



# *Youth Volunteer Connections Program* **INFORMATION SHEET**

## **What is the Youth Volunteer Connections Program (YVCP)?**

The YVCP is commencing its third year at Volunteer Victoria. The program aims to increase the capacity of marginalized and isolated youth to remain in school or pursue further training or employment by increasing their skill levels, self-esteem, and community connections through volunteering.

## **Who is eligible to participate in this program?**

All youth between the ages of 15 and 29 years of age are eligible to participate in this program, with emphasis on youth who are:

- ◆ At risk of dropping out of school
- ◆ Early school leavers
- ◆ Having difficulty finding employment
- ◆ Require support to (re)connect with the community

**The Peer Volunteer Initiative** matches seasoned youth volunteers (Peer Navigators) with YVCP participants. This Initiative aims to improve YVCP participants' volunteer preparedness, expand youths' social networks, and offers the unique support and insight into the volunteer experience only a peer can provide. Peer Volunteer Navigators must be between the ages of 17 and 29 and have demonstrated volunteer experience.

## **The program aims to increase the well being of its participants by:**

- ◆ Placing youth in relevant non-profit agencies where their aspirations for future community involvement are reflected
- ◆ Creating an individualized plan of action for their volunteer placement, through one-on-one assessment, supervision and support

## **How do youth and potential Peer Volunteer Navigators get involved?**

- Youth can self-refer via phone, email or drop in
- Service providers, school counselors and/or peer helpers can act as a gateway to the program –referrals are welcome!

### **Contact and Location Information**

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