



HOUSE OF COMMONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Government of Canada celebrates International Volunteer Day

**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, December 5, 2011**—The Government of Canada values the dedication of the millions of Canadians who give so generously of their time and is recognizing their efforts today, on International Volunteer Day.

“Volunteers make tremendous contributions in our community and across Canada,” said Minister Lynne Yelich, Member of Parliament for Blackstrap. “On behalf of the Government of Canada, I invite everyone in Blackstrap to join me in thanking our volunteers for making our community stronger and more vibrant.”

Volunteerism is important to Canada and to the vitality of the not-for-profit sector, which relies heavily on volunteers. The value of volunteer work in Canada is estimated to be around \$14 billion.

In January 2011, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Prime Minister’s Volunteer Awards. The awards were created to recognize the exceptional contributions of volunteers and organizations working to improve the well-being of families and communities.

For more information on the Prime Minister’s Volunteer Awards, please visit [www.pm.gc.ca/awards](http://www.pm.gc.ca/awards).

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