

NEWS RELEASE

Canadian generosity hits lowest point in 20 years

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For immediate release

VANCOUVER—The number of Canadians donating to charity—as a percentage of all tax filers—is at the lowest point in 20 years, finds a new study published by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“The holiday season is a time to reflect on charitable giving, and the data shows Canadians are consistently less charitable every year, which means charities face greater challenges to secure resources to help those in need,” said Jake Fuss, director of Fiscal Studies at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Generosity in Canada: The 2023 Generosity Index*.

The study finds that the percentage of Canadian tax filers donating to charity during the 2021 tax year—just 17.7 per cent—is the lowest proportion of Canadians donating since at least 2001. Canadians’ generosity peaked at 25.4 per cent of tax-filers donating in 2004, before declining in subsequent years.

Nationally, the total amount donated to charity by Canadian tax filers has also fallen from 0.58 per cent of income in 2001 to 0.55 per cent of income in 2021.

The study finds that Manitoba had the highest percentage of tax filers that donated to charity among the provinces (19.7 per cent) during the 2021 tax year while New Brunswick had the lowest (15.4 per cent).

Likewise, Manitoba also donated the highest percentage of its aggregate income to charity among the provinces (0.74 per cent) while Quebec donated the lowest (0.26 per cent).

“A smaller proportion of Canadians are donating to registered charities than what we saw in previous decades, and those who are donating are donating less,” said Fuss.

“This decline in generosity in Canada undoubtedly limits the ability of Canadian charities to improve the quality of life in their communities and beyond.”

Generosity of Canadian provinces and territories

Province/Territory (ranking in 2023 Generosity Index)	% of tax filers who claimed charitable donations	Average dollar value of all charitable donations	% of aggregate income donated to charity
Manitoba	19.7	\$2,601	0.74
Ontario	18.2	\$2,729	0.63
Quebec	17.6	\$1,026	0.26
Prince Edward Island	17.6	\$1,822	0.48
British Columbia	17.4	\$3,318	0.73
Saskatchewan	17.3	\$2,326	0.54
Alberta	17.1	\$3,180	0.62
Nova Scotia	16.2	\$1,788	0.43
Newfoundland and Labrador	15.7	\$1,438	0.32
New Brunswick	15.4	\$1,803	0.44
Yukon	15.0	\$1,910	0.26
Northwest Territories	10.9	\$2,301	0.21
Nunavut	5.4	\$2,642	0.15

NOTE: Table based on 2021 tax year, the most recent year of comparable data in Canada

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