

# Learning English with CBC Radio – Living in Alberta



## Connecting to the Community: Volunteering

by

Maroro Zinyemba

Project Manager: Justine Light



*Daylight Consulting Inc.*



CBC

Alberta  Government

## Integration Enhancement

Topic:	Connecting with the Community
Lesson:	Volunteering
CLB Level:	6
CLB Skills:	Reading, Writing,
Essential Skill(s):	Reading, Writing, Document Use, Thinking Skills (Finding Information)

<b>CLB Outcomes</b>	
Reading:	Learners will demonstrate reading comprehension of moderately complex texts on familiar topics. Learners will demonstrate the ability to guess the meaning of unknown terms, phrases or idioms from the context. Learners will demonstrate the ability to identify specific factual details and some implied meanings.
Writing:	Learners will demonstrate the ability to reduce a page of information to a summary.
<b>Language Skills</b>	
Grammar Focus:	Learners will demonstrate the ability to identify the form, meaning and use of the present perfect and the simple past tenses.
Vocabulary:	<i>sense of duty, above and beyond, peers, mainstream, role model, responsibility, instrumental, encourage, undertake, impact, dynamic, initiative, selfless, creativity, devoted</i>
<b>Culture</b>	
Volunteering is an important part of Albertan culture. People give up their time and share their knowledge and skills to help others. Volunteering is strongly encouraged in many workplaces and community organizations.	

Websites:

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com>

<http://www.prowritingaid.com/collocation.aspx>

<http://www.dictionary.com>

## Introduction

Before you read, complete the first two columns of the KWL chart below:

<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>
What I <b>know</b> about how to connect with the community.	What I <b>want</b> to know about how to connect with the community.	What I <b>learned</b> about how to connect with the community.

## Pre-reading

How can you connect with the community you live in? One way of connecting with the community you live in is to volunteer. When you volunteer you do not get paid for the work you do. However, volunteers do benefit from their unpaid work. One the ways volunteers are recognized for the work they do in the community is through the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards.

“The Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards recognize extraordinary Albertans whose volunteer efforts have contributed to the well-being of their community and fellow community members. Six awards, two in each category of youth, adult and senior are presented annually on or around International Volunteer Day, December 5.

The Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards Program is an integral part of government's commitment to Alberta's voluntary sector. Seeking out ways to pay tribute to volunteers is part of the Government of Alberta's way of acknowledging and thanking our volunteers whose generous efforts contribute to the vibrant quality of life Albertans so enjoy.”

Taken from: <http://www.culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars/>

## Food for thought

1. What kind of things do people volunteer for?
2. Why do people volunteer?
3. Do you think newcomers to Alberta should volunteer?
4. Are there any benefits to volunteering?
5. Other than volunteering, are there any other ways a person can connect with his / her community?

## Main Reading

Title: Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards

### Glossary<sup>1</sup>

1. *Conceptualize* means to form (an idea, picture, etc.) of something in your mind.
2. *Execute* means to do something you have planned to do: to carry out.
3. *Community* means a group of people who live in the same area (such as a city, town, or neighborhood).
4. *Keen* means very excited about and interested in something.
5. *Passion* means a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something.

As you read the selection, use *context clues* to help you figure out the meaning of the following words that you will come across: *sense of duty, above and beyond, peers, mainstream, role model*

#### Reading Strategy Tip: Taking notes

Taking notes is helpful in identifying important information. You need to have a method to take notes. It is a good idea to arrange your notes in the same order in which the information appears in the reading. Label your notes with the subject and sub-headings. Write your notes in your own words. Write down key words and phrases.

The reading selection was taken from <http://www.culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars/>

### Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards

#### Youth Category



#### Jamil Jivraj, Edmonton (2011 Recipient)

Jamil Jivraj is a youth leader in the Edmonton community and a role model for his peers. He has a keen sense of duty and fulfills his responsibilities with tact and integrity. He has actively contributed towards conceptualizing, planning and executing a wide range of community and outreach events in our province and beyond in his numerous roles as educator, counselor, volunteer and leader. Major community projects undertaken by Jamil include the Ismaili Youth Group at the University of Alberta, and the Ismaili Religious Education Board for Edmonton. He is also a group leader at the Elves Special Needs Society's Summer Program and for the past two summers served as a Camp Reflections Counselor. Jamil played an instrumental role in initiating, planning and executing an HIV awareness project in Uganda. Jamil is a founder of "Learning Beyond Borders", a student group that develops meaningful partnerships between students in Canada, Uganda and Syria.

