

Intergenerational Volunteerism Brief -December 11th, 2023

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This will be a very brief brief. I will not take any of your time exalting the virtues of intergenerational initiatives as there is a plethora of on-the-ground research and long-standing support for this approach (intergenerational.ca). We do not need to gather any more data. We need to put a successful pilot project from New Brunswick (PHAC, NBHSP) into place provincially and territorially, and we need government funding to do this now while we still have the interest and energy of all of the volunteers initially involved.

No further funding should go towards questioning if intentional, respectful and well-planned intergenerational relations improve mental, social, emotional and physical health. It DOES!

I am writing to ask for an opportunity to share a model of action that we have worked on for the last four years in New Brunswick. There is so much enthusiasm for the model that, even though our funding was depleted two years ago, everyone is volunteering to continue the networking because they are committed to intergenerational connecting as an answer to better health and community resiliency. They have seen and been part of the success stories. Our model is scalable and is highly efficient.

I have worked in this field for decades, locally, nationally and internationally and know what we need in order to get Canada rolling on this powerful initiative. Since 2007, I have gathered a team and contacts from other not-for-profits, school districts, government agencies, health care, etc. from across Canada. We are ready to ACT. We have been planning a national intergenerational network based on the train the trainer model. The only issue holding our progress back is funding.

We need funding to establish a small group of trained individuals in each province and territory who will then go forward and network within their province/territory, and it follows that they will become part of a national network. We have leadership already educated to do this. We also need to develop our on-line presence so sharing can be easily facilitated. We already have a plan for this. We can start today. Those you have invited to be witnesses would be the perfect field for kickstarting a national intergenerational network.

June 1st Intergenerational Day Canada would be a great day to announce to the rest of Canada that the Canadian government is taking a lead in assisting its citizens in improving health. (The following is on all of our correspondence. This has all been done by unpaid volunteers.)

JUNE 1, 2024 INTER-GENERATIONAL DAY CANADA

Since 2010. Defeating isolation and loneliness of older adults and youth.

NEW BRUNSWICK, ALBERTA, ONTARIO, MANITOBA,

TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

& SCHOOL BOARDS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

ALL have proclaimed the day IN PERPETUITY!

BC AB SK MB ON YT NT NS NB PEI NL NU & over 100 cities on board!

INFO? 'IG DAY' at intergenerational.ca

Free government resources at intergenerational.ca

PLEASE HELP US work towards connecting generations respectfully.

"Not about doing different things, but about doing things differently!"

WEAAD June 15th Stopping Mistreatment of Older Adults

Over the years I have been asked by foreign government representatives to assist them in working out approaches to intergenerational action. Our work has also been recognized by the World Health Organization and was singled out as a project that should be happening around the world. It gives me great hope that finally our government in Canada is taking notice of this powerful grassroots movement. I sincerely hope that action follows asap.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Thank you.