**January 2020 Community Newsletter Content**

**Professional Benefits of Volunteering**

A message from the Federation of Calgary Communities



*Adapted from Charity Village.*

Is one of your New Year’s resolutions to start volunteering more? Volunteering can offer so many benefits! Consider the following professional benefits of volunteering:

1. Volunteering offers incredible networking opportunities. Volunteering in your community allows you to meet new people, including community leaders
2. Volunteering helps you retain and sharpen old skills. Sometimes job duties change, and you may no longer be doing things you used to do and liked. Volunteering is a perfect venue for keeping those skills sharp and current
3. Volunteering is a great opportunity to develop new skills. Employers are often seeking well-rounded individuals who have good teamwork and goal setting skills. Serving on a volunteer committee or board is a great way to learn group dynamics and teamwork
4. Volunteering offers opportunities to practice skills in a relatively risk-free environment
5. Volunteering can help you expand your horizons and explore new career options
6. Volunteering gives you the satisfaction of knowing you are doing good and being involved in your community
7. Volunteering can be energizing/renewing. Sometimes we simply need a break in our routine, or an opportunity to create a balance in our lives
8. Volunteering can create leaders. By watching those around you, you can begin to identify the qualities of leadership that you most admire, and you can develop those qualities in yourself
9. Volunteering demonstrates workplace skills that can be documented in a resume.

For more information about these benefits contact us at engagement@calgarycommunities.com. Contact your community association to learn about volunteering opportunities with them!

**City of Calgary Content**

The January 2020 community newsletter content has been posted at: <http://www.calgary.ca/cfod/csc/Pages/Community-newsletter-content.aspx>

Topics this month include:

* Support Calgary businesses and buy local
* Watch for 2020 property assessment notices
* Calgary awards nominations
* Snow Angels
* Encroachment on City-owned land
* Sir Winston Churchill Aquatic & Fitness Centre Maintenance
* Winter Recreation program Registration
* Calgary AfterSchool
* Birthday Parties
* DIVE IN movies at Southland and Village Square
* Free Winter Events: Winter Pop Up ‘N’ Play, Snoga, Outdoor Winter Crafts, Pop Up Winter Picnic & Games
* All Sport One City for Adults
* Sharing Dance
* Recreation ongoing specials, preschool, and calendar of events

**Calgary Public Library Content**

Want to Read More in the New Year? Meet Libby

The new year is a popular time to make resolutions, and the Library wants to help you follow through with them. With Libby, by OverDrive, you can take millions of eBooks and audiobooks with you on your morning commute, to the gym, and around town. It’s the perfect solution for fitting more books into busy lives, and it’s free to read with your Library card… which is also free! Get started at **calgarylibrary.ca/libby**

Indigenous Cultures Come Alive at the Library

2019 was declared the International Year of Indigenous Languages by the United Nations. Thanks to support from the Government of Alberta, the Library was able to mark this year in a special way. We opened a new Indigenous Languages Resource Centre in Central Library that makes language lessons free and accessible to everyone. New Indigenous Placemaking installations were added at Central, Forest Lawn, and Signal Hill libraries. Finally, we launched a new collection of children’s books by aspiring Indigenous authors, written in their traditional languages. Learn more at **calgarylibrary.ca/indigenous**

Share Your Library Story

With 740,000 active members and 21 locations, the Library has been inspiring the life stories of Calgarians for more than 100 years. We want to know how the Library has made a difference in your life. Why do you love the Library? Did we help you find a job, or bring your family closer together? What Library programs or services are essential to you? Let us know by sharing your Library Story at **calgarylibrary.ca/library-stories** and read the stories of other Library lovers in your community.