

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saskatchewan leads country in volunteering: New study

Volunteers give equivalent of 26,000 full-time jobs, youth participation lags

Toronto, December 11, 2003. Fully 42% of Saskatchewan residents volunteer through a charity or nonprofit organization, giving the province the highest volunteer participation rate in Canada, according to a new study by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy.

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 residents contributed 49.7 million hours, the equivalent of 26,000 full-time jobs, up from 48.3 million hours in 1997. Despite the high level of overall participation, younger volunteers (those aged 15-29) accounted for just 115 hours per year on average, one of the lowest amounts in the country. Young volunteers in Newfoundland and Labrador, by comparison, contributed an average of 221 hours each.

“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 ever since 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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