

VOLUNTEERING DEFINITIONS

Source: Statistics Canada's Survey of Giving Volunteering and Participating
Canadian Concept of Volunteering

Formal Volunteering	
<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaid work on behalf of groups and organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Mandatory unpaid work ◦ Employer supported volunteering • Amounts of less than one hour reported by organization 	<p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal volunteering (i.e., <u>not</u> on behalf of groups or organizations)
Informal Volunteering	
<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping people directly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Helping friends, neighbours, acquaintances, colleagues and relatives living <u>outside</u> the respondent's household • Improving communities • Amounts of less than one hour reported by category 	<p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal volunteering • Helping anyone living <u>in</u> the respondent's household • Signing a petition, if no further action was taken • "Likes" on social media, if no further action was taken

International Concept of Volunteering

<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaid work on behalf of groups and organizations • Helping people directly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Helping friends, neighbours, acquaintances and colleagues living <u>outside</u> the respondent's household • Improving communities 	<p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory unpaid work • Employer supported volunteering • Helping anyone living <u>in</u> the respondent's household • Helping relatives living <u>outside</u> the respondent's household • Signing a petition, if no further action was taken • "Likes" on social media, if no further action was taken • Amounts of less than one hour (reported by organization for formal volunteering and by category for informal volunteering)
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Helping People Directly – Expanded Descriptions

Cooking, etc.	Hours for tasks such as cooking, cleaning, gardening, maintenance work, painting, now shovelling, or car repairs
Shopping, etc.	Hours for shopping, driving or accompanying someone to the store or to an appointment
Paperwork, etc.	Hours for paperwork tasks such as writing letters, doing taxes, filling out forms, banking, paying bills or finding information
Health-related, etc.	Hours for health-related or personal care, such as emotional support, counselling, providing advice, visiting the elderly, or unpaid babysitting
Teaching, etc.	Hours for teaching, coaching, tutoring, or assisting with reading
Other	Hours for helping people directly in another way

Improved the Community Directly – Expanded Descriptions

Public Space, etc.	Hours for tasks such as maintaining a park or another public space, planting trees or repairing public facilities
Public Meetings, etc.	Hours spent participating in any public meetings in which there was discussion of community affairs
Information, etc.	Hours producing or disseminating information to make others aware of an issue
Event, etc.	Hours spent organizing or coordinating a group or an event
Project, etc.	Hours spent helping to develop an economic or social project
Other	Hours spent on other tasks aimed at improving the community