

From Queen's Park by Sylvia Jones MMP ? The spirit of giving at this time of year

Christmas is indeed the most wonderful time of the year.

It's a time to celebrate, and a time to reflect on our many blessings.

It is also an opportunity to be mindful of those in our community who are in need, and assist organizations that are doing excellent work to help individuals who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

In December, one tradition in our home is a family discussion with our children as to which charity or organization they would like to donate to as part of their Christmas giving. Hearing them explain why they want to donate to a particular organization or group often leads to a wider discussion around challenges and solutions to problems facing our community.

Donations do not need to be limited to a financial commitment. Volunteering at the local food bank or Salvation Army kettle also helps at a time of year when everyone is trying to do more and volunteer time is at a premium.

The campaign that our Governor General David Johnson launched in November called, Dare2Give is an opportunity for Canadians to dare their friends, family and colleagues to donate or volunteer with them. Each time someone gives their time, talent or money, they make Canada a more caring nation.?

What a great reminder to all of us about the value Canadians place in the act of philanthropy.

In the spirit of Christmas, I dare you to donate your time, talents or treasures to an organization that you believe in.

From my family to yours, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year

