



AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF CANADA  
**ALS VOLUNTEERS**  
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE LA SCLÉROSE LATÉRALE AMYOTROPHIQUE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION #12 • GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ALS & THE ALS SOCIETY OF CANADA

## **UNIT, CHAPTER, VOLUNTEER, AND BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

### **Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement**

*In recognition of the important role of volunteers play throughout the organization, and to highlight the International Year of Volunteers (2001), the Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement is adopted by the ALS Society of Canada and considered as an integral part of operational practice, is made known to every employee and volunteer, is readily available to every staff member and volunteer for consistent reference and consultation.*

#### **VALUES FOR VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT**

- Volunteer involvement is vital to a just and democratic society.
- It fosters civic responsibility, participation and interaction.
- Volunteer involvement strengthens communities.
- It promotes change and development by identifying and responding to community needs.
- Volunteer involvement mutually benefits both the volunteer and the organization.
- It increases the capacity of organizations to accomplish their goals, and provides volunteers with opportunities to develop and contribute.
- Volunteer involvement is based on relationships.
- Volunteers are expected to act with integrity and be respectful and responsive to others with whom they interact.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT**

- Voluntary organizations recognize that volunteers are a vital human resource and will commit to the appropriate infrastructure to support volunteers.
- The organization's practices ensure effective volunteer involvement.
- The organization commits to providing a safe and supportive environment for volunteers.
- Volunteers make a commitment and are accountable to the organization.
- Volunteers will act with respect for beneficiaries and community.
- Volunteers will act responsibly and with integrity.

#### **ORGANIZATION STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT**

- The Boards of Directors and senior management acknowledge and support the vital role of volunteers in achieving the organization's purpose or mission.
- Policies and procedures are adopted by the organization to provide a framework that defines and supports the involvement of volunteers.
- A qualified person is designated to be responsible for the volunteer program.
- A clearly communicated screening process is consistently applied.
- Volunteer assignments address the purpose of the organization and involve volunteers in meaningful ways—reflecting their various abilities, needs and backgrounds.
- Volunteer recruitment and selection reach out to diverse sources of volunteers.
- Volunteers receive an orientation to the organization, its policies and procedures, and receive training for their volunteer assignment.
- Volunteers receive appropriate levels of supervision according to their task and are given regular opportunities to receive and give feedback.
- Volunteers are welcomed and treated as valuable and integral members of the organization's human resources.
- The contributions of volunteers are regularly acknowledged with formal and informal recognition methods.

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265 Yorkland Blvd., Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario M2J 1S5  
Phone toll free: 1-800-267-4257 • Toronto local calling area: 416-497-2267 • Fax 416-497-1256  
Email: [alscanada@als.ca](mailto:alscanada@als.ca) • Web page: <http://www.als.ca> • Charitable registration: 10670 8977 RR0002