

Victim Services



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



What does volunteering with Victim Services involve?

Volunteering with the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety's Victim Services involves assisting victims of crime as their case proceeds through the criminal justice system. Being a victim of crime can be traumatic for anyone. The role of the volunteer is to help victims feel more comfortable when they have to testify in court.

What may I expect to do as a volunteer with Victim Services?

Your role as a volunteer will include the following services.

- Showing victims the courtroom and where they may testify (behind screens or closed circuit testimonial room).
- Accompanying victims to court.
- Being a support person by standing or sitting beside the victims as they testify in court.

Who can become a volunteer?

Anyone can apply to become a volunteer. You might be retired, a community college or university student, part-time worker, or a concerned citizen.

No matter what your background, you must be prepared to dedicate a certain amount of time when required.



What specific skills does a volunteer require?

The support person must be somebody who is compassionate and caring. You should be a good communicator and have strong "people skills". The support person must be a good listener, and have a calm and reassuring demeanor.

Are there limitations on who can be a volunteer?

Yes. Before you can be considered as a volunteer you will be interviewed and asked to undergo a screening and criminal background check. You must be over the age of 18, and be able to provide assistance during court operations from Monday to Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. The program requires an initial commitment of six to ten hours per month; however, the hours of work can vary depending on the needs of the program.

Will volunteers be trained?

Yes. The Department of Public Safety will provide training sessions to volunteers to ensure that you fully understand your roles and responsibilities when working with victims of crime. Training may include but not be limited to:

- Orientation to criminal justice system
- Role of volunteers
- Dealing with vulnerable victims
- Do's and Don'ts when going to court

Being a volunteer can provide you with a high level of self-satisfaction.

What are the benefits for volunteers?

Being a volunteer with Public Safety's Victim Services Program can provide you with a high level of self-satisfaction, as well as the opportunity to expand your knowledge of the services available to victims of crime. The experience gained by becoming a volunteer can also serve as a stepping stone in career development and enhancement of life skills already acquired. You will also benefit by knowing you are contributing to people in your community by assisting those who have been harmed.

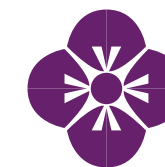
Who should I contact if I would like to volunteer?

Contact the nearest Department of Public Safety, Victim Services office:

Bathurst	547-2924
Burton	357-4035
Campbellton	789-2388
Edmundston	735-2543
Fredericton	453-2768
Grand Falls	473-7706
Miramichi	627-4065
Moncton	856-2875
Richibucto	523-7150
Saint John	658-3742
Shediac	533-9100
St. Stephen	466-7414
Tracadie-Sheila	394-3690
Woodstock	325-4422

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