

# Community Participation



There are many ways you can be involved in your community.

## Community Recreation Centres

Community centres are public locations where people meet for social activities, recreation and fitness, and many other activities and programs. Most communities in Manitoba have a place where community groups can meet. Many centres also have skating rinks, swimming pools, gyms and sport fields. Programs for adults and children are offered at a low cost. Sometimes, they are even free.

Call **311** to find your local recreation centre.

## Public Libraries

Libraries are good place to get information. They are also a quiet place to read or study. Your local library may have programs, such as:

- English as a Second Language resources
- Settlement workers who provide information
- Homework clubs for students and reading clubs for children
- Free public internet access
- Books, CDs, DVDs video games, newspapers and magazines in English and other languages

To use the library, you need a library card. Your card is free. If you have a card, you can join programs and borrow books, DVDs and magazines. It also gives you online access so you can search for a specific book. If someone else has the book you want, you can request to be next in line. The library will call you when you can pick up your book.

To get a library card, you need:

- one piece of official identification (passport or driver's license)
- proof of your address such as a telephone, hydro or cable bill

■ Find your local public library:

[https://mb.countingopinions.com/memberlist\\_details.php](https://mb.countingopinions.com/memberlist_details.php)



[win.manitobastart.com](http://win.manitobastart.com)



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## Places of Worship

Canadians have the freedom to practice their religion (Charter of Rights and Freedoms). Manitoba is a secular society, but many Manitobans gather in churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other places of worship.

### ■ More information:

Ask your settlement worker or friends

Ethnocultural Council of Manitoba:

[www.ethnomanitoba.ca/communities-index/](http://www.ethnomanitoba.ca/communities-index/)

Yellow Pages:

[www.yellowpages.ca](http://www.yellowpages.ca)

## Volunteering

Volunteering your time is a great way to meet other people and contribute to your community. Volunteering can also help you:

- improve your language skills
- make friends
- get Canadian work experience
- learn about Canadian culture

If you are a newcomer youth, getting involved in your community can help you with your high school volunteering requirements.

There are many organizations where you can volunteer, including: settlement agencies, community centres, schools, charitable organizations, hospitals and retirement homes.

### ■ Learn more about volunteering in your area:

Volunteer Canada:

[www.volunteer.ca/](http://www.volunteer.ca/)

Manitoba Volunteer Centre Network:

[www.volunteermanitoba.ca/](http://www.volunteermanitoba.ca/)

Explore non-profit volunteer positions:

Charity Village:

[www.charityvillage.com](http://www.charityvillage.com)

Explore government volunteer positions:

[www.gov.mb.ca/wd/virtualcentre/jobseekers/volunteering.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/wd/virtualcentre/jobseekers/volunteering.html)