

# Profile of Volunteering



## Time .....

- Volunteerism has increased. In 2003, 29% of immigrants to Canada volunteered with charitable or non-profit organizations, up from 21% in 2000. Among Canadian-born residents, the rate rose from 29% in 2000 to 35% by 2003.
- People volunteer in order to contribute to their community, acquire new skills, gain job experience, make friends, or advance a particular cause. In 2000, the majority of immigrant and Canadian-born volunteers said they volunteered to “help a cause” in which they believed (93% and 95% respectively).
- A larger proportion of immigrants volunteered in order to fulfill religious obligations: 35% compared to 25% among Canadian-born residents.

### Reasons for volunteering, 2000

Immigrant and Canadian-born volunteers aged 15 and older

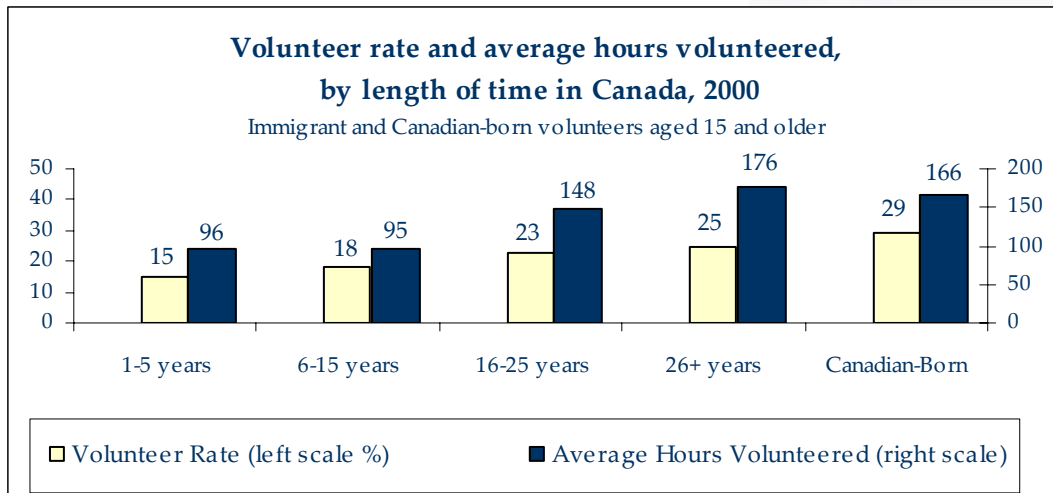
	Immigrants (%)	Canadian-born (%)
Helping cause in which you believe	93	95
Use your skills and experiences	76	82
Personally affected by cause organization supports	67	69
Explore your own strengths	54	58
Fulfill your religious obligations	35	25
Because your friends volunteer	28	30
Improve your job opportunities	17	24
Required to volunteer by school	*	8

\* Results suppressed due to small sample size.

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2000.

- In 2000, immigrant volunteers gave an average of 144 hours per year. Canadian-born volunteers averaged 166 hours.
- In fact, immigrants donated a total of 98.8 million hours that year to all types of organizations – the equivalent of over 50,000 full-time jobs. This represented almost 10% of the over one billion hours volunteered by all Canadians in 2000.
- Immigrants who had lived in Canada for one to five years volunteered an average of 96 hours in 2000. Those who had lived here for more than 26 years gave an average of 176 volunteer hours per year to their community.
- Volunteering is more common among adult immigrants aged 55 to 64. In 2000, 28% contributed their time to voluntary and nonprofit organizations. Among Canadian-born citizens, those aged 35 to 54 had the highest volunteer rate (32%).

- Immigrant seniors volunteered an average of 247 hours per year in 2000, compared to an average of 88 hours contributed by immigrant youth.



Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2000.

- Canadian-born youth aged 15 to 24 were much more likely to volunteer than immigrant youth: 31% compared to 18%.
- A lack of time is one of the main barriers preventing recent immigrants to Canada from volunteering with community organizations. Three-quarters of those who did not volunteer in 2000 said “they did not have the extra time” needed to volunteer. Just under half (45%) said they did not feel they were able to “make year-round commitments.”

## ..... and Money

- The majority of all Canadians make donations to charitable and non-profit organizations through financial contributions or donations in-kind. In 2000, 82% of immigrants and 80% of Canadian-born residents made charitable contributions.
- Longer-established immigrants have higher rates of giving than recent immigrants. Among those who had lived in Canada for less than six years, 60% made donations to nonprofit organizations in 2000, compared to 91% among established immigrants.
- Health charities were the number one destination for charitable dollars in 2000, among both immigrant and Canadian-born donors: 62% and 70% respectively.
- Immigrants are more likely to contribute to religious organizations. In 2000, half the immigrant population donated money to churches, mosques, temples, and other types of faith groups, compared to 40% of Canadian-born donors.