*Nominated by: Habib Fattoo, University of Alberta*

<sup>1</sup> Definitions taken from [www.learnersdictionary.com](http://www.learnersdictionary.com)

## Adult Category



### **Joanne Roberts, Fort McMurray (2010 Recipient)**

Joanne Roberts is a passionate and dynamic volunteer who gives selflessly of her time to affect positive change in the community of Wood Buffalo. She has the ability to identify social issues and the passion to lead others. Joanne volunteers for Unity House, the local women's shelter; sits on the Keyano Foundation Board; volunteers countless hours for the Fort McMurray Victim Services; and is active with several other initiatives. Last year alone, she devoted more than 1,900 hours in service to her community. Additionally, Joanne was instrumental in establishing the Coalition for a Safer Highway 63 and Highway 881. Joanne envisioned and led a strong communications strategy designed to curb speeding to encourage safe driving. Joanne is an agent for change and an exemplary volunteer whose efforts have improved the lives of the people who call Wood Buffalo their home.

*Nominated by: Cindy Amerongen, Keyano College*

## Senior Category



### **Mrs. Wendy Birdsey, Calgary (2012 Recipient)**

Wendy Birdsey has made an impact on the lives of newcomer families for over 18 years now, dedicating her time to assisting newcomers to Calgary with the Community Connections for Newcomers program. She doesn't just welcome them to Calgary, she goes above and beyond to help settle these families into their new lives, taking them out to shop for clothes and food and organizing open house/housewarming parties to introduce them to the neighbours and community. Wendy's initiative and creativity goes beyond the ordinary – she plays a great role in connecting all these families to mainstream society, but her role is instrumental in empowering all the individuals to become contributing members of Canadian society. In addition to her work with the newcomers, Wendy also volunteers for the Parkdale Nifty Fifties Seniors Association that offers seniors social opportunities to enjoy. She has donated her time to help fundraise for various causes and initiatives such as L'Arche Calgary, Scouts Canada's 18th Calgary Scout Troop, and Adult Recreational Choral Society just to name a few.

*Nominated by: Mrs. Beata Lutaba, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society*

## Reading Comprehension

1. How many award categories are there?
2. Can you think of a reason why these awards are given every year?
3. What does a person have to do to get this type of award?
4. List three things that Jamil Jivraj has done to get this award.
5. Where is Joanne Roberts from?
6. Give an example of what Joanne Roberts has done that shows she has leadership qualities.
7. What is the safety problem on Highway 881 and Highway 63 that Joanne Roberts has worked on?
8. How does Wendy Birdsey help newcomers connect with their local communities?
9. Who nominated Wendy Birdsey?

## Vocabulary Development

### A. Context Clues

Use context clues from the reading to guess the meaning of the following words: *sense of duty, above and beyond, peers, mainstream, role model*

### B. Definition Matching

The words in italics on the next page are taken from the reading. These words are also found on the *list of the first 2000 most commonly used words of English* and on the *Academic Word List*. Match the words to the correct definition and find the part of speech. The first one has been done for you as an example

*responsibility, instrumental, encourage, undertake, impact, dynamic, initiative, selfless, creativity, devoted*

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	devoted	Adjective	having strong love or loyalty for something or someone
2.			the energy and desire that is needed to do something
3.			to begin or attempt (something)
4.			to make (someone) more determined, hopeful, or confident
5.			the ability to make new things or think of new ideas
6.			having or showing a lot of energy
7.			a powerful or major influence or effect
8.			a duty or task that you are required or expected to do
9.			having or showing great concern for other people and little or no concern for yourself
10.			very important in helping or causing something to happen or be done

### C. Collocations

Words that are used in a certain way together are called collocations. A collocation is a particular combination of words. Take the word “fire”. Collocations of the word “fire” are *truck* and *fighter* – “fire truck” and “fire fighter” for example. Use online reference sites such as <http://www.prowritingaid.com/collocation.aspx> or [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com) or [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) to find the collocations of “community” and “initiative”. Complete the table below. The first one has been done for you as an example.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Initiative</b>
Community service	Take initiative

### Reading Strategy

Read the notes that you took while reading. Use your notes to write a summary of what you read. Do not look back to the main reading. When you are done writing your summary, compare the information you have with the information in the main reading. How accurate is your summary?



## Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

To nominate someone for an award, an application package has to be completed. The application package usually includes a description of the nominee's activities in the past and in the present. To describe the nominee's activities in the past, the simple past and the present perfect are used. To describe current activities, the simple present is used.

When we want to describe what people have accomplished, we use the present perfect. The present perfect tense is used to describe an action that happened at an unspecified time in the past before "now". The present perfect is used for actions that happened in the past that have present consequences. There is no specific time given for the action. In this case, time is not important.

To form the present perfect tense you need have / has + past participle

Examples: Emily **has healed** many children

The organizations **have collected** lots of books

The simple past tense is used to describe actions that are already finished - complete past actions.

The accomplishments of the STARS awards recipients are described using the simple past (for complete past actions) and the present perfect (for actions that happened at an unspecified time in the past and have consequences now)

### Activity 1 – Identifying the Present Perfect and Simple Past forms

Read about the award recipients again. Underline the present perfect tenses and highlight the simple past tenses.

Activity 2 – Identifying the uses of the Present Perfect , Simple Past, and Simple Present tense

The sentences below are taken from the reading. They are actions done by the award recipients. Decide whether the actions are complete past actions, actions that have present consequences, or actions that are current. Complete the table

	Action completed	Past action with a result now	Present action – factual
Wendy Birdsey has made an impact on the lives of newcomers.		✓	
Wendy Birdsey has donated her time to fundraise.			
Wendy Birdsey organizes housewarming parties for newcomers.			
Wendy Birdsey connects newcomers to mainstream society.			
Joanne Roberts is a Keyano Foundation board member.			
Joanne Roberts volunteers for the Fort McMurray Victim Services.			
Joanne Roberts led a project to encourage safe driving.			
Joanne’s efforts have improved the lives of people.			
Jamil Jivraj played an important role in the HIV awareness project in Uganda.			
Jamil Jivraj has contributed towards many outreach events.			



## Link to Essential Skills

Essential skills are the skills needed for work, learning, and life ([www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca)). They are enabling skills that help you perform daily tasks as well as tasks required on the job. In this section of the lesson you will focus on reading a document – the Alberta Stars award nomination form.

Instructions: Read the Alberta Stars awards nomination form found at <http://culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars/PDF/2013/2013nominationform.pdf>

A copy of the form is on the next page. Complete the table that below.

### Activity – Identifying the structure and layout of documents

<b>Where would you find/ enter this information</b>	<b>Section</b>			
	<b><i>Nominee</i></b>	<b><i>Nominator</i></b>	<b><i>List of references</i></b>	<b><i>Nomination checklist</i></b>
The name and contact information of a person who knows about the nominee’s achievements.				
The mailing address of the person nominating someone for the award.				
The signature of the person being nominated.				
Check marks ✓ to make sure that all the information required for the application has been included.				
The mailing address of the person being nominated for the award.				
The maximum number of people who can talk about the nominee’s work.				



The Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards honour extraordinary Albertans whose volunteer achievements have contributed to the well-being of their community and fellow community members. Six awards, two in each category of youth, adult and senior are presented annually on or around International Volunteer Day, December 5.

**AWARD CRITERIA**

Albertans, who meet the following criteria, are eligible for a Stars of Alberta Volunteer Award:

- Exemplifies the spirit of community service;
- Demonstrates exemplary initiative, leadership, and creativity in his/her service to others;
- Serves as a role model for others in his/her community;
- Inspires others to engage in volunteer service, and
- Improves the overall quality of life of fellow Albertans and the community as a whole.

