

site Canada



Joanne Comisso
Business Development Manager
VIA Rail Canada

We asked Joanne to share her experience volunteering with SITE Canada:

"Volunteering for SITE is an excellent experience. I found that even though I did not really know what I was doing, I was welcomed and felt included in a great team of people."

As part of our SITE Canada Vital Volunteers initiative we conduct short interviews with our volunteers about their industry, career, etc. See below for Joanne's full interview.

Members Name: Joanne Comisso
Title: Business Development Manager
Company: VIA Rail Canada

Quick overview of your industry background.

I work with VIA Rail, Canada's National rail carrier. I have been in corporate sales for over 20 years. I also manage the charter car service in the GTA. Groups will charter 1 train car to an entire train to attend conferences. Prior to VIA, I was a regional director for a cosmetics company.

What has living in COVID times allowed you to develop or focus on that you may not have done otherwise?

On the personal side, I have focused on my workouts and my mental health. Because we are working from home these days, I have found that I need to stay active to keep my mind clear and my physical health strong. On the professional side, I have been taking courses to upgrade my skills and keep current.

Please share your experience volunteering for SITE Canada.

Volunteering for SITE was an excellent experience. I found that even though I did not really know what I was doing, I was welcomed and felt included in a great team of people. I felt that the previous directors were very helpful and kind. As were the past and current president when I was volunteering.

Share your perspective on the importance of volunteerism.

I have been volunteering for many years, and always felt part of a community. The people who volunteer are very like-minded and positive. Volunteering is very important because not

only does it give you a perspective on the industry, but it gives you a sense of worth that you may be making a positive difference to that industry.

What is the best piece of advice you ever got about our industry?

People are here because they want to be here, so enjoy the ride!

What career advice would you give to your younger self?

While you may believe that the world is black and white, there really is a lot of greys swirled in there. If you have a strong belief, you must hold fast to that belief and not be swayed. Stay true to yourself and you will prosper.

What do you do for fun?

I spend time with my grandchildren, they are my prize and my gift. I golf, I work out, I garden,