



Government
of Canada

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Getting the Voluntary Sector On-line



VOLNET

The Voluntary Sector Network Support Program

Canada

The Internet for the Voluntary Sector

VolNet has already helped thousands of voluntary organizations play a stronger role in Canadian society by hooking them up to the Internet. A public, private and voluntary sector joint project administered by Industry Canada, VolNet is part of the government's Connecting Canadians initiative, which aims to make Canada the most connected country in the world.

Why get connected?

The mission of VolNet is to help voluntary organizations further *their* missions. Organizations participating in VolNet are using their Internet connections to

- speed up communication
- develop new partnerships with like-minded organizations in Canada and around the world
- recruit volunteers
- reach new national and international audiences
- research topics of interest to them and their clients
- raise funds
- reduce operating costs (e.g., e-mail cuts down on long distance phone calls, postage fees)

"Living in the North has its advantages but easy access to information hasn't been one of them. Access to the Internet changes all that." *Carol Saab, Executive Director, Terrace Emergency Shelter, British Columbia*

An Internet connection can also help empower those who are served by Canada's voluntary organizations. One of the objectives of VolNet is to break down the barriers to Internet use that stem from social inequalities based on race, poverty, gender, disability, age and language by helping voluntary organizations working in these areas get on-line.

"[VolNet] has completely changed our day-to-day operations. We have all the information we could possibly want at our fingertips. I have used it for every proposal that I have written. The e-mail has been a godsend — no more waiting a week for a letter or expensive phone calls." *Phyllis Baird, Codroy Valley Development Association, Newfoundland.*

What you'll get

- Free Internet access for one year
- Computer equipment at a reduced price
- Basic Internet skills development

But I don't know anything about computers ...

Then VolNet is definitely for you. You'll get hands-on skills development that starts with the basics, as well as

- an easy-to-follow Internet skills development manual (in English and French)
- a free one-year subscription to The Internet Guide, an English on-line training program administered by the University of Toronto

- GRIF, the French on-line guide to the Internet
- other support (depending on your needs and what's available) such as on-line discussion groups, technology assistance, and workshops on building Web sites, using the Internet for fundraising and other topics of interest to the voluntary sector

"The User Manual is to be highly recommended. It speaks in a language that is easy to understand." *Ruth Matthews, Secretary and Treasurer, Royal Canadian Legion, Sloca Valley, British Columbia*

How do I apply?

VolNet services are provided by a network of voluntary organizations across the country. The VolNet delivery agency in your area will

- assess your eligibility for the VolNet service package
- deliver the package to you (if you qualify)
- provide additional learning opportunities and support

"Without the customized training and the support that you have offered us, the program would be much less effective and relevant ... learning is just as important as the equipment itself." *Gina Villeneuve, Manager, Interassociation des personnes handicapées du Saguenay, Quebec*

To find out who delivers VolNet in your area,

- call 1-800-575-9200 (TTY: 1-800-465-7735)
- e-mail us at volnet@ic.gc.ca
- visit our Web site at <http://www.volnet.org>

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