

Ottawa, June 1, 2010

The Hon. Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development
Place du Portage, Phase IV, 14th Floor
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9

Dear Ms. Finley,

I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the volunteer sector.

As you know, thousands of people generously give of their time and energy every year to support organizations and help individuals in our communities who require assistance. Volunteer recruitment is essential to organizations' operations and it is increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers due to lack of resources.

In my opinion, volunteers help make organizations viable and support their work and contribution, while generating new ideas. To encourage volunteer recruitment, I think programs are needed to offer them tools and resources so their services can continue. Volunteers sometimes require assistance or training to carry out a task assigned to them. They deserve to be properly trained so that they can feel more competent in their role and useful to their community while sharing their knowledge.

Volunteer recognition is also very important. Their generosity and passion make a difference in the lives of people in need and should be saluted not only during National Volunteer Week but indeed all year long. Without the tremendous generosity and hard work of these thousands of volunteers, these organizations would be unable to fulfill their mandates.

This is why I am asking you to consider my input. I think voluntarism deserves greater recognition and that investments must be made in programs to recruit and train volunteers who make such a positive contribution to our country's development.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

The Hon. Marlene Jennings, P.C., M.P.
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine

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