

*April 29, 2011*

## **Young Albertans give highways a spring cleaning on May 7**

### ***Annual Highway Cleanup Day runs for 35th year***

*Edmonton...* Young Albertans will give the province's highways a spring cleaning and earn some money for their clubs and community groups at the same time.

The 35th annual Highway Cleanup Day takes place Saturday, May 7, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the province. In case of inclement weather, the cleanup will take place the following Saturday, May 14.

Last year, approximately 5,000 young people from 357 clubs and non-profit organizations collected 44,000 bags of garbage from 5,500 kilometres of highway rights-of-way. That's enough garbage to fill 75 average-size bungalows from floor to ceiling.

Participants must be at least nine years old, attend a safety training program before participating, and are under adult supervision. Participants are distinguishable by their bright orange safety vests. Motorists are urged to slow down, obey signs, and be on the lookout when passing the workers in the ditches.

The highway cleanup is held annually on the first or second Saturday in May, as weather permits. Established as a fundraiser for non-profit and community groups, the program also helps keep Alberta's highways clean and safe by removing garbage from rights-of-way. Last year, volunteers earned \$476,000 for their groups and clubs.

Visit [www.transportation.alberta.ca/605.htm](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/605.htm) for more details on highway cleanup programs in Alberta.

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### **Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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## 35th Annual Highway Cleanup Day

### General Information

- Each year, between 5,000 and 7,500 kilometres of highway rights-of-way are cleaned.
- Most participants are between nine and 17 years old and represent minor sports, youth groups, or non-profit organizations. Adults may also participate. Money earned must be directed to non-profit, community, or youth organizations.
- The cleanup will focus on highway rights-of-way, which is the land adjacent to the highway.
- Cleanup work is done in partnership with Alberta's highway maintenance contractors who collect the garbage bags.
- Workers receive \$100 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way within 16 kilometres of cities or towns with populations greater than 5,000.
- Outside the 16-kilometre area, workers are paid \$55 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way.
- Workers receive \$100 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way for highways deemed "Special Areas" because these highways have unusually high concentrations of garbage.
- Visit [www.transportation.alberta.ca/605.htm](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/605.htm) for more information on highway cleanup day.

### Safety Information

- Participants and supervisors must go through a safety training program before they are allowed to take part in the cleanup.
- Workers wear bright orange safety vests, gloves, and sturdy footwear.
- There is at least one adult supervisor for every two workers under age 14 and at least one for every five workers aged 14-17. Adult workers do not require supervisors.
- Participants must stay off the highway and paved shoulder.
- Participants do not clean medians.
- Younger participants work further away from the road surface than older youth.
- Signs are posted alerting drivers to be cautious of cleanup activities occurring in the area.
- Traffic safety is coordinated with the RCMP.

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