

**Alberta Minister of Culture and Community Spirit**  
**July 13, 2009**

Dear Ms. Boquer:

The Honourable Ed Stelmach forwarded your recent e-mail outlining ideas to support volunteer recruitment and awareness initiatives across Alberta. As Minister of Culture and Community Spirit responsible for voluntary sector services, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

In Alberta, volunteers are recognized throughout the year and acknowledged through special celebrations such as Volunteer Week and the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards. The Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards are held annually to acknowledge six outstanding volunteers within Alberta. For further information regarding Volunteer Week or volunteer awareness initiatives please contact Laurie Kolada, Team Leader at 780-422-2203 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

I also am pleased that Alberta has been able to make significant progress to encourage and support charitable giving. Effective January 1, 2007, the Government of Alberta increased its charitable tax credit through the Community Spirit Program. When combined with the federal credit, Albertans filing their annual income tax return now receive a 50 percent tax credit for every dollar they donate over the \$200 annual threshold. The increase gives Albertans one of the highest charitable tax credits in Canada. Further information about the Enhanced Charitable Tax Credit is available on the Community Spirit Program website at [www.communityspirit.ca](http://www.communityspirit.ca).

Thank you for writing on this important subject. I will keep your comments and suggestions in mind in any future discussions regarding new initiatives. Feel free to contact my office if you have any further ideas you would like to share on additional ways to support volunteers and community charity groups.

Sincerely,

**Lindsay Blackett**  
**Minister of Culture and Community Spirit**  
**MLA, Calgary-North West**

**cc: Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier**  
**Laurie Kolada, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit**