[*Insert your organization’s logo beside or in place of the Volunteer Canada logo*]

[*Insert your organization’s mailing address*]

[*Insert date*]

[*Insert your local MP’s name*]

[*Insert your local MP’s title*]

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear [Insert your local MP’s name],

I am writing as a constituent and as the [insert your title] of [insert your organization’s name] to draw your attention to a deepening crisis in volunteering and participation across the country.

Canada is currently facing a significant volunteer shortage: According to Statistics Canada, 65% of Canadian organizations report a shortage of new volunteers, 50% report challenges with retention and 42% report that volunteers are unable to commit to long-term volunteer roles. All of this, while 74% of organizations reported an increase in demand for services in 2022. This is even more troubling when we consider that 58% of nonprofits in Canada have no paid staff and are 100% reliant on volunteers to deliver on their missions.

We are also in the midst of a loneliness epidemic. We know that individuals who volunteer are more connected to their communities and experience higher levels of belonging and inclusion. With volunteer rates down, fewer individuals are accessing the benefits of this type of participation. Coupled with the fact that volunteering is the backbone of the social services millions of Canadians rely on, we are seeing the beginnings of a deepening social and public health crisis.

Together with Volunteer Canada, the national voice and leadership body for volunteerism, we believe in the importance of re-engaging volunteers to support essential nation and community building. Ensuring adequate support for volunteering is a foundational component of building a strong future for all Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Having been designated in 2019 as the national organization responsible for spearheading the development of a national strategy for volunteering, Volunteer Canada is actively investigating the volunteering crisis and mobilizing to do something about it. We need to act now.

Given the above, I am requesting a meeting with to share more about how this crisis is impacting our community and explore together how a National Volunteer Action Strategy will help to solidify volunteering as a foundational component of a strong future for all Canadians. I look forward to hearing from your office to set up a time to continue the conversation.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert your first and last name]

[Insert your title]