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BACKGROUND

Interesting Facts:

- Canada has the 2nd largest voluntary sector in the world - 6.5 million volunteers
- 161,000 charitable, nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Canada
- Represent revenues of \$112 billion
- Volunteers give 2 billion hours = to 1 million full time jobs
- In 1997 (the last full data available) the GDP of the voluntary sector was 6.9% or \$57.5 billion. Adding the Volunteer Contribution value to it increases it to 8.6% or \$71.5 Billion. This makes the voluntary sector
 - 4 times the size of agriculture
 - 2 times the size of mining and oil
 - 11 times the size of the motor vehicle manufacturing
- Employee support of volunteering seems to be on the upswing. In 2000, 27% employed volunteers said their employers let them modify their work hours in order to volunteer, and 22% received recognition from their employer for their volunteer work. Corporations continue to support the not for profit sector, through monetary and gift in kind donations.
- Youth volunteering is on the increase. Volunteering is now accepted as work experience on resumes and is a requirement for a high school diploma.
- Volunteers who benefit from some form of support from their employer contribute one-third more hours than other volunteers

