

# Giving and Volunteering in Vancouver



## Fact Sheet #31

**National Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating**

### Giving: How Many? How Much?

Over two thirds of people living in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Vancouver, British Columbia<sup>1</sup> made financial donations to charitable and nonprofit organizations, according to the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).<sup>2</sup>

On average, donors in Vancouver gave a total of \$224, annually, for a total of \$239.4 million.

### Much comes from the few

Almost half of the total dollar value of all Vancouver donations came from the 5% of donors who gave \$761 or more. The twenty percent of donors who gave between \$200 and \$760 accounted for 31% of the total value of donations. These two groups accounted for only one quarter of all donors, but contributed 80% of all financial donations.

### Where donations go

Vancouver donors gave more money to religious organizations than to any other type of organization, as did British Columbians as a whole. Nearly four out of every ten dollars donated went to religious organizations (\$93.6 million), even though these organizations received only 10% of the total number of charitable donations.<sup>3</sup>

Fifteen percent (\$34.9 million) of the total dollar value of donations went to health organizations, which accounted for 30% of all donations.

Social service organizations received 17% (\$39.7 million) of the total value of donations, and these organizations received 29% of the total number of donations.

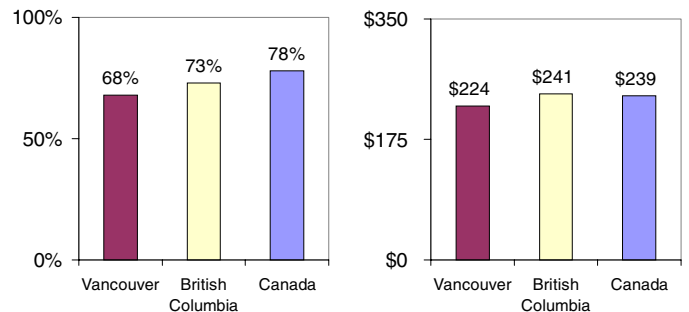
Philanthropy and voluntarism organizations received 10% (\$24 million) of the total value of donations which accounted for 5% of the total number of donations. This category includes foundations (e.g., private, corporate, and community), support and service organizations (e.g. volunteer centres), as well as fundraising organizations.

1. The census metropolitan area is the geographic region designated by Statistics Canada for collecting census data.

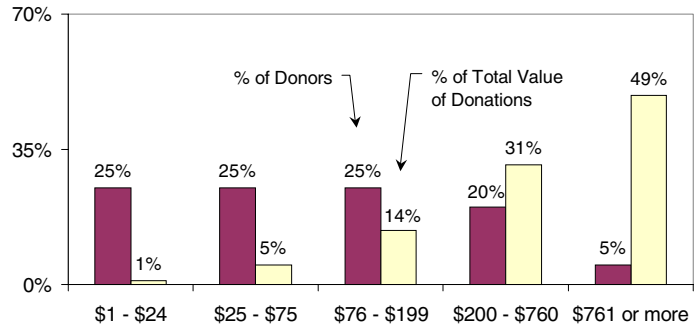
2. Findings from the NSGVP are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over the one-year period from November 1, 1996 to October 31, 1997 by Canadians aged 15 and older.

3. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

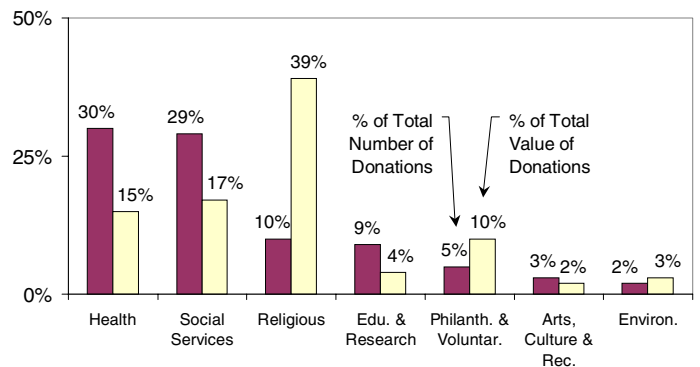
Percentage of Population Making Donations and Average Annual Donation by Geographic Area



Percentage of Donors and Percentage of Value of Donations by Size of Donation



Percentage of Donations and Percentage of the Value of Donations Received by Type of Organization



### QUICK facts...

**Vancouver residents were less likely to make financial donations and volunteer, when compared to residents of British Columbia and Canada as a whole.**

**Only 39% of the total value of donations went to religious organizations compared to 48% for the province and 51% for Canada as a whole.**

## Volunteering: How Many? How Much?

One in four people living in the Vancouver CMA volunteered for a charitable or nonprofit organization.

