

April 15, 2013

Dear Nominating Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Marg Pollon for the Prime Minister's Volunteer Award. My recommendation is based on my personal knowledge of her outstanding volunteer contributions. Three years ago, I was introduced to Ms. Pollon's Bridges of Love Ministry. Marg emphatically shared her vision of seeing local churches networked and trained so that they could provide effective and coordinated disaster relief to their communities. Such a goal is not only admirable but has also proven to be highly effective.

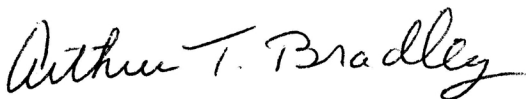
As the author of four national bestsellers on disaster preparedness, including the "Handbook to Practical Disaster Preparedness for the Family," I strongly endorse Marg's vision of having churches engaged in providing local emergency relief during widespread disasters. It is of little surprise that during and after disasters, citizens often seek assistance from their local churches, either in the form of shelter, food, or simply consolation to help cope with their losses.

I met Marg back in 2010 when she invited me to come up from the USA to Calgary to participate in the Church Emergency Preparedness initiative. The Deputy Mayor of Canada attended, as well as numerous representatives from Calgary's fire department, and the event was a great success. During the same visit, she set up and hosted two "Emergency Preparedness...Ready or Not" half day training sessions. One event took place at the Rocky Mountain College in Calgary, and a second event occurred in Red Deer. I truly appreciated all of the hard work Marg put into planning these events, as well as her commitment to providing the opportunity for the Calgary and Red Deer communities. I would be remiss if I didn't mention what a great ambassador Marg proved to be for Canada. Not only did she treat me as an honored guest, she also cared for me as if I was part of her own family.

I appreciate and applaud Bridges of Love Ministry's goal (and the associated Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative) to see churches more ready to respond to the needs of their communities. Being prepared for calamitous events takes pre-planning, training, and broad participation. Marg is sharing her vision by hosting widespread preparedness activities, providing education on emergency relief, networking across public, private and government sectors, and connecting with community churches.

It is with great pleasure that I offer my highest recommendation for Ms. Marg Pollon to receive the Prime Minister's Volunteer Award. She embodies all that such an honor should recognize; including faithful and selfless service to others, unwavering commitment, and demonstrating genuine passion for a worthwhile cause that benefits communities all across Canada.

Sincerely,



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