

Bill #3
The Community Service Act
Moved by: Registrar General

WHEREAS many Canadians are plagued by “a great array of social problems” due to socio-economic inequality⁷

WHEREAS community service provides many benefits to the population, as well as personal growth to the doer⁸

WHEREAS carrying out “[service] together to solve public problems will build attachment to community and country”⁹

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Act is to
 - a. Establish the **HELP** Committee;
 - b. Ensure that individuals do their part in contributing to the wellbeing of society;
 - c. Mandate a community service program to support underprivileged groups facing social issues; and
 - d. Impose penalties according to the guidelines.

Definitions

2. The following terms shall be defined for the purposes of this Act:
 - a. **Young adult**: Every person between the ages of 16 and 24.
 - b. **Individual**: Every young adult subject to the clauses of this Act, as listed in the section “Persons required to serve.”
 - c. **Teenage parent**: Any person under the age of 18 who holds custody of a child or serves as the primary caretaker of one or multiple siblings.
 - d. **Medical exemption**: An official report from a licensed physician stating the individual is deemed unfit to conduct community service due to a medical condition.

Establishing HELP

3. The Helping and Elevating the Less-Privileged [**HELP**] Committee is hereby established.

⁷ Cassidy, H. M. (1947). The Canadian Social Services. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 253, 190–199. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1025981>

⁸ Hedin, D. P. (1989). The Power of Community Service. *Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science*, 37(2), 201–213. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1173962>

⁹ McChrystal, S. (2017, June 20). *Stanley McChrystal: Every American Should Serve For One Year*. Retrieved from <https://time.com/4824366/year-national-service-amicorps-peace-corps/>

Mandate and Powers of the HELP Committee

4. The mandate of the **HELP** committee is to:
 - a. Oversee the implementation of the *Community Service Act*;
 - b. Administer the community service program; and
 - c. Set up and manage the **HELP** work portal.
5. The **HELP** committee will be made up of:
 - a. Public service officials;
 - b. Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and
 - c. Representatives of community service organizations.

Persons required to serve

6. Community service is required for individuals in Canada who fall under any of the following categories:
 - a. Canadian citizens (by birth or naturalization);
 - b. Permanent residents of Canada; or
 - c. Non-citizens or permanent residents of Canada who have spent at least 10 years in Canada.
7. Service exemptions apply for the following groups:
 - a. Wards of the State;
 - b. Teenage parents;
 - c. Individuals under the care of a single parent;
 - d. Individuals with a valid medical exemption;
 - e. Individuals who are employed;
 - f. Individuals with an extensive criminal record; and
 - g. Individuals living as a member of a household that falls under the low-income threshold.

Service requirements

8. Every individual will be required to complete a full service period consisting of two terms.
 - a. One term equates to 120 hours of community service.
 - b. Each term must be completed within 12 months of its starting date.
9. A deferral of a maximum of 4 years may be granted to individuals pursuing higher education.
10. Failure to complete a full service period by the age of 25 will result in one or both of the following consequences:
 - a. **Fine:** A fine consisting of 5% of the individual's household income will be issued annually until a full service period has been fulfilled.
 - b. **Change of status:** Individuals who hold permanent residence status risk having their status revoked upon re-assessment.

Enrolment process

11. The **HELP** committee will create the **HELP** work portal. It will:
 - a. Provide an online assessment to be completed;
 - i. The assessment will ask for the following information from the individual:

1. Program(s) of study;
 2. Extracurricular and volunteer experience;
 3. Interests and passions; and
 4. Ranking of job sectors and sub-fields for intended pursuit.
- b. Evaluate individuals based on the information given in the assessment; and
 - c. Generate and display a list of organizations and positions relevant to the profile of the individual, as well as a general job bank containing every available position.
12. Individuals may choose to apply to positions suggested by the assessment or the general job bank.

Community service program

13. The portal will consist of positions offered by the following groups:
- a. Government-sponsored non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
 - b. Community organizations; and
 - c. Groups conducting social initiatives.
14. The positions in the Community Service Program must:
- a. Offer support to groups facing social issues; and
 - b. Not be physically demanding or mentally taxing for young adults.
15. Examples of organizations would include:
- a. Food distribution banks;
 - b. Homeless shelters; and
 - c. Community centres.
16. Terms relating to the work will be determined by the organization itself. This includes, but is not limited to:
- a. Additional registration requirements;
 - b. Duties of the position;
 - c. Format and location of work; and
 - d. Training period.
17. Logging and confirmation of service hours are to be submitted through the **HELP** work portal. It is subject to verification by the supervisor of the individual.