The Region of Waterloo Pandemic Plan was put in place to provide support to the community during an emergency. As an essential service organization or volunteer you are participating in a program that has a benefit for us all. This new collaborative volunteer intake system helps to protect both organizations and volunteers.

**BENEFITS**

1. **Extra insurance coverage**. During a state of emergency, the Region is able to provide volunteers and organizations with WSIB coverage, when they sign up through this Volunteer Program.

2. **A thorough onboarding process**. This process provides administrative support for intake and placement of volunteers during an emergency. The process is meant to increase access to volunteers safely and reduce the time it will take to onboard volunteers during an emergency (current and future).

3. **Additional safety measures**. The intake team will work with agencies to define and conduct risk assessments on volunteer roles, providing additional safety measures for all.

4. **Placement based on greatest need**. With a full overview of the Community Services response efforts, volunteers can be placed where there is a community-wide need.