



## Volunteer Opportunities *Fair*



### Volunteer Speed Matching

#### A Guide for Volunteers

#### Volunteering is Very Canadian

Canada has the second largest voluntary sector in the world. In 2007, the voluntary sector was more important in our national economy than the entire retail trade. It exceeded the mining, oil and gas extraction industry.

In BC, over 46% of us volunteer. We give at least 3 hours every week for an average total of 172 hours each year.

#### A Speedy Way to Find Your Volunteer Match

We want to help you find a place where you enjoy volunteering. Volunteer Speed Matching is similar to speed dating. Organizations will set up displays and have information on hand. Hear their pitch. Ask questions. Does what they have to offer match what you are looking for?

Squeeze 10 "first dates" into 30 minutes. The timer is set for three minutes per display. A Host will keep the pace moving. Learn enough from each organization to decide whether you share interests and passion for a cause. Do they need the skills you have to offer?

#### Volunteer Speed Matching

The event will have all the characteristics of speed dating with score sheets, a stopwatch, "daters" moving from table to table, and the bell sounding every 3 minutes. The score sheet will help you keep track of which organizations you want to get to know better.

#### Event Day

On Saturday, September 18, 2010, please come to Parkinson Recreation Centre at 1800 Parkinson Way in Kelowna. Arrive about 15 minutes before start time. Come at 10:45am for the morning event or 1:45pm for the afternoon event.

We will meet with everyone participating in the Volunteer Speed Matching to review how the process will work. Your questions will be answered. Score sheets will be given out. You will be escorted to your first display.

The Host will open the event and start the timer running. Every three minutes you will receive instructions to move to the next display. The bell will ring in 30 minutes and the Host will officially end the event. Score sheets will be collected and you will be encouraged to complete a feedback form so that we can learn from your experience.

The Volunteer Fair is open from 10:00am until 3:00pm and you are welcome to visit the full range of displays at your leisure.



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### After the Event

We will review your score sheet. The organizations you scored as a “yes” or “maybe” will be given your contact information. They will contact you and "second dates" are up to you.

### Tips for Getting the Most from Your Volunteer Speed Match Experience

- Smile
- Ask questions
- Listen
- Share why I want to volunteer
- Make eye contact
- State the skills I have to offer
- Be positive & enthusiastic
- Relax
- Have fun

### Why do I want to Volunteer?

- contribute to my community
- share my skills & experience
- support a cause of my choice
- meet new people
- volunteer with friends or family
- gain communication skills
- learn to organize & manage
- my own special reasons

### Questions to Ask

- What difference does your organization make?
- What could I do to help?
- What would I gain from this volunteering?
- What training is provided?
- How much time is involved?
- How would I be supported?