



December 05<sup>th</sup>, 2006

An open letter to all Civilian Search and Rescue Volunteers:

The experience and commitment of SAR volunteers is an important resource in assisting the RCMP in our delivery of Search and Rescue Service throughout Alberta. Consequently, the "K" Division RCMP has implemented an award program to acknowledge the contribution of Civilian Search and Rescue Volunteers to the RCMP at our detachments throughout Alberta.

The award consists of a uniquely designed certificate and lapel pin which will be presented to volunteers who have completed five, ten, or fifteen years of Search and Rescue service. All Search and Rescue volunteers are eligible to apply for the award, regardless of their role with the team. The only eligibility requirements are that the volunteers be a current member in good standing with his or her Search and Rescue team and that they have volunteered the required number of years for the award requested.

It is our intention to maintain the program through the future, and in the fullness of time, the award levels will be increased to recognize volunteers reaching twenty or more years of service. Once the years of historical service are accounted for and acknowledged, the program will settle into a pattern of presenting the awards with natural progression as volunteers move through the years of service landmarks.

As 2003 saw the launch of the program, we realize that the service periods for eligible volunteers will vary widely, the cut off date for eligible service has been set at **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005**, and any volunteers having completed five, ten, or fifteen years of service as of that date are eligible for one or more awards, matching their years of service. Search and Rescue groups are invited to review their records and submit the names of eligible candidates, and where applicable, indicate those volunteers deserving of multiple awards.

It is the responsibility the volunteer's Search and Rescue team, as well as the volunteer, to ensure that an application is submitted to request an award. This is applicable to the initial launch as well as through coming years. The RCMP will not be maintaining a database of Search and Rescue volunteers and automatically generating the awards.

The partnership between the RCMP and the civilian Search and Rescue community is an integral part of our Search and Rescue presence in Alberta and we are grateful for your unselfish commitment to your community.

Sincerely yours

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SAR Coordinator

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