**NOMINATION CHECKLIST**

Submissions for the 2013 Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards must include the following:

- Letter of Nomination submitted by the nominator;
- Completed Nomination Form signed by the nominee;
- Completed Critical Information (detailed responses to the requested points one through eight in a separate attachment); and
- Completed list of references.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)**

The personal information that is provided in the nomination submission about the nominator and the nominee is collected under the authority of section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and is protected by the privacy provisions of that Act. The information will be used for the purpose of administering the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards program and to select and publicize the achievements of the award recipients.

Submissions can now be made online. For complete instructions visit [www.culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars](http://www.culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars)

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013**

Award nominees and their nominators will be notified in writing of the selection committee's decision in November 2013.

**NOMINATION FORM**

**NOMINEE**

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Miss

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Category:**

Youth (up to 24 years of age)  Adult (ages 25-64)  Senior (ages 65 and over)

**Mailing address and contact information:**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ AB Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee or Nominee's Parent/Guardian (for Nominees under 18 years of age) must sign and agree to the following:**

I have read the complete nomination submission and certify that it accurately describes my/my child's volunteer and community work. I agree that it may be provided by the nominator to Alberta Culture, and that Alberta Culture may collect the information on that basis, so that my child may be considered for the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards. I also agree that Alberta Culture may contact the reference who are identified in this submission to verify the information provided or to seek additional related information from them. Should my child be selected for the Award, I consent to the use and disclosure of my/my child's personal information (including photographs, video, name and quotation) as necessary, without compensation for awards-related publicity.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATOR**

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Miss

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address and contact information:**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ AB Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRITICAL INFORMATION**

This information should be provided in a separate attachment.

1. Describe the nominee's current volunteer activities.
2. Describe the nominee's last five years of volunteer activities.
3. Indicate the nominee's current paid occupation (if applicable).
4. Indicate an approximate amount of volunteer hours the nominee has contributed in the past year.
5. Describe how the nominee exemplifies the spirit of community service.
6. Describe how the nominee demonstrates initiative, leadership and creativity in his/her volunteer activities.
7. Describe how the nominee serves as a model for others in his/her community and/or inspires others to engage in volunteerism.
8. Describe how the nominee's volunteer efforts improved/benefited the overall quality of life of his/her fellow Albertans and the community as a whole.

**LIST OF REFERENCES**

List the names and contact information of at least three people who are familiar with the nominee's achievements.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or fax your complete nomination package to:

**Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards**  
907 Standard Life Centre, 10405 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4R7  
Fax: 780-427-4155



For additional information visit [www.culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars](http://www.culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars)  
Or contact Alla Honcharuk, Alberta Culture  
780-415-8139 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000)  
or [Alla.Honcharuk@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Alla.Honcharuk@gov.ab.ca)

## Answer Keys

### Reading Comprehension

1. 3
2. To recognize the important work volunteers do.
3. To get this award a person has to dedicate time, knowledge, and skills to helping other people.
4. Jamil helped carry out outreach events. He is a group leader at the Elves Special Needs Society Summer Camp. He has served as a Camp Reflections Counselor. He has undertaken the Ismaili Youth Group project and Ismaili religious Education Board of Edmonton.
5. She is from Fort McMurray.
6. She led the strategy to control speeding in order to promote safe driving.
7. High speed driving.
8. Wendy helps newcomers settle and connect with the community they live in by organizing housewarming and open house parties. She takes newcomers out to shop for food and clothes.
9. Mrs. Beata Lutaba.

### Vocabulary Development

#### A. Context Clues

*Sense of duty means awareness of your responsibilities*

*Above and beyond means far beyond what is required*

*Peers* are people who belong to the same age group or social group as other people

*Mainstream* means the thoughts, beliefs, and choices that are accepted by the largest number of people

*Role model* means someone who another person admires and tries to be like

## B. Definition Matching

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	devoted	Adjective	having strong love or loyalty for something or someone
2.	initiative	Noun	the energy and desire that is needed to do something
3.	undertake	Verb	to begin or attempt (something)
4.	encourage	Verb	to make (someone) more determined, hopeful, or confident
5.	creativity	Noun	the ability to make new things or think of new ideas
6.	dynamic	Adjective	having or showing a lot of energy
7.	impact	Noun	a powerful or major influence or effect
8.	responsibility	Noun	a duty or task that you are required or expected to do
9.	selfless	Adjective	having or showing great concern for other people and little or no concern for yourself
10.	instrumental	Adjective	very important in helping or causing something to happen or be done

