Seniors and Volunteering



Presentation to
Series on Aging – Session 2:
Aging and the Not-for-Profit Sector

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Overview of Presentation

- Highlights of Bridging the Gap: Enriching the Volunteer Experience to Build a Better Future for our Communities
- Trends in Senior Volunteering
- Reframing Volunteer Engagement
- Volunteer Matching Tool



Research with a Practical Purpose

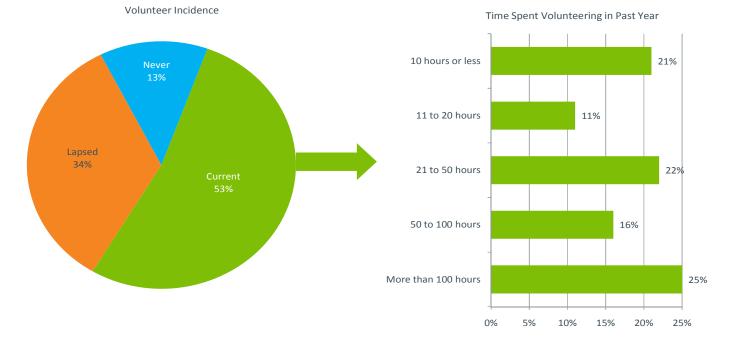
- To better understand today's active and potential volunteers
- To gather insights, strategies, and models to engage youth, families, baby-boomers and employer-supported volunteers



Current, Past, and Never Volunteered

Volunteer Incidence and Amount Over the Past Year







Q1. In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in the household volunteered? Base: All respondents (n=1,019).
 Q3 Have you ever volunteered? Base: Have not volunteered within the past year (n=475).
 Q2. Over the past12 months, how many hours did you personally spend volunteering? Base: Current volunteers (n=547).



Characteristics of Volunteering

- Volunteering Changes Throughout Our Lifecycle
- Volunteers Today Are Different
- Volunteering is a Two-Way Relationship
- Volunteering is Personal



Characteristics of Volunteering...

- Volunteering is a way to transfer and develop skills
- Volunteering in groups appeals to all ages (social and business networking)
- Finding satisfying volunteering is not easy for everyone



Senior Volunteers

- Today's seniors contribute more hours than other age groups
- Loyal to the organizations and causes they believe in
- Primary reason for volunteering is to contribute to the community
- Secondary motivator: social inclusion



Senior Volunteers...

- May have barriers to volunteering that need to be addressed
- Not a homogenous group
- Discussing younger seniors (ages 65-74) and older seniors (75+) may be useful



Senior Volunteering...

- Volunteering can provide positive images of aging
- Volunteering promotes healthy aging
- Volunteer-involving organizations are worried about succession planning and engaging the next generation of seniors



Senior Volunteers

YEAR	Volunteer RATE		AVERAGE HRS/YEAR	
	All Canadians	Canadians	All Canadians	Canadians
	Over 15 years	65 years	Over 15 years	65 years and
	old	and older	old	older
2000	26%	18%	162	270
2004	45%	31%	168	240
2007	46%	36%	166	220



Reframing Volunteer Engagement

- Volunteering is about inclusive citizen engagement
- Volunteering is a vehicle for community action
- There is a spectrum engagement:

