November, 2011

Dear friends,

As the new Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, I am very pleased to invite you to participate in the 2012 Volunteer Service Awards (VSA) program.

Many of you know the VSA ceremonies are a long-standing Ontario tradition.

Volunteers are a vital resource to our communities and organizations. They are critical to the strength and resilience of our province. They give back in so many ways that help hold our communities together. The Ontario government recognizes volunteers from all sectors and for continuous years of service with a community organization. The VSA program provides an opportunity to thank them in a significant way.

I ask you to consider your volunteers – not just today’s volunteers and their commitment but the potential and energy of tomorrow’s volunteers – our youth. They are vital to the future of volunteerism.

Please take this opportunity to nominate volunteers from your organization, and feel free to share this letter with other organizations that would be interested in participating in this very worthwhile program. Nomination forms and additional information are available on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website at www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards

You can also contact the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat by phone at: 416-314-7526 or 1-877-832-8622, by TTY 416-327-2391 or by fax at: 416-314-7743.

Remember, you can submit nomination forms at any time during the year. The deadline date is January 25 of each year. All nominations received after the deadline date are considered for the following year.

By submitting a nomination you can help ensure that volunteers receive the recognition they deserve from all of us. I look forward to celebrating with you, the achievements of the very dynamic volunteers of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Charles Sousa
Minister