

A Big Sister to admire

Federal government employee gives back to her community through PEI's Big Brothers Big Sisters organization.

By Melinda Miller

Sept. 7, 2006 – Charlottetown, PEI – When Sarah Tyrrell signed up to be a Big Sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Prince Edward Island, she was thinking of all the strong role models she had while growing up.

"There are a lot of children who aren't as fortunate as others when it comes to having positive adult role models," Ms. Tyrrell said. "Being a Big Sister is something I've always wanted to do. It's a wonderful and fulfilling way to help the community. As well, Big and Little Sisters both get to try activities that they may not have otherwise tried."

Ms. Tyrrell, a communications advisor with the Canada Remembers program at Veterans Affairs Canada, spends her days preparing for commemorative events, ceremonies and significant anniversaries. Yet no matter how busy her life may be, she always has the time for her Little Sister.

"I look forward to our time together. We always have a lot of fun. We paint pottery, go out for dinner or a movie, or just ride our bikes."

"It feels good to know that in some small way, I'm making a difference in someone's life. Even so, I think I've received just as much out of this as my Little Sister, or maybe more."

Ms. Tyrrell is one example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities. Along with their regular volunteering, thousands of public servants participate in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, federal public servants contributed more than \$29.5 million to GCWCC in 113 communities nation-wide. GCWCC 2006 kicks off on September 7 and will run until November 22.

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