

5.viii Vulnerable Individuals Protection Policy

Approved September 2022

Definition: The term “Vulnerable Individuals” as used by the Manotick Village & Community Association (MVCA) includes children, youth and any vulnerable individual(s) that a volunteer may encounter during participation in an MVCA activity.

Introduction: MVCA sets forth basic requirements for volunteers who may interact directly with vulnerable individuals as part of community events or activities. MVCA is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all individuals in these situations. The following is for the safety and well-being of the vulnerable individuals, MVCA volunteers and the MVCA Board of Directors.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to ensure clear understanding of volunteer roles and responsibilities and MVCA’s responsibilities to volunteers when involved/interacting with vulnerable individuals.

Scope: Two-Deep Interaction Requirement

NOTE: MVCA recognizes this is a small community and there will be times when volunteers will know vulnerable individuals from outside of the MVCA volunteer environment.

Close one-on-one contact between vulnerable individuals by a non-parent or legal guardian by MVCA volunteer(s) during an event is generally prohibited.

Two-deep interaction means that there are a minimum of two adults present during any close interactions with vulnerable individuals. These adults **MUST** provide a clear VSC no more than two years old. Physical contact with children, youth and vulnerable individuals is generally not permitted though in some situations it may be necessary. For example, assisting children in or out of Derby carts. Volunteers will ensure that any physical contact is kept to a minimum and always remains appropriate.

Providing rides for vulnerable individuals to or from an event is not endorsed by MVCA. If it is absolutely necessary, at least two adult volunteers who have met MVCA’s clear VSC requirements should be present in the vehicle at all times.

The policies of two-deep interactions and no one-on-one contact between volunteers and vulnerable individuals also apply to digital communication. Volunteers may not have one-on-one private online communications or engage one-on-one in other digital activities (games, social media, etc.) with vulnerable individuals.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

Everyone in Ontario, including members of the public and professionals who work closely with children, is required by law to report suspected abuse or neglect.

If you have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is, or may be in need of protection, you must immediately report the suspicion and the information on which it is based directly to a

children's aid society. If you think the matter is urgent and you cannot reach the children's aid society, call the local police.

****Please refer to Section 5.ix for specific details on Vulnerable Sector Reference Check (VSC) Information**