Being Informed

Supportive

Active Participation

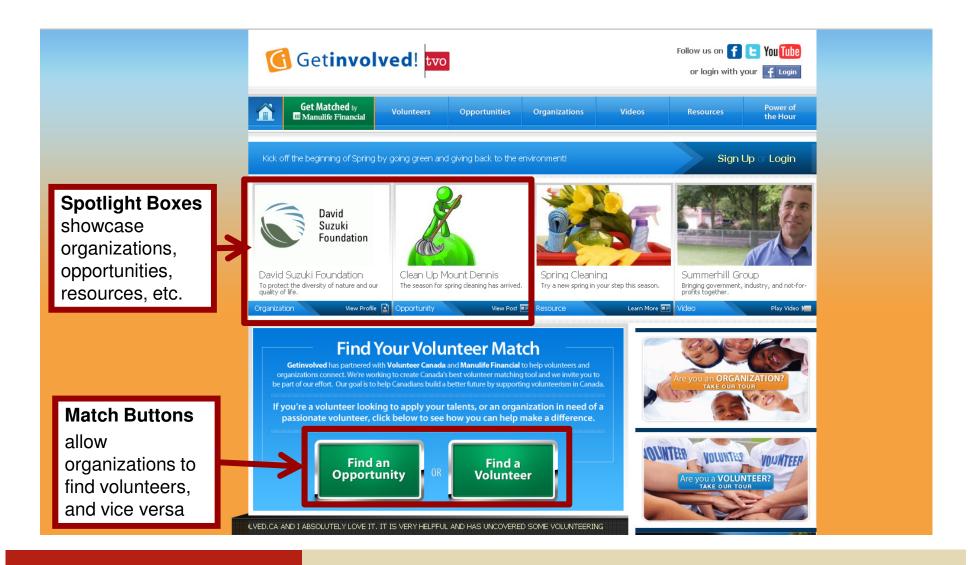
Leadership

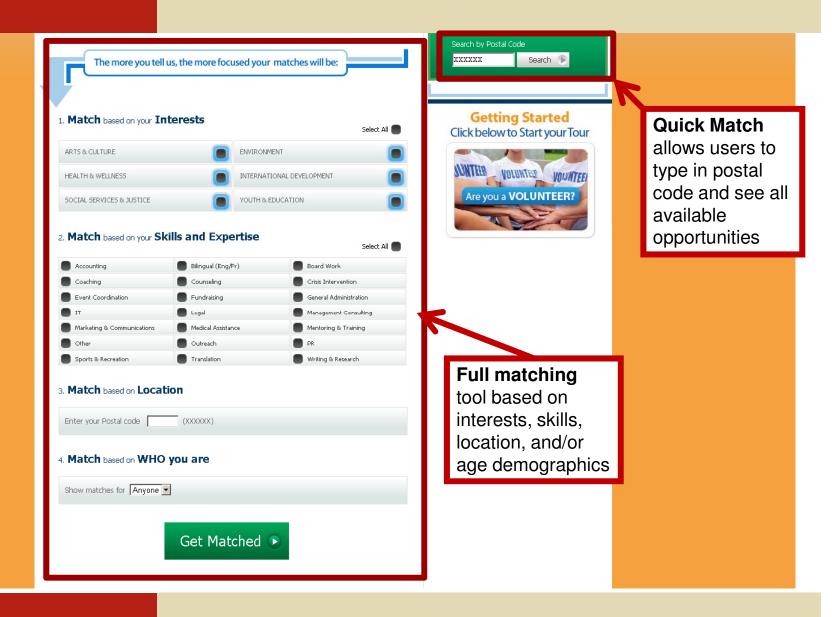


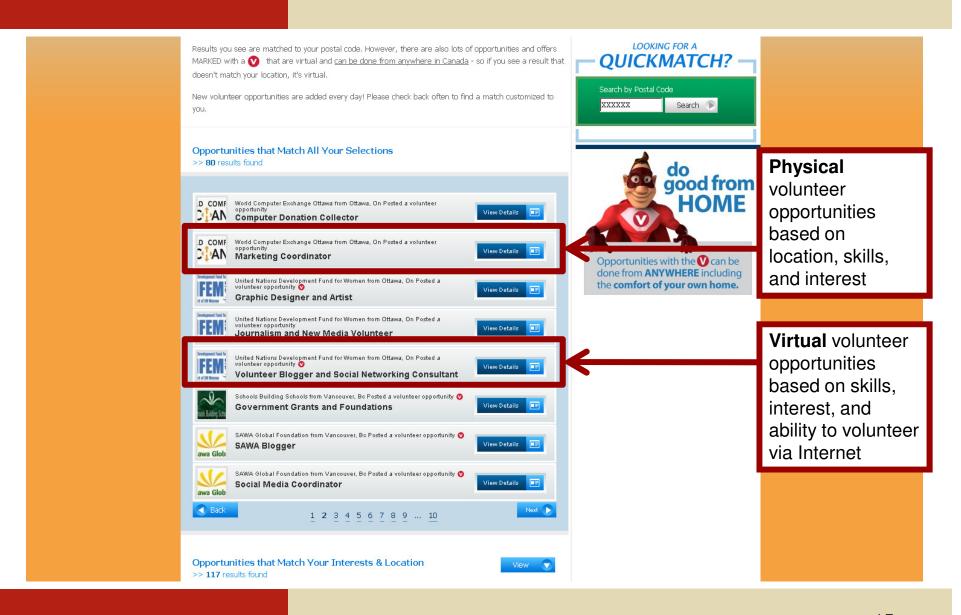
Get Involved

- Volunteer matching tool
- Lets volunteers view opportunities (both virtual and physical), and contact organizations
- Allows organizations to view volunteer profiles and contact volunteers
- Better visibility with organizational profiles & "spotlights"









Getinvolved.ca Getvolunteering.ca Getvolunteering FB page / app

Thanks!

