

Ministry of Citizenship
and Immigration

Minister

6th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tel.: 416 325-6200
Fax: 416 325-6195

Ministère des Affaires civiques
et de l'Immigration

Ministre

400, avenue University, 6^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
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Télec. : 416 325-6195



December 19, 2016



Dear Friends:

I am very pleased to invite your organization to participate in two of Ontario's volunteer recognition programs for 2017.

The Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers – presented to outstanding young volunteers between the ages of 15 and 24 for their contributions and dedication to improve the quality of life in their communities and beyond. Deadline for nominations is **January 15**.

The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards – presented in recognition of continuous years of service to a single community organization. Deadline for nominations is **January 25**.

This year we have created four new pin categories that will help us celebrate more of the longer serving volunteers. The pins include 35+, 45+, 55+, and 65+ years of service.

Every day thousands of Ontarians of all ages give their time and talent to thousands of community organizations, and help hold our communities together. By submitting a nomination, you can help ensure that volunteers receive the recognition they deserve.

Instructions on submitting your nomination for these and other award programs can be found on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website at: ontario.ca/honoursandawards

If you have any questions please call the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at 416-314-7526 toll free 1-877-832-8622 or TTY 416-327-2391.

I will also take this opportunity to invite you to visit the Ontario Volunteer Gateway (www.findmyspark.ca), known as "Spark Ontario". This website encourages Ontarians to volunteer and makes getting involved easier by creating new pathways to volunteering. It may be of interest to you when posting your next volunteer opportunities.

I look forward to celebrating Ontario's volunteers. Thank you for participating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Albanese". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Albanese
Minister