

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering with MCAF is about fostering newcomer's community awareness and their participation in community building. As a volunteer, you would be helping newcomers get used to daily life in Canada and facilitate their participation in the community or provide them with support to enhance their language skills. As a volunteer, you would have the opportunity to share your knowledge about your community with a newcomer and explore your community with new eyes, while expanding your cultural awareness, while sharing key Canadian values—diversity, social conscience, and democracy—through cross-cultural dialogues, actions, and interactions.

## 1. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MENTOR

Whether it is through group discussions, one on one mentor coaching, or hands-on practice, this volunteer opportunity provides the space for you to share your knowledge about your community with newcomers and also provide opportunities for newcomers to actively participate in the process of community building. Whether they are learning about Canadian history and democratic institutions or volunteering in the community the goal of the program is to provide newcomers and their mentors with opportunities to learn and share their knowledge and resources through cross-cultural dialogues, actions, and interactions. **Time Commitment: 1 to 2 hours a week, for a minimum of 6 months.**

## 2. ENGLISH and/OF FRENCH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL/FAL) TUTORING PROGRAM

Most ESL and FSL tutors meet with newcomer participants individually (one-on-one basis), or sometimes in small conversation groups after class. It is not required that tutors have any teaching experience or training. The newcomer you will be tutoring is most likely already enrolled in a full time English or French class; he/she just needs some extra help or an opportunity to practice what they've been learning. There is a wide array of levels and needs among the participants. Some of our participants have pretty good oral language skills, but they need help with literacy issues.

You will:

- Develop your teaching skills
- Learn more about new cultures

**Suggested Schedules: 1 to 2 hours a week for a minimum of 6 months**

## 3. DRIVING

Some people who wish to volunteer feel unable to commit to a regular schedule, but wish to be called upon from time to time when drivers might be needed. This would not be often or regular, but is sometimes very helpful to the staff and participants. It would simply involve providing newcomers with transportation to things such as:

- class field trips
- Appointments (doctor, dentist, etc.)
- events in the community (or sporting/recreation)
- yard sales and second-hand shopping

**Time Commitment: 1-2 hours for a minimum of 6 months.**

4. **INTERPRETING / TRANSLATING**

Some people who wish to volunteer feel unable to commit to a regular schedule, but wish to be called upon from time to time when interpretation or translation might be needed. As new people arrive, there are different languages for which we have a need. You may be able to provide interpretation/translation for the immediate settlement needs of newcomers, including:

- Information sessions,
- Doctors' appointments,
- Parent/Teacher Interview, etc.

5. **COMMUNITY EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING:** Volunteering with our community events and MCAF fundraising events may provide you with an opportunity to: develop your community outreach skills, improve your public speaking and share the fun and energy at MCAF's events. These events are not a regular occurrence, so if you are looking for an activity to keep you occupied on a more continual basis, I would suggest getting involved in another volunteer area, and also making it known that you wish to help out with events as they come up. Many of our volunteers do this. Our major annual event happens on or about March 21<sup>st</sup>, since it is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It requires a committee and quite a bit of preparation in the month or two preceding the event.

6. **WORKING COMMITTEES AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Develop a variety of skills working in one or more of the staff/board committees. Learn about MCAF as an organization. Expand your understanding of the multicultural community. The Board of Directors holds its elections once per year at the AGM (Annual General Meeting), which usually occurs in the fall. To be elected to the Board, you must be a member in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the AGM. For information on membership, please contact Haruka Kudo at (506) 452-0654 or [Haruka@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:Haruka@mcaf.nb.ca)

## MCAF Volunteer Program – General Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

What languages do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about MCAF? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in becoming a volunteer with MCAF? \_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, why do newcomers come to Canada? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the problems that refugees and immigrants experience when settling in Fredericton / adapting to a new society? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any previous volunteer experiences or activities:

Please list any special skills that you will want to share at MCAF:

Please indicate the area in which you would like to volunteer:

\_\_\_ Community Mentor \_\_\_ Tutor (one-on-one) \_\_\_ Tutor (group)

\_\_\_ Youth Group \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What days and times are you available to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a current resume (handwritten is fine). If you don't have it on your resume, please provide two character references: Name, relationship, and daytime phone #:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

# MCAF Volunteer Program Application

## Part II: Personal Information for matching purposes

Thank you for your interest in volunteering. The following information is asked of you in order that we make the best possible match between you and a newcomer. Please do not feel offended by any of the questions. The newcomers arriving are very diverse and may be in a number of different family configurations, or may be arriving as a single person. Their needs, their situations, their cultures, religious beliefs and their personalities vary greatly. The more we know about you, the better the possibility of making a successful match.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_

What sort of work do you do? (or field of study, or homemaker, etc)?

