volunteer opportunities would best suit you:

If you had all the human and financial resources in the world, what problem would you solve, what would you change or what would you create? Your answer will tell you what matters the most to you.

What kind of time commitment are you willing to make? Are you looking for regular, weekly Volunteer work, or for a short-term or one-time commitment?

Would you prefer to volunteer with other people or by yourself?

Would you like to work from your own home, or would you prefer to volunteer at an organization or at an event?

If you would like to volunteer away from home, where is the best location for you? Near home? Close to work? Near your child's day-care centre?

What specific skills or talents you would like to share with an organization?

Or would you like to develop a specific skill?

What are your personal goals? Are you re-entering the workforce? Do you want to meet new people? Are you looking to give back to your community by sharing your skills?

Your answers to these questions will give you a good idea of what you're looking for in a Volunteer experience. Thanks to Volunteer Canada for this list of suggestions.

Volunteer Background Checks

If your Volunteer assignment will involve supervising or working alone with people deemed to be vulnerable, including seniors, children and those with physical or mental impairments, you will be asked to complete a criminal background check.

It is imperative that organizations protect the interests of their members. Therefore a criminal background check is a standard procedure.

If you live within the City of Fredericton, the following steps apply. The non-profit organization will provide you with a letter requesting the criminal background check which you then take to City Hall at 397 Queen Street. The cost for this service is \$11.30.

It is important to retain the receipt of payment as you must provide this when you pick up the Clearance Letter.

After two weeks, you must call City Police at 460-2300 to find out if the Clearance Letter is ready as they will not be calling when the check is completed.

To pick up the Clearance Letter, you need to do so in person at 311 Queen Street. Bring the receipt that you kept when you dropped off the forms at City Hall as well as two pieces of ID. Last step; you provide this Clearance letter to your Volunteer Coordinator.

If you live OUTSIDE City limits, the following steps apply. Go to the RCMP detachment in Oromocto. Generally, it can be done while you wait and at no cost.