

# Who are Prince Edward Island's Volunteers?

## Personal and economic characteristics

Thirty-seven percent of Prince Edward Island residents (40,000 people) volunteered an average of 183 hours each, according to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.<sup>1</sup> Whether individuals volunteer and how many hours they contribute vary with a number of personal and economic characteristics. This fact sheet explores the relationship between volunteering and age, education level, sex, labour force status, and household size.

### Age

Prince Edward Island residents aged 45 to 59 were the most likely to volunteer (48% volunteered in 2000), while those aged 60 and older were the least likely to do so (25%\*).

Although comparatively few Islanders aged 60 and older volunteered, this group contributed the most hours on average (314\*). Volunteers aged 15 to 29 contributed the fewest hours on average (133\*).

Volunteers aged 60 and older also accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of total volunteer hours. Although they made up only 14% of volunteers, they contributed 25%\* of all volunteer hours.

### Education

Volunteering in Prince Edward Island increased with the level of formal education attained. More than half (52%\*) of Islanders with a university degree volunteered. In contrast, just over one quarter (26%) of those with a high school diploma or less volunteered.

Volunteers with a university degree contributed the most hours on average (245\*), while those with a high school diploma or less contributed the fewest (136\*).

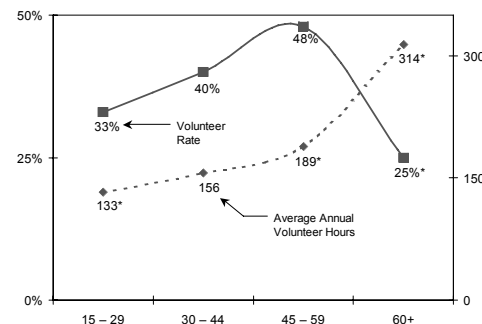
Volunteers with a university degree also accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of the total hours volunteered. They made up 17% of volunteers, but contributed 23%\* of all volunteer hours.

<sup>1</sup> NSGVP estimates are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over a one-year period by Canadians aged 15 and older.

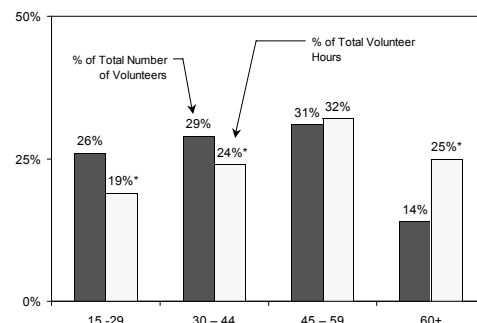
<sup>2</sup> This category includes the completion of a trade certificate or diploma, graduation from a community college or CEGEP, and some university.

\* Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

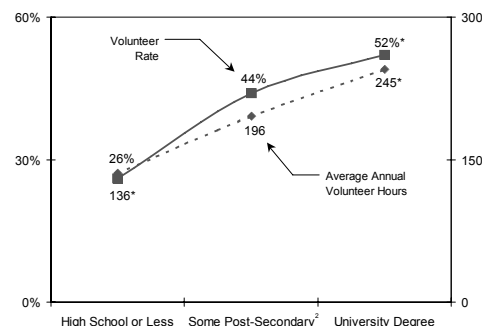
**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Age**



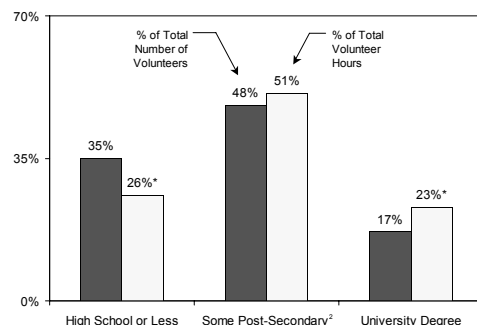
**Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Age**



**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Education**



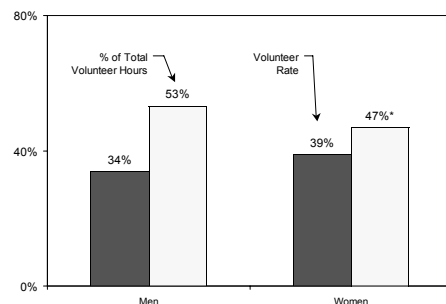
**Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Education**



**Sex**

Women in Prince Edward Island were more likely than men to volunteer (39% of women volunteered, compared to 34% of men). However, men who volunteered contributed more hours on average than did women (213 versus 159\*) and accounted for a higher percentage of the total hours volunteered (53% versus 47%\*).

**Volunteer Rate and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Sex**



**Labour force status**

Employed residents of Prince Edward Island were more likely to volunteer (38%) than were those who were unemployed or not in the labour force (35%).

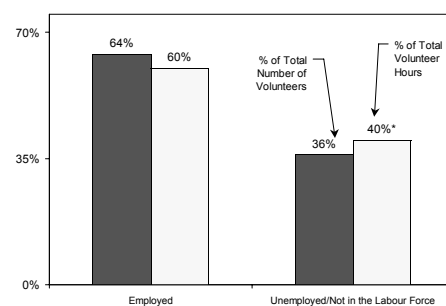
**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Labour Force Status**



However, volunteers who were unemployed or not in the labour force contributed more hours on average (205\*) than did those who were employed (171).

Volunteers who were unemployed or not in the labour force also accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of the total hours volunteered. Although they made up 36% of volunteers, they contributed 40%\* of all volunteer hours.

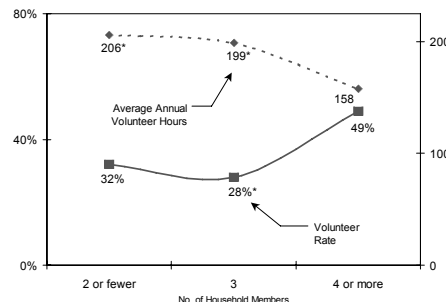
**Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Labour Force Status**



**Household size**

Almost half (49%) of Islanders living in households with four or more members volunteered, while fewer than three in ten (28%\*) of those residing in three-member households did so.

**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Number of Household Members**



However, volunteers living in smaller households contributed the most volunteer hours. Islanders living in households with two or fewer members contributed 206\* hours on average, while those living in households with four or more members contributed 158 hours on average.

For more information on the 1997 and 2000 National Survey for Giving, Volunteering and Participating, including full text of the highlight report, *Caring Canadians*, *Involved Canadians*, please visit [www.givingandvolunteering.ca](http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca).

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Canadian Centre for Philanthropy Research Program  
425 University Ave., Suite 700  
Toronto, ON M5G 1T6  
tel. 416.597.2293  
fax. 416.597.2294

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