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Family Status: Please select any options that apply

\_\_\_\_\_ Single (never married)

\_\_\_\_\_ Divorced or separated

\_\_\_\_\_ Widowed

\_\_\_\_\_ Married

\_\_\_\_\_ Living Common-Law

\_\_\_\_\_ Same-sex relationship

\_\_\_\_\_ No Children

\_\_\_\_\_ Grown children (not at home)

\_\_\_\_\_ Children at home (including step-children)

If you have children at home, please indicate their ages and genders:

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Would any of your family members be involved with your match or be interested in joining the Community Connections program? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_\_\_ Maybe

If you think they will be, please fill in the following information:

Spouse/Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Feel free to provide any additional information about yourself or your family which you think may help us in matching you with a newcomer (ie: disability, religion, etc):

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# **MCAF Volunteer Program Contract**

## **Volunteer's Agreement with the Program**

As a volunteer of the Community Connections program volunteer, I understand that the newcomer/volunteer relationship should be based on respect, equal partnership and shared participation in activities. Participation by both volunteer and newcomer is voluntary and either have the right to terminate the relationship at any time.

As a volunteer with the Community Connections Program, I understand and agree to the following:

1. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, I will do my best to maintain a commitment to the program for a minimum of six months to one year.
2. I will attend an Orientation Session prior to being matched with a newcomer.
3. I will maintain weekly contact with the newcomer with whom I am matched, or ensure that any other members of the volunteer team are in communication if I am unable to do so.
4. I will communicate with the Program Coordinator approximately once per month, to keep them updated regarding the match.
5. I will not use the Community Connections Program as a means of pursuing a romantic or sexual relationship.
6. I will not use this relationship to promote any religious or political beliefs that I may hold, nor will I use this relationship for any personal financial gain.
7. I understand that I may provide input into which newcomer I am matched with, but that ultimately all match selections must go through the Program Coordinator. I will not self-match with other newcomers once I am in the Program.
8. I will, at all times, respect the right to privacy of the individual or family with whom I am matched. I will treat any personal information about the newcomer with confidence and not disclose such information without their permission.
9. I understand that the Program is not liable for any injury or mishap which may befall me in the course of carrying out my responsibilities for the program.

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Signature

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Date

## **WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD**

We'll begin with box, and the plural is boxes;  
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.  
Then one fowl is goose, but two are called geese  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a whole lot of mice,  
    But plural of house is houses, not hice.  
    If the plural of man is always called men,  
    Why shouldn't the plural pan be called pen?  
    The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,  
    But the plural of vow is vows, not vine.  
And I speak of foot, and you show me your feet,  
But I give a boot - would a pair be called a beet?  
    If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?  
    If the singular is this and the plural is these,  
Why shouldn't the plural kiss be nicknamed kесе?  
    Then one may be that, and three may be those,  
    Yet the plural of hat would never be hose;  
    We speak of a brother, and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
    The masculine pronouns are he, his, him,  
But imagine the feminine she, shis, and shim!  
    So our English, I think you will all agree,  
    Is the trickiest language you ever did see.

## **BILL OF RIGHTS FOR VOLUNTEERS\***

1. THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED AS A CO-WORKER
  - Not just free help
2. THE RIGHT TO A SUITABLE ASSIGNMENT
  - With consideration for personal preference, temperament, life experiences, education, employment background and available time.
3. THE RIGHT KNOW AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE AGENCY OR SERVICES
  - Its policies, its people, its programs.
4. THE RIGHT TO PREPARATION FOR THE JOB
  - Orientation that is thoughtfully planned and effectively presented
5. THE RIGHT TO CONTINUING TRAINING ON THE JOB
  - Follow-up to initial orientation: information about new development and training for greater responsibility.
6. THE RIGHT TO SOUND GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION
  - by someone who is experienced , patient, well informed and thoughtful, and who has a time to invest in giving guidance.
7. THE RIGHT TO PROMOTION AND VARIETY OF EXPERIENCE
  - through advancement to assignment to more responsibility, through transfer from one activity to another, through special assignment.
8. THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD
  - to have a part in planning, to feel free to make suggestions, to have respect shown for an honest opinion.

\*From The Volunteer Service Procedure Manual, Ministry Of The Solicitor General  
Alberta.