

Why Volunteer?

Volunteering offers numerous benefits. **Personal benefits include:** developing a sense of purpose, skill development, networking opportunities, and resume building. **Community benefits include:** strengthened communities, fostering social connections, resource sharing, and driving meaningful change. Overall, volunteering and giving back is good for you and your community.



CAPE BRETON
WELCOME NETWORK

Here to welcome you home

Why Volunteer to Help Newcomers?

Volunteering to help newcomers is about more than just offering support; it's about fostering belonging and creating more inclusive communities across Unama'ki - Cape Breton. By volunteering you help newcomers feel welcome, valued, and connected. Through your volunteer experience you will meet people from a variety of countries, backgrounds, and cultures which will broaden your perspective and help you connect with newcomers to the Island, creating a more vibrant, dynamic, and inclusive communities across Unama'ki - Cape Breton.

The Role of a Welcomer

Every Cape Breton Welcome Network volunteer is known as a "Welcomer." Welcomers are the heart of the Welcome Network, dedicating their time to help newcomers feel at home. They are open-minded, respectful of diverse cultures, and enthusiastic about welcoming and including newcomers in their communities.

Get involved today!

Email the Cape Breton Welcome Network for more details on volunteering in your local community:

welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com



What Does it Mean to be a Welcomer with the Cape Breton Welcome Network?



As a Welcomer, you have various ways to welcome newcomers. Some activities are self-guided, done at your own pace, and don't require coordination from the Welcome Network Coordinator (though the Coordinator is always available to offer support and guidance if needed). These activities could include:

- **Inviting a newcomer to join you for a coffee, volunteer with you at a community event, or explore their new community on a tour**
- **Organizing events or workshops in your community to foster connections (e.g., scavenger hunts, crafting socials, community cleanups, potlucks, pickleball lessons)**
- **Creating and distributing an informational Community Guide about local services, supports, and resources available to newcomers in your area**
- **Volunteering at community/multicultural events**
- **Being a local contact for a newcomer, helping them with questions, pointing them to resources, and connecting them with the community**
- **Informing newcomers about local events, activities, amenities, and services**

If you prefer more structured and direct involvement with the Welcome Network, there are additional ways to engage, such as:

- **Participating in events hosted by the Welcome Network, which offers opportunities for locals and newcomers to connect organically**
- **Volunteering to help with Welcome Network events and activities**
- **Promoting Welcome Network events by sharing on social media, distributing posters, or through word of mouth**
- **Participating in the Buddy Program which matches Welcomers to Newcomers (email welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com for more information)**

How can the Welcome Network support me in my efforts as a Community Welcomer?

The Welcome Network can support your efforts by offering:

- **Promotional materials (posters, pamphlets, stickers, magnets, etc.)**
- **Event supplies (6x3' flag, folding table, cooler, etc.)**
- **Promotion of your activities through social media and email**
- **Connections to eager volunteers and community groups for planning guidance**
- **Success stories and best practices from other communities**
- **Cultural competency resources**

Do you have an idea of how the Welcome Network can support you as a Welcomer? We are always open to ideas! Please feel welcome to reach out and we would be happy to chat with you.