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Volunteering represents almost 23,000 jobs in Manitoba: New study

Worthy causes hard to identify, but volunteers giving more time

Toronto, December 11, 2003. Manitoba's volunteers contributed an average of 140 hours each to charitable causes in 2000, according to a new study by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. This is an increase of 8% from the 1997 total of 130 hours. In total, Manitobans volunteered 43.7 million hours in 2000, the equivalent of almost 23,000 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 donors were more likely than other Canadians to say that they did not donate more because they found it hard to find a worthy cause, or because they did not know where to donate.

"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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