

In this milestone year—recognized globally as International Volunteer Year (IVY 2026)—people in Canada are invited to *Ignite Volunteerism* through a year-long effort to elevate the role of civic participation, rebuild volunteer infrastructure, and celebrate volunteer stories. This National Volunteer Week (NVW), we are recognizing the people and organizations that fuel positive change.

WHEREAS, 73% of Canada contributes their time through formal and informal volunteer roles, giving approximately 4.1 billion volunteer hours annually, strengthening belonging, well-being, equity, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, volunteers in Okotoks ignite impact every day—mentoring youth, supporting isolated residents, welcoming newcomers, advancing equity, caring for community spaces, responding to emergencies, and building strong neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS, volunteers in Okotoks continue to demonstrate generosity, compassion, creativity, and leadership, strengthening the social fabric and advancing efforts toward a more just, inclusive, and connected community; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers of Okotoks represent diverse ages, backgrounds, cultures, identities, and lived experiences, each bringing unique energy and perspective that ignites meaningful change; and

WHEREAS, the collective contributions of volunteers ensure that Okotoks remains a welcoming, connected, and thriving place to live, work, learn, and play; and

WHEREAS, volunteer involving organizations in Okotoks rely on volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm ignite essential programs, cultural events, and community supports; and

WHEREAS, we encourage people in Okotoks to explore ways of giving back, to find your thing, and to engage in creating a strong and resilient community through volunteer action; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Members of Okotoks Town Council, do hereby proclaim April 19-25, 2026, as National Volunteer Week, and further proclaim 2026 as International Volunteer Year in Okotoks. I encourage all residents to celebrate and thank the people whose dedication ignites meaningful change and strengthens our community.

Dated this 13th day of April 2026