On average, Vancouver volunteers contributed 135 hours each during the year, for a total of 53.5 million hours.

## Much comes from the few

Nearly three out of ten volunteer hours were contributed by 5% of volunteers – those who gave 466 hours or more of their time. However, the 20% of volunteers who gave between 178 and 465 hours accounted for 41% of all volunteer hours. Although these two groups comprised of only one quarter of volunteers, they contributed 68% of all volunteer hours.

## What volunteers do

The most common volunteer activities are similar to provincial patterns:

- 🍁 Organizing and supervising activities or events (44%)<sup>4</sup>
- 🍁 Canvassing, campaigning, or fundraising (42%)
- 🍁 Serving as an unpaid member of a board or committee (38%)

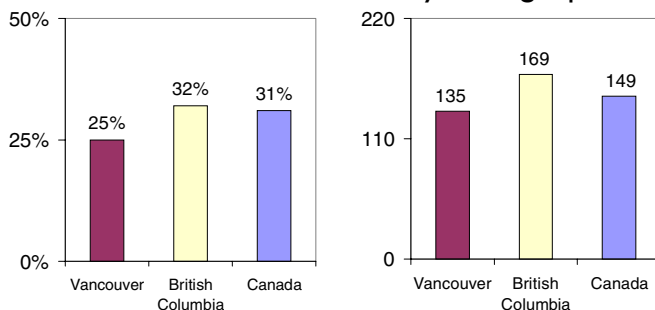
## Where they volunteer

In the Vancouver CMA most volunteering occurred in four types of organizations:

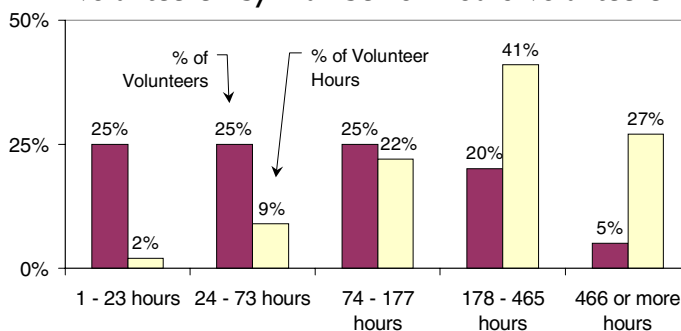
- 🍁 Social service organizations
- 🍁 Arts, culture and recreation organizations
- 🍁 Education and research organizations
- 🍁 Religious organizations

These four types of organizations accounted for three-quarters of all volunteer hours and 71% of all volunteer events.

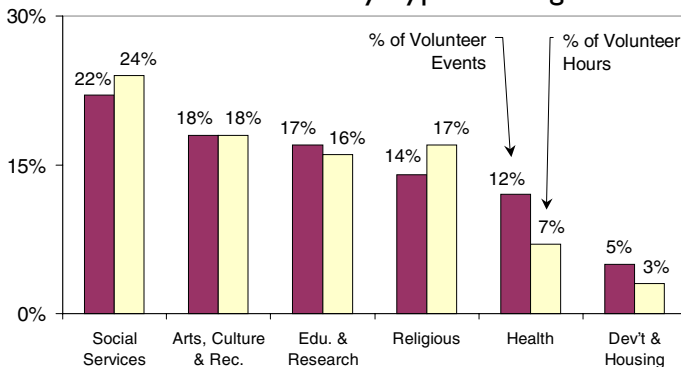
Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Geographic Area



Percentage of Volunteers and Total Hours Volunteered by Number of Hours Volunteered



Percentage of Volunteer Events<sup>5</sup> and Percentage of Volunteer Hours by Type of Organization



4. Each occurrence of volunteering for an organization reported by an individual volunteer constitutes one volunteer event. Percentages do not add up to 100% because many volunteers engaged in more than one type of activity.

5. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



Canadian Centre for Philanthropy™  
Le Centre canadien de philanthropie<sup>MC</sup>



VOLUNTEER  
BÉNÉVOLES  
CANADA

We would like to acknowledge the support provided by the Government of British Columbia for the production of this fact sheet.

Re-issued April 2001

More information on the results of the NSGVP, including the full text of the highlight report *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians*, is available online at our Web site: [www.nsgvp.org](http://www.nsgvp.org)

Or contact us:

Manager, Research Projects  
Canadian Centre for Philanthropy  
425 University Avenue, Suite 700  
Toronto Ontario, M5G 1T6  
Phone: 416-597-2293 ext. 238 Fax: 416-597-2294  
e-mail: [ccpresearch@ccp.ca](mailto:ccpresearch@ccp.ca)

Fact Sheet #31 written by Stephanie Saunders,  
Research Associate, Canadian Centre for Philanthropy.