



Volunteer Calgary
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**For Immediate Release
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Media Release

The Board of Directors of Volunteer Calgary is pleased to announce the appointment of Laurel Benson as President & Chief Executive Officer of Volunteer Calgary. Benson will step into this role immediately, having served as Interim President & Chief Executive Officer since June, 2008.

Greg Grunau, Chairman of the Board, expressed the Board's confidence in Benson's leadership abilities and experience: "Laurel is a dynamic and energetic leader with a deep commitment to the voluntary sector", said Grunau. "Her years of experience with Volunteer Calgary, her fundraising expertise, her strategic leadership abilities, her results-oriented approach and her passion for volunteerism will all enable her to lead Volunteer Calgary as we continue to pursue our mission to engage more people, more effectively, to volunteer in the community".

Since joining Volunteer Calgary in 2003, Benson has been a driving force within the organization. Her leadership in her previous role as Director of Fund Development and Corporate Citizenship has helped to build Volunteer Calgary's strength within the community. Benson brings more than 14 years of experience in the sector with her and is excited to move formally into this new role and participate in the continued development and strengthening of Calgary's voluntary sector.

Throughout her career, Benson has worked with a focus on building the capacity of the sector through the mentorship of individuals and the strengthening of organizations. Her background in fund development has enabled her to work in support of numerous types and sizes of organizations including Between Friends Club, Canadian Cancer Society, Hull Child and Family Services, Prince George Public Library, Grande Prairie Museum and Mount Royal College. Her experience includes working with organizations throughout Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Melbourne, Australia.

Benson's work with volunteers includes supporting individuals, committees and boards in the areas of direct program delivery, fund development and governance. As a volunteer in the community herself, she has served on the Board of the Calgary Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), was a volunteer mentor in AFP's Mentorship Program and is currently a volunteer instructor with both AFP and CentrePoint. She is most proud of her work as an instructor and mentor, having been an instructor in Mount Royal College's Fundraising Certificate program and Nonprofit Management Applied Degree program. Benson is a graduate of AFP's Faculty Training Academy, has degrees in Business and Economics and has completed the Leadership Calgary program in 2008.

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