

**Ministry of Citizenship
and Immigration**

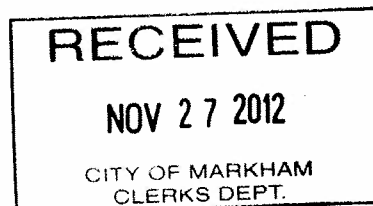
Minister

6th Floor
400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tel.: (416) 325-6200
Fax: (416) 325-6195

**Ministère des Affaires civiques
et de l'Immigration**

Ministre

6^e étage
400, avenue University
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tél. : (416) 325-6200
Téléc. : (416) 325-6195



November, 2012

Dear friends,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the 2013 Volunteer Service Awards program. Since its inception in 1986, the VSA ceremonies have become a long-standing tradition in Ontario.

Volunteering is the most fundamental act of citizenship in our society. Every day thousands of Ontarians of all ages voluntarily give their time and talent to thousands of community organizations. By caring and contributing their time, volunteers help hold our communities together.

The VSA program recognizes volunteers from all sectors for their continuous years of service in a community organization. It provides a way for your organization and the Ontario government to thank them in a meaningful way.

This year, in recognition of the important role our youth play currently and in the present and the future of volunteering, the nomination process has been enhanced to encourage more youth nominations. Each organization may nominate up to 9 volunteers, 3 of whom must be youth. If all your nominees are adults, the number you may nominate remains at 6.

Please take this opportunity to nominate your volunteers and feel free to share this letter with other organizations that may be interested in recognizing their volunteers at a VSA ceremony. By submitting your nominations you can help ensure that your volunteers receive the recognition they deserve.

Nomination forms and program information are available on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website at www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards. You may also contact the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat by phone at: 416-314-7526 or 1-877-832-8622; by TTY at 416-327-2391; or by fax at 416-314-7743.

The deadline date for submissions is **January 25** of each year, but you may submit nomination forms at any time. Nominations received after the deadline will be considered for the following year.

I look forward to celebrating the achievements of Ontario's volunteers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Chan".

Michael Chan
Minister