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## **Volunteering drops in British Columbia: New study**

***B.C. ties Quebec for last place in donations to charities and nonprofits***

**Toronto, December 11, 2003.** The number of hours contributed by B.C. volunteers has dropped almost 16%, according to a new study by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. The province's residents volunteered 142.6 million hours in 2000, down from 169.4 million in 1997. This loss of 26.8 million hours is the equivalent of 14,000 full-time jobs.

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 just 74% of British Columbians reported giving money to a charitable or nonprofit organization, placing the province in last place with Quebec.

"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](http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca).

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