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Alberta volunteers have less time to give: New study *Volunteers favour shorter term commitments, contribution equals 66,000 jobs*

Toronto, December 11, 2003. Alberta volunteers are giving less time, on average, to charitable and nonprofit organizations, according to a new study by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. Fully 39% of the province's population, or 913,000 people, reported volunteering their time, contributing the equivalent of 66,000 full-time jobs. The average annual contribution made by volunteers, however, fell from 146 hours in 1997 to just 139 hours in 2000. This was the only such decrease in the country.

The findings come from the latest analysis of data gathered in 2000 in the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. The study also found that Albertans tended to favour shorter term volunteer commitments, with 71% saying they had been involved with an organization for five years or less, the highest such percentage in Canada.

"This analysis is the first time we've been able to take such a detailed look at how people in each province support one another in their communities," said Dr. Michael Hall, president and CEO (interim) of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. "These results are particularly relevant at this time of year when people are more aware of the importance of the work of charities and voluntary organizations."

The National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating is a partnership between the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, Health Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Statistics Canada and Volunteer Canada. In 2000, the survey gathered a substantial amount of information from more than 15,000 individual interviews. Researchers have been looking at various aspects of the data since then to better understand how Canadians give to charity and participate in their communities.

The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy is a national, charitable organization that works to advance the role and interests of the charitable sector for the benefit of Canadian communities.

For a detailed provincial fact sheet, or for more information on the survey, please visit www.givingandvolunteering.ca.

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For further information: Lisa Hartford
Manager, Research Communications
416.597.2293 x 225