

The Value of Volunteering

The **economic value** of **volunteers** in Calgary is approximately **\$3.5 billion** annually.

Volunteering is vital to our community and society. It provides benefits to volunteers themselves and to the organizations they serve in. When we talk about the value of volunteering, we encourage a narrative that includes stories of impact on volunteers, clients and organizations to get the full picture of the value of volunteerism.

In support of these narratives, it can be valuable to communicate the economic value of volunteering. We've worked with organizations and the Government of Alberta to define the value of a volunteer hour. We use the average wage of workers. Why? Our argument is simple. Your time as a volunteer is not worth less simply because they are completing a task at no cost per hour or salary, so the average wage makes sense to make a simple calculation of the economic value of volunteering.

Calculating the Dollar Value

Wondering how to calculate for yourself in your organization or region? You need:

$$\text{VOLUNTEER HOURS} \times \text{AVG WAGE} = \text{ECONOMIC VALUE}$$

VOLUNTEER HOURS – total number of volunteer hours in your organization.

AVG WAGE – wage of the average worker (\$34/hr in Calgary in 2018 source: City of Calgary)

ECONOMIC VALUE – total economic value of volunteering in your organization.



To get started on your volunteer journey, visit:

www.volunteerconnector.org