Volunteering is a learning process, one that offers individuals an excellent way to develop their leadership skills. The lessons learned while chairing or participating on a task force or committee can be translated to the workplace. I am often asked by staff in my own workplace for opportunities to develop their leadership skills outside of the classroom setting. I always encourage them to get involved in CSHP committees as a way to develop some of these skills. This committee participation has the added bonus of facilitating succession planning for both CSHP and individual institutions.

Canada’s National Volunteer Week serves to focus the country’s attention on volunteers, but recognition must not be just a yearly event. Recognition must be ongoing, and it need not follow a formal process. A simple “thank you” can go a long way.

On behalf of the CSHP Executive, to all volunteers, for all of your efforts—Thank You!

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