



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City processing volunteer applications as quickly as possible.

The Vernon ESS Reception Centre is welcoming residents who have been evacuated due to the White Rock Lake wildfire (#K61884), and helping to connect them with basic needs such as food, shelter and essential items.

The City of Vernon would like to thank everyone who has expressed interest in volunteering at the Vernon ESS Reception Centre.

There has been an outpouring of support, with some residents expressing an enthusiastic desire to volunteer.

Staff are processing applications as quickly as possible and will be prioritizing applicants who have skills and availability that best suits the needs of the Vernon ESS Reception Centre and the evacuated residents who have been directed to register in Vernon.

Out of respect for evacuees, fellow volunteers and City staff, we kindly ask that volunteer applicants remain patient and wait for staff to contact them with further instructions.

We recognize that we live in a community of compassionate and caring people, always quick to jump in and provide help and support where needed. While there is a need for help and support at the Vernon ESS Reception Centre, it is vitally important that staff properly process volunteer applications and then provide the appropriate volunteer training in order to provide the necessary help and support for evacuees.

If you are interested in volunteering, an on-online application can be submitted at [vernon.ca/ess](https://www.vernon.ca/ess). If you have a specific skill set you could offer the ESS program, please indicate this on your application form.

All applications will be thoroughly reviewed and vetted and necessary training will be provided.

A variety of volunteer positions are available through the ESS program including data entry, registration of evacuees, preparation of service referrals, and program support.

The City would like to thank all of the volunteers and service providers who have helped with the Vernon ESS Reception Centre and the caring service that has been provided for those who have been displaced from their homes during this time.