

Canada Connect Volunteer Position Description

Purpose

To help connect newcomer individuals and families to their new community by offering opportunities to develop meaningful social connections with established immigrants and/or Canadian-born community members.

Commitment

- Commit at least **1–2 hours per week** for a **6-month period**.
- Offer a variety of experiences and opportunities that support newcomers in building their social network.
- Provide friendship and emotional support when invited to, while respecting boundaries and the volunteer role.

Qualifications Required

- Resident of **Guelph-Wellington, Stratford-Perth, or Waterloo Region** for **2+ years**.
- Basic knowledge of **Canadian culture**, the **local community**, and **available resources**.
- **Sensitivity** to diverse cultures, backgrounds, and traditions.
- **Proficiency in English** (multilingualism is an asset but not required).
- Demonstrated **empathy, understanding, and compassion**.
- Commitment to supporting and encouraging others.
- Willingness to help newcomers establish community connections.

Responsibilities

- Once the match is made, maintain **regular contact** with the newcomer over a **3-month period**.
- Offer the newcomer:
 - Exposure to Canadian culture and community life.
 - Opportunities to build social connections.
 - Information and referrals to relevant community resources.
 - The chance to practice conversational English in social settings.
 - Emotional support and community connections in the capacity of a supportive friend, while recognizing the boundaries of the role.
- Communicate regularly with **Canada Connect program staff**.
- Abide by the **Connector Agreement** and uphold the **confidentiality** of program participants and related information.

Benefits

- Explore and learn about **diverse cultures** through meaningful friendships.
- Make a **positive impact** on the lives of newcomers and contribute to community well-being.
- Enjoy a **free YMCA of Three Rivers membership** after completing a **3-month probationary period** while actively participating in the Canada Connect Program.