



Barka Foundation Volunteer and Travel Opportunity

Barka Foundation along with Barka Canada Social Integration Society are looking for young Polish-Canadian volunteers interested in broadening their experience in social work, immersing in Polish culture, and improving their Polish language skills. **Ten chosen volunteers will travel to Poland from July 11 - 31, 2018 to participate in a number of workshops and cultural events.** Travel costs, accommodation, and meals will be covered. Funding is being provided by the Senate of the Republic of Poland.

Volunteer Requirements:

- Be of Polish origin
- Be between the ages of 19-35
- Currently live in Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, or the Northwest Territories

The main purpose of this project is provide an opportunity to young Canadians of Polish origin to develop or improve their skills in social work by acquainting them with the changes that have occurred in Poland in recent years. Participation in this project will also provide Polish-Canadian youth with an opportunity for a cultural exchange and improvement of Polish language skills.

The ten volunteers and their guide will spend 20 days visiting chosen organizations in Poland. These organizations have demonstrated creative methods of integrating marginalized individuals who are unemployed or who have disabilities with society. The integration is accomplished by providing training and creating job opportunities at local companies focused on producing traditional crafts, promotion of Polish culture, and culturally educating events for children and youth. Volunteers will be provided training at these organizations. Special focus will be given to showcase the examples of modern "social economy" recently developed in Poland.

Volunteers will also have contact with Polish children, youth, and organizations. Volunteers will be exposed to Polish cultural heritage including crafts, ceramic and wood projects, theatre, and traditional Polish cooking by participating with individuals who are unemployed, who have disabilities, or face other forms of social exclusion.

Volunteers will be chosen based on a written essay. **To apply please submit an essay in either English or Polish** (3 pages maximum) to volunteer@barka.ca

Essay topic: ***What role can I play in solving social problems in my community, neighbourhood, or school / university?***

Potential questions to acknowledge:

1. Which social problems need to be addressed in your community?
2. How could you resolve them?
3. In what ways could we obtain the means to realize your solutions/ideas?

Application Deadline: May 16, 2018

Volunteers will be chosen in by the end of May. Preparatory training will occur in June in Vancouver.