



## Creative Volunteer Recruitment for the 2012 BC Seniors Games

On August 21 to 25, 2012, Burnaby will be welcoming 4,000 seniors aged 55 plus to showcase their skills in 25 different sporting activities in the 25th Anniversary BC Seniors Games. The BC Seniors Games is one of the largest organized games within BC. The purpose of the Games is to provide an opportunity for all BC seniors to compete in sport, recreation, or cultural events that promote mental stimulation, individual achievement, and community pride. The Games Athletes Hub will be situated in the Central Valley Precinct where participants will gather for social and non-competitive activities. Burnaby's 4 seniors' community centres will also be actively involved in hosting events. But the BC Seniors Games is unlike any other sporting events, apart from track and field, cycling, golf, tennis and archery, seniors will also be competing in events such as bocce, bridge, cribbage, pickleball, slo-pitch, and whist. If you don't know what some of these events are, you will have

a chance to learn more by volunteering for the Games. What is special about the BC Seniors Games is that it has always been run by volunteers. There are 2,000 volunteer positions waiting to be filled according to the Chair of the BC Seniors Games, Darlene Gering. To recruit this large number of volunteers, the board of the BC Seniors Games has dedicated a board position responsible for promoting the Games and the benefits of volunteering to the public, hoping to attract volunteers from a cross-section of demographics. Burnaby has a history of community involvement and volunteering, and Gering is confident that they will be able to fill all the positions they need for the Games. However, the changing expectations and demographics of volunteers means that recruiting and managing such a large number of volunteers is not without challenges. "The new generation of volunteers are more sophisticated. Organizations will have

to be more creative in their recruitment strategies", said Gering. She suggested making volunteer experiences more relevant to the volunteers' skill sets and talents, and making volunteering fun. Instead of just sitting around a table stuffing envelopes, a relatively boring but often essential part of organizing an event, organize a party, make it fun! And a fun and fulfilling experience is no doubt what the organizing committee will strive for. Gering also pointed out that volunteering has a lot of tangible benefits. Being a volunteer, for example, is good for your health, due to the social - and stress-relieving aspects of meeting, working and socializing with diverse groups of people. Volunteering can also be immensely helpful to new immigrants or job-seekers. For instance, Gering mentioned that the BC Seniors Games has a very high profile board with board directors having different business connections. Volunteering with people with such a wide spectrum of experiences can be the stepping stone to a rewarding career.

The BC Seniors Games will be partnering with local volunteer organizations such as Volunteer Burnaby to assist in their recruitment effort. Currently, there are a number of volunteer Chair and Director positions that need to be filled. For a list of Volunteer Chair Positions and details, please visit [www.volunteerburnaby.ca](http://www.volunteerburnaby.ca)

For more volunteering opportunities and information on the BC Seniors Games, please visit [www.2012bcseniorgames.org](http://www.2012bcseniorgames.org), or email [info@2012bcseniorgames.org](mailto:info@2012bcseniorgames.org).

For more information on how to get involved in your community, please contact Volunteer Burnaby through their website at [www.volunteerburnaby.ca](http://www.volunteerburnaby.ca).



# VOLUNTEER BURNABY

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STARTS HERE

[www.volunteerburnaby.ca](http://www.volunteerburnaby.ca)

## Remembrance Day

As Canadians across the country take time to pause this coming Remembrance Day there will thoughts and memories of those who fought before us. The memories will be of normal everyday people that volunteered to be extraordinary. We have been bestowed a nation of great freedom, a nation that takes pride in civility, a nation of people that care about their neighborhoods and their communities.

From helping neighbors to helping end international conflict and strife, Canadians who volunteer still very much step forward to be extraordinary. The great thing about people doing extraordinary things is that it is often disguised in everyday life. They could be the local soccer coach who puts in five nights a week teaching our kids, or

it could be the person that delivers meals to those in need. There are millions of Canadians quietly contributing each and every day to make Canada what it has become. So remember... as you volunteer at your child's school or help someone across the street, you are part of an extraordinary effort that makes Canada the amazing place that it is and will continue to be.



# Volunteer

...you'll be glad you did



## Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteer Grandparents - *Volunteer Grandparents*
- Volunteer Gift Wrappers - *Volunteer Burnaby*
- Volunteer Gift Wrap Supervisors - *Volunteer Burnaby*
- Art Buddy for Elders - *New Vista Society*
- Various Positions - *Fellburn Care Centre*

To learn more visit our website [www.volunteerburnaby.ca](http://www.volunteerburnaby.ca)



## I volunteer because

- \* I enjoy helping out in my community.
- \* I meet new people and make new friends.

**KEHAR SINGH AUJILA**

Volunteer Grandparent  
2011 Healthy Living Senior of Distinction Award Winner

# VOLUNTEER BURNABY

203-2101 Holdom Avenue Burnaby  
604.294.5533 [www.volunteerburnaby.ca](http://www.volunteerburnaby.ca)



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