## C. Collocations \* Answers will vary\*\*

Community	Initiative
Community college	Take initiative
International community	Show initiative
Community leader	Individual initiative
Within a community	Government initiative
Scientific community	International initiative

## Reading Strategy

Answers will vary

### Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

#### Activity 1

Jamil Jivraj is a youth leader in the Edmonton community and a role model for his peers. He has a keen sense of duty and fulfills his responsibilities with tact and integrity. He has actively contributed towards conceptualizing, planning and executing a wide range of community and outreach events in our province and beyond in his numerous roles as educator, counselor, volunteer and leader. Major community projects undertaken by Jamil include the Ismaili Youth Group at the University of Alberta, and the Ismaili Religious Education Board for Edmonton. He is also a group leader at the Elves Special Needs Society's Summer Program and for the past two summers served\* as a Camp Reflections Counselor. **Jamil played** an instrumental role in initiating, planning and executing an HIV awareness project in Uganda. Jamil is a founder of "Learning Beyond Borders", a student group that develops meaningful partnerships between students in Canada, Uganda and Syria.

Joanne Roberts is a passionate and dynamic volunteer who gives selflessly of her time to affect positive change in the community of Wood Buffalo. She has the ability to identify social issues and the passion to lead others. Joanne volunteers for Unity House, the local women’s shelter; sits on the Keyano Foundation Board; volunteers countless hours for the Fort McMurray Victim Services; and is active with several other initiatives. Last year alone, **she devoted** more than 1,900 hours in service to her community. Additionally, **Joanne was** instrumental in establishing the Coalition for a Safer Highway 63 and Highway 881. **Joanne envisioned and led** a strong communications strategy designed to curb speeding to encourage safe driving. Joanne is an agent for change and an exemplary volunteer whose efforts have improved the lives of the people who call Wood Buffalo their home.

\*- he has served as ...

Wendy Birdsey has made an impact on the lives of newcomer families for over 18 years now, dedicating her time to assisting newcomers to Calgary with the Community Connections for Newcomers program. She doesn’t just welcome them to Calgary, she goes above and beyond to help settle these families into their new lives, taking them out to shop for clothes and food and organizing open house/housewarming parties to introduce them to the neighbours and community. Wendy’s initiative and creativity goes beyond the ordinary – she plays a great role in connecting all these families to mainstream society, but her role is instrumental in empowering all the individuals to become contributing members of Canadian society. In addition to her work with the newcomers, Wendy also volunteers for the Parkdale Nifty Fifties Seniors Association that offers seniors social opportunities to enjoy. She has donated her time to help fundraise for various causes and initiatives such as L’Arche Calgary, Scouts Canada’s 18th Calgary Scout Troop, and Adult Recreational Choral Society just to name a few.

## Activity 2

	Action completed	Past action with a result now	Present action – factual
Wendy Birdsey has made an impact on the lives of newcomers.		✓	
Wendy Birdsey has donated her time to fundraise.		✓	
Wendy Birdsey organizes housewarming parties for newcomers.			✓
Wendy connects newcomers to mainstream society.			✓
Joanne Roberts is a Keyano Foundation board member.			✓
Joanne Roberts volunteers for the Fort McMurray Victim Services/			✓
Joanne Roberts led a project to encourage safe driving	✓		
Joanne’s efforts have improved the lives of people.		✓	
Jamil Jivraj played an important role in the HIV awareness project in Uganda.	✓		
Jamil Jivraj has contributed towards many outreach events.		✓	



## Reading –Writing Link

\*Paragraphs will vary\*\*

### Link to Essential Skills

Where would you find/ enter this information	Section			
	Nominee	Nominator	List of references	Nomination checklist
The name and contact information of a person who knows about the nominee's achievements.			✓	
The mailing address of the person nominating someone for the award.		✓		
The signature of the person being nominated.	✓			
Check marks ✓ to make sure that all the information required for the application has been included.				✓
The mailing address of the person being nominated for the award.	✓			
The maximum number of people who can talk about the nominee's work.			✓	