

**Ministry for Seniors
and Accessibility
Assistant Deputy
Minister's Office**

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**Ministère des Services aux
aînés et de l'Accessibilité
Bureau de la sous-ministre
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April 7, 2020

Dear Partners,

Protecting the health and well-being of all Ontarians is our number one priority. On March 30, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health recommended that individuals over 70 years of age self-isolate and, where possible, seek services over the phone or internet or ask for help with essential errands from friends and family.

During this difficult time, it is more important than ever to come together and help those in need, ensuring seniors and the most vulnerable have access to food, medicine and basic necessities. Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

The Ontario government is encouraging volunteerism to support seniors, people with disabilities and other Ontarians impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. To help facilitate this, we are working with [SPARK Ontario](#), a bilingual online volunteer gateway that connects not-for-profit organizations with volunteers. We want to make it easy for these connections to take place.

We need your help in promoting SPARK Ontario and encouraging volunteerism.

- **Reach out to your volunteer pools** and ask them to visit www.sparkontario.ca if they are interested in helping those impacted by COVID-19.
- **If your organization needs volunteers**, visit www.sparkontario.ca so that you can advertise available positions and get the help you need.

Please see attached for a one-pager that you can forward to your volunteers and others that may be interested in this initiative.

We thank you for your continued support in volunteering in Ontario. Stay safe.

Original Signed

Jacqueline Cureton
Assistant Deputy Minister
Seniors and Accessibility Policy, Programs and Strategic Partnerships
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility