

Generosity in Canada and the United States: The 2006 Generosity Index

Main Conclusions

- The Generosity Index measures private monetary generosity using two indicators: the percentage of tax-filers that donate to charities (the extent), and the percentage of aggregate personal incomes donated to charity (the depth).
- An evaluation of charitable giving in Canada reveals that Manitoba (28.5 percent) and Ontario (27.7 percent) are the provinces with the highest percentage of tax-filers who donate to charity. Newfoundland (21.5) maintained the lowest percentage of tax-filers donating to charity.
- Manitoba (1.02 percent) and Ontario (0.87 percent) are also the provinces with the highest percentage of aggregate income donated to charity. Quebec ranked last among the provinces with only 0.33 percent of aggregate income donated to charity.
- Although the extent (proportion of tax-filers donating to charity) of charitable giving fell in almost every Canadian province and territory over the past decade (1994-2004), the percentage of income donated has increased.
- A higher percentage of tax-filers donated to charity in the United States (30.4 percent) than in Canada (25.4 percent). Similarly, Americans (1.67 percent) gave a higher percentage of their aggregate income to charity than Canadians (0.72 percent).



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- The extent of the generosity varies significantly among sub-national jurisdictions in Canada and the US. For instance, only Manitoba (27th) and Ontario (30th), Canada's top-ranked provinces, make it into the top half of the list.
- In terms of the percentage of income donated, in a comparison among US states and Canadian provinces and territories, Canadian jurisdictions fell behind almost every single US state, with the exception of North Dakota and West Virginia.
- American states topped the Generosity Index rankings. Utah ranked first with a score of 8.8. Maryland (7.9) and the District of Columbia (6.9) ranked second and third. Manitoba, the best-rated Canadian province, ranked 38th with an overall score of 3.7. The three territories ranked at the bottom of the list.

Introduction

Interest in the charitable sector and all its good works is heightened each year as the Christmas holidays approach. This sector depends on thousands of acts of individual generosity by ordinary citizens who donate privately to charities to enhance the quality of life in their

communities and beyond. The Fraser Institute's annual Generosity Index measures this private monetary generosity using readily available data about the size and extent of charitable donations, as recorded on personal income tax returns in Canada and the United States.¹ The 2006 index reveals a persistent

generosity gap between these two countries.

The Generosity Index

The Generosity Index² measures private monetary generosity using two key indicators. The percentage of tax filers that donate to charity

Table 1: Canadian Results and Rankings

| Province | Percent of returns with charitable donations | | Province | Percent of income donated | | Province | Average charitable donation | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | % | Rank (out of 13) | | % | Rank (out of 13) | | Amount (\$) | Rank (out of 13) |
| Manitoba | 28.5 | 1 | Manitoba | 1.02 | 1 | Alberta | 1,623 | 1 |
| Ontario | 27.7 | 2 | Ontario | 0.87 | 2 | Ontario | 1,455 | 2 |
| Saskatchewan | 26.7 | 3 | Alberta | 0.83 | 3 | British Columbia | 1,400 | 3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 26.1 | 4 | British Columbia | 0.81 | 4 | Manitoba | 1,376 | 4 |
| Alberta | 25.6 | 5 | Saskatchewan | 0.81 | 4 | Nunavut | 1,264 | 5 |
| British Columbia | 24.1 | 6 | Prince Edward Island | 0.71 | 6 | Saskatchewan | 1,152 | 6 |
| Nova Scotia | 23.8 | 7 | New Brunswick | 0.70 | 7 | New Brunswick | 1,041 | 7 |
| New Brunswick | 23.3 | 8 | Nova Scotia | 0.62 | 8 | Northwest Territories | 1,033 | 8 |
| Quebec | 22.6 | 9 | Newfoundland & Labrador | 0.51 | 9 | Nova Scotia | 979 | 9 |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 21.5 | 10 | Yukon | 0.34 | 10 | Yukon | 947 | 10 |
| Yukon | 20.7 | 11 | Quebec | 0.33 | 11 | Prince Edward Island | 927 | 11 |
| Northwest Territories | 17.5 | 12 | Northwest Territories | 0.27 | 12 | Newfoundland & Labrador | 794 | 12 |
| Nunavut | 11.5 | 13 | Nunavut | 0.23 | 13 | Quebec | 545 | 13 |
| Canada | 25.4 | | Canada | 0.72 | | Canada | 1,214 | |

Sources: Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (2006); calculations by the authors.

Table 2: Change in Canadian Generosity by Province, 1994 to 2004

| | Percent of returns with charitable donations (%) | | | | Percent of income donated (%) | | | |
|---|--|------|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|--------------------|
| | 1994 | 1999 | 2004 | % change 1994-2004 | 1994 | 1999 | 2004 | % change 1994-2004 |
| British Columbia | 24.1 | 22.6 | 24.1 | (0.1) | 0.56 | 0.68 | 0.81 | 45.4 |
| Alberta | 26.8 | 24.2 | 25.6 | (4.5) | 0.62 | 0.69 | 0.83 | 34.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 29.8 | 27.1 | 26.7 | (10.3) | 0.74 | 0.75 | 0.81 | 9.2 |
| Manitoba | 30.2 | 28.5 | 28.5 | (5.6) | 0.73 | 0.92 | 1.02 | 39.3 |
| Ontario | 29.0 | 27.3 | 27.7 | (4.3) | 0.59 | 0.73 | 0.87 | 47.0 |
| Quebec | 24.7 | 22.0 | 22.6 | (8.2) | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.33 | 15.5 |
| New Brunswick | 25.0 | 22.6 | 23.3 | (6.6) | 0.62 | 0.64 | 0.70 | 13.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 26.9 | 23.8 | 23.8 | (11.5) | 0.51 | 0.55 | 0.62 | 22.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 32.3 | 27.5 | 26.1 | (19.1) | 0.68 | 0.63 | 0.71 | 5.2 |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 21.2 | 20.4 | 21.5 | 1.5 | 0.45 | 0.47 | 0.51 | 14.4 |
| Yukon | 19.6 | 17.7 | 20.7 | 5.7 | 0.30 | 0.45 | 0.34 | 13.2 |
| Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) | 13.9 | 13.2 | 15.4 | 10.8 | 0.26 | 0.29 | 0.26 | 1.1 |

Sources: Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (2006); calculations by the authors.

indicates the extent of generosity while the percentage of aggregate personal income donated to charity indicates the depth of charitable giving.³ While not used to calculate the Generosity Index scores, the average dollar value of charitable donations provides additional information about the total level of private resources available to charities in each jurisdiction. The jurisdictions included in the index are the 10 Canadian provinces, 3 territories, 50 US states, and the District of Columbia. The data used is from the 2004 tax year, the most recent year for which data is available. The data collected for the Generosity Index shows that stark differences in charitable giving exist within

Canada, as well as between Canada and the United States.

Charitable giving in Canada

Table 1 presents these differences for the Canadian provinces and territories. Manitoba ranks first in terms of the proportion of tax-filers that donate to charity (28.5 percent). Manitoba is followed by Ontario (27.7 percent), Saskatchewan (26.7 percent), Prince Edward Island (26.1 percent), and Alberta (25.6 percent). The provinces with the lowest percentage of tax-filers donating to charity are Newfoundland (21.5 percent) and Quebec (22.6 percent), just ahead of the three territories, where between

11.5 percent (Nunavut) and 20.7 percent (Yukon) of tax-filers donate to charity.

Manitoba and Ontario also top the list for donating the highest percentage of aggregate income to charity. Manitoba gave 1.02 percent of aggregate income to charity, followed by Ontario and the Western provinces (Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan). Quebec ranks last among the provinces, donating 0.33 percent of aggregate income to charity—one-third the rate of top-ranked Manitoba.

While not used to calculate the Generosity Index, data on average charitable donations is also provided for interest. Alberta has the highest

average charitable donation (\$1,623), followed by Ontario and British Columbia, where the average charitable donations are \$1,455 and \$1,400 respectively. As in previous years, Quebec ranked last among all provinces and territories; at \$545, it has the lowest average charitable donation—less than half the national average of \$1,214.

Canadian giving trends from 1994-2004

Table 2 presents the change in Canadian generosity by province over the past decade. What is most striking about these trends is that the extent of charitable giving fell in almost every province and territory. Newfoundland was the only province to see the percentage of tax-filers donating to charity increase slightly (by 1.5 percent). Amongst the provinces, the drop in the percentage of tax-filers donating to charity between 1994 and 2004 was most pronounced in Prince Edward Island (19.1 percent). Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan also experienced at least a 10 percent decrease in the percentage of tax-filers donating to charity. British Columbia saw virtually no change in its extent of charitable giving.

On the other hand, all Canadian jurisdictions recorded increases in the percentage of aggregate income donated to charity between 1994 and 2004. The increase is most striking in Ontario and British Columbia, where the percentage of aggregate income donated to

charity grew by 47.0 percent and 45.4 percent respectively. Manitoba and Alberta also saw significant increases in the depth of charitable giving, recording increases of 39.3 and 34.9 percent, respectively. In sharp contrast, the growth in the percentage of aggregate income donated to charity was less than 10 percent in Saskatchewan (9.2 percent) and Prince Edward Island (5.2 percent). Amongst the territories, there was a marked increase in aggregate income donated in the Yukon (13.2 percent). That said, the depth of charitable giving remained nearly constant in the Northwest

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Territories, where the percent of aggregate income donated to charity increased just 1.1 percent, the smallest change recorded by any jurisdiction in Canada.

Comparing Canada and the United States

The starkest differences exist, however, when Canadian generosity is compared to American generosity. In the United States, the extent of generosity is 5 percentage points

higher: 30.4 percent of US tax-filers donate to charity compared to 25.4 percent of Canadians.

The gap between these two countries widens significantly when considering the depth of the generosity of each. In 2004, Americans gave 1.67 percent of their aggregate income to charity, resulting in a total of US\$162 billion in donations. This rate of giving is more than double that of Canadians, who gave 0.72 percent of aggregate income (Cdn\$7 billion in total) to charity in 2004.⁴ If Canadians had given, in aggregate, the same percentage of their incomes to charity as Americans did, the Canadian charitable sector would have received an additional \$9.2 billion in privately-donated revenue.

Sub-national differences

The size of the generosity gap varies significantly between sub-national jurisdictions. Table 3 presents the data and ranks of all states, provinces, and territories in Canada and the US, for both measures included in the Generosity Index (percentage of tax-filers donating to charity and the aggregate level of income donated).

As it did last year, Maryland had the highest percentage of tax-filers donating to charity (44.7 percent), followed by New Jersey (41.0 percent) and Connecticut (40.1 percent). Manitoba and Ontario, Canada's two top-ranked provinces on this measure, made it into the top half of the list, ranking 27th and 30th respectively.

Canadian provinces and territories do far worse when comparing the depth of charitable giving, falling

Table 3: Results and Rank for Charitable Contributions, Canada & USA

| State/Province | Percent of returns with charitable donations | | State/Province | Percent of income donated | | State/Province | Average charitable donation | |
|----------------------|--|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | % | Rank (out of 64) | | % | Rank (out of 64) | | Local currency (\$) | Rank (out of 64) |
| Maryland | 44.7 | 1 | Utah | 3.67 | 1 | Wyoming | 7,789 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 41.0 | 2 | District of Columbia | 2.27 | 2 | Utah | 6,400 | 2 |
| Connecticut | 40.1 | 3 | Georgia | 2.22 | 3 | District of Columbia | 6,363 | 3 |
| District of Columbia | 37.5 | 4 | Maryland | 2.21 | 4 | Tennessee | 5,370 | 4 |
| Minnesota | 37.2 | 5 | South Carolina | 2.08 | 5 | Arkansas | 5,208 | 5 |
| Massachusetts | 37.1 | 6 | Alabama | 1.96 | 6 | Texas | 4,985 | 6 |
| Utah | 36.4 | 7 | North Carolina | 1.96 | 6 | Alabama | 4,829 | 7 |
| Colorado | 36.0 | 8 | New York | 1.95 | 8 | Oklahoma | 4,805 | 8 |
| Virginia | 35.5 | 9 | Nevada | 1.89 | 9 | Mississippi | 4,790 | 9 |
| New York | 35.5 | 9 | Idaho | 1.86 | 10 | South Dakota | 4,730 | 10 |
| Georgia | 34.8 | 11 | Oklahoma | 1.85 | 11 | New York | 4,724 | 11 |
| Oregon | 34.8 | 11 | Wyoming | 1.82 | 12 | Georgia | 4,469 | 12 |
| California | 34.5 | 13 | Virginia | 1.80 | 13 | South Carolina | 4,428 | 13 |
| Rhode Island | 34.1 | 14 | Tennessee | 1.73 | 14 | Florida | 4,345 | 14 |
| Arizona | 33.3 | 15 | California | 1.73 | 14 | Nevada | 4,328 | 15 |
| Wisconsin | 32.8 | 16 | Arkansas | 1.73 | 14 | Louisiana | 4,244 | 16 |
| Delaware | 32.6 | 17 | Minnesota | 1.71 | 17 | Maryland | 4,151 | 17 |
| Michigan | 32.5 | 18 | Colorado | 1.70 | 18 | California | 4,135 | 18 |
| Illinois | 31.9 | 19 | Connecticut | 1.69 | 19 | North Carolina | 4,119 | 19 |
| North Carolina | 31.9 | 19 | Florida | 1.67 | 20 | Kansas | 4,099 | 20 |
| Nevada | 31.7 | 21 | Oregon | 1.66 | 21 | Idaho | 4,040 | 21 |
| Washington | 31.0 | 22 | Arizona | 1.66 | 21 | Connecticut | 4,033 | 22 |
| New Hampshire | 30.6 | 23 | Michigan | 1.65 | 23 | Nebraska | 3,884 | 23 |
| Idaho | 29.4 | 24 | Delaware | 1.64 | 24 | Virginia | 3,879 | 24 |
| Hawaii | 29.4 | 24 | Mississippi | 1.62 | 25 | Washington | 3,874 | 25 |
| South Carolina | 28.9 | 26 | Washington | 1.60 | 26 | Illinois | 3,833 | 26 |
| Manitoba | 28.5 | 27 | Illinois | 1.59 | 27 | Missouri | 3,773 | 27 |
| Ohio | 28.4 | 28 | Kansas | 1.57 | 28 | Delaware | 3,747 | 28 |
| Pennsylvania | 28.2 | 29 | New Jersey | 1.52 | 29 | North Dakota | 3,735 | 29 |

Table 3: Results and Rank for Charitable Contributions, Canada & USA

| State/Province | Percent of returns with charitable donations | | State/Province | Percent of income donated | | State/Province | Average charitable donation | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | % | Rank (out of 64) | | % | Rank (out of 64) | | Local currency (\$) | Rank (out of 64) |
| Ontario | 27.7 | 30 | Nebraska | 1.52 | 29 | Alaska | 3,734 | 30 |
| Iowa | 27.3 | 31 | Missouri | 1.50 | 31 | Colorado | 3,677 | 31 |
| Nebraska | 27.0 | 32 | Massachusetts | 1.47 | 32 | West Virginia | 3,677 | 31 |
| Alabama | 27.0 | 32 | Kentucky | 1.47 | 32 | Indiana | 3,672 | 33 |
| Saskatchewan | 26.7 | 34 | Texas | 1.44 | 34 | Kentucky | 3,562 | 34 |
| Kansas | 26.7 | 34 | Indiana | 1.42 | 35 | Michigan | 3,556 | 35 |
| Florida | 26.7 | 36 | Ohio | 1.39 | 36 | Minnesota | 3,528 | 36 |
| Missouri | 26.6 | 37 | Pennsylvania | 1.38 | 37 | Pennsylvania | 3,466 | 37 |
| Maine | 26.4 | 38 | Hawaii | 1.36 | 38 | Massachusetts | 3,465 | 38 |
| Kentucky | 26.2 | 39 | Montana | 1.36 | 38 | Arizona | 3,454 | 39 |
| Prince Edward Island | 26.1 | 40 | Wisconsin | 1.36 | 38 | Oregon | 3,291 | 40 |
| Oklahoma | 26.1 | 40 | Iowa | 1.27 | 41 | New Jersey | 3,286 | 41 |
| Alberta | 25.6 | 42 | Rhode Island | 1.26 | 42 | New Mexico | 3,274 | 42 |
| Montana | 25.4 | 43 | Louisiana | 1.21 | 43 | Iowa | 3,179 | 43 |
| Indiana | 25.4 | 43 | New Mexico | 1.18 | 44 | Ohio | 3,163 | 44 |
| Vermont | 24.2 | 45 | Alaska | 1.17 | 45 | Hawaii | 3,145 | 45 |
| British Columbia | 24.1 | 46 | New Hampshire | 1.15 | 46 | Montana | 3,120 | 46 |
| Nova Scotia | 23.8 | 47 | South Dakota | 1.09 | 47 | Vermont | 2,868 | 47 |
| New Brunswick | 23.3 | 48 | Vermont | 1.09 | 47 | Wisconsin | 2,784 | 48 |
| Quebec | 22.6 | 49 | Maine | 1.07 | 49 | New Hampshire | 2,780 | 49 |
| New Mexico | 22.1 | 50 | Manitoba | 1.02 | 50 | Rhode Island | 2,718 | 50 |
| Tennessee | 21.6 | 51 | North Dakota | 0.96 | 51 | Maine | 2,575 | 51 |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 21.5 | 52 | Ontario | 0.87 | 52 | Alberta | 1,623 | 52 |
| Texas | 21.1 | 53 | West Virginia | 0.85 | 53 | Ontario | 1,455 | 53 |
| Yukon | 20.7 | 54 | Alberta | 0.83 | 54 | British Columbia | 1,400 | 54 |
| Arkansas | 20.7 | 54 | British Columbia | 0.81 | 55 | Manitoba | 1,376 | 55 |

Table 3: Results and Rank for Charitable Contributions, Canada & USA

| State/Province | Percent of returns with charitable donations | | State/Province | Percent of income donated | | State/Province | Average charitable donation | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | % | Rank (out of 64) | | % | Rank (out of 64) | | Local currency (\$) | Rank (out of 64) |
| Mississippi | 20.2 | 56 | Saskatchewan | 0.81 | 55 | Nunavut | 1,264 | 56 |
| Alaska | 20.2 | 56 | Prince Edward Island | 0.71 | 57 | Saskatchewan | 1,152 | 57 |
| Louisiana | 18.6 | 58 | New Brunswick | 0.70 | 58 | New Brunswick | 1,041 | 58 |
| Northwest Territories | 17.5 | 59 | Nova Scotia | 0.62 | 59 | Northwest Territories | 1,033 | 59 |
| Wyoming | 17.0 | 60 | Newfoundland & Labrador | 0.51 | 60 | Nova Scotia | 979 | 60 |
| North Dakota | 15.6 | 61 | Yukon | 0.34 | 61 | Yukon | 947 | 61 |
| South Dakota | 15.3 | 62 | Quebec | 0.33 | 62 | Prince Edward Island | 927 | 62 |
| West Virginia | 14.1 | 63 | Northwest Territories | 0.27 | 63 | Newfoundland & Labrador | 794 | 63 |
| Nunavut | 11.5 | 64 | Nunavut | 0.23 | 64 | Quebec | 545 | 64 |

Sources: Internal Revenue Service (2006); Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (2006); Bureau of Economic Analysis (2006); calculations by the authors.

behind almost every single US state in terms of percentage of income donated. All US states, with the exception of North Dakota and West Virginia, gave a higher percentage of aggregate income to charity than any Canadian province. In Utah, the aggregate income donated to charity was 3.67 percent, the highest amongst US states and Canadian provinces. In contrast, the aggregate income donated in Manitoba, Canada's top-ranked province by this measure, was just 1.02 percent—less than a third the amount donated in Utah.

While not included in the calculations for the Generosity Index, Canada makes its poorest showing in terms of the average value of charitable donations in local currency. The average US donation was US\$4,012, almost four times more than the average donation in Canada (Cdn\$1,214). Top-ranked Wyoming recorded an average charitable donation of US\$7,789, almost five times more than the average in Alberta (Cdn\$1,623), Canada's top-ranked province by this measure. Even in Maine, the lowest ranked US state, the average

donation (US\$2,575) is nearly \$1,000 more than the average donation in Alberta. These differences are even more pronounced when currency differences are taken into account.

The 2006 Generosity Index

Table 4 presents the overall results of the 2006 Generosity Index. Index scores are presented for the percentage of extent and depth of charitable giving, as well as the overall index scores, for each state, province, and territory considered.

Table 4: Generosity Index Scores for Canada and the USA

| State/Province | Generosity Index | | Indicator 1: Percent of returns with charitable donations | | | Indicator 2: Percent of income donated | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) | % | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) | % | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) |
| Utah | 8.8 | 1 | 36.4 | 7.5 | 7 | 3.67 | 10.0 | 1 |
| Maryland | 7.9 | 2 | 44.7 | 10.0 | 1 | 2.21 | 5.8 | 3 |
| District of Columbia | 6.9 | 3 | 37.5 | 7.8 | 4 | 2.27 | 5.9 | 2 |
| Connecticut | 6.4 | 4 | 40.1 | 8.6 | 3 | 1.69 | 4.3 | 17 |
| Georgia | 6.4 | 4 | 34.8 | 7.0 | 11 | 2.22 | 5.8 | 3 |
| New Jersey | 6.3 | 6 | 41.0 | 8.9 | 2 | 1.52 | 3.8 | 29 |
| New York | 6.1 | 7 | 35.5 | 7.2 | 10 | 1.95 | 5.0 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 6.0 | 8 | 37.2 | 7.7 | 5 | 1.71 | 4.3 | 17 |
| Virginia | 5.9 | 9 | 35.5 | 7.2 | 9 | 1.80 | 4.6 | 12 |
| Colorado | 5.8 | 10 | 36.0 | 7.4 | 8 | 1.70 | 4.3 | 17 |
| Massachusetts | 5.6 | 11 | 37.1 | 7.7 | 5 | 1.47 | 3.6 | 32 |
| California | 5.6 | 11 | 34.5 | 6.9 | 13 | 1.73 | 4.4 | 14 |
| Oregon | 5.6 | 11 | 34.8 | 7.0 | 11 | 1.66 | 4.2 | 20 |
| North Carolina | 5.6 | 11 | 31.9 | 6.1 | 20 | 1.96 | 5.0 | 6 |
| Nevada | 5.5 | 15 | 31.7 | 6.1 | 20 | 1.89 | 4.8 | 9 |
| Arizona | 5.4 | 16 | 33.3 | 6.6 | 15 | 1.66 | 4.2 | 20 |
| South Carolina | 5.3 | 17 | 28.9 | 5.2 | 26 | 2.08 | 5.4 | 5 |
| Delaware | 5.2 | 18 | 32.6 | 6.4 | 16 | 1.64 | 4.1 | 23 |
| Michigan | 5.2 | 18 | 32.5 | 6.3 | 18 | 1.65 | 4.1 | 23 |
| Idaho | 5.1 | 20 | 29.4 | 5.4 | 24 | 1.86 | 4.7 | 10 |
| Illinois | 5.1 | 20 | 31.9 | 6.2 | 19 | 1.59 | 4.0 | 26 |
| Washington | 4.9 | 22 | 31.0 | 5.9 | 22 | 1.60 | 4.0 | 26 |
| Rhode Island | 4.9 | 22 | 34.1 | 6.8 | 14 | 1.26 | 3.0 | 41 |
| Alabama | 4.9 | 22 | 27.0 | 4.7 | 32 | 1.96 | 5.0 | 6 |
| Wisconsin | 4.9 | 22 | 32.8 | 6.4 | 16 | 1.36 | 3.3 | 37 |
| Oklahoma | 4.5 | 26 | 26.1 | 4.4 | 39 | 1.85 | 4.7 | 10 |
| Florida | 4.4 | 27 | 26.7 | 4.6 | 34 | 1.67 | 4.2 | 20 |
| Hawaii | 4.3 | 28 | 29.4 | 5.4 | 24 | 1.36 | 3.3 | 37 |
| Kansas | 4.2 | 29 | 26.7 | 4.6 | 34 | 1.57 | 3.9 | 28 |
| Ohio | 4.2 | 29 | 28.4 | 5.1 | 27 | 1.39 | 3.4 | 36 |

Table 4: Generosity Index Scores for Canada and the USA

| State/Province | Generosity Index | | Indicator 1: Percent of returns with charitable donations | | | Indicator 2: Percent of income donated | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) | % | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) | % | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) |
| New Hampshire | 4.2 | 29 | 30.6 | 5.8 | 23 | 1.15 | 2.7 | 45 |
| Nebraska | 4.2 | 29 | 27.0 | 4.7 | 32 | 1.52 | 3.8 | 29 |
| Pennsylvania | 4.2 | 29 | 28.2 | 5.0 | 29 | 1.38 | 3.3 | 37 |
| Missouri | 4.1 | 34 | 26.6 | 4.5 | 37 | 1.50 | 3.7 | 31 |
| Kentucky | 4.0 | 35 | 26.2 | 4.4 | 39 | 1.47 | 3.6 | 32 |
| Iowa | 3.9 | 36 | 27.3 | 4.8 | 31 | 1.27 | 3.0 | 41 |
| Indiana | 3.8 | 37 | 25.4 | 4.2 | 43 | 1.42 | 3.5 | 34 |
| Montana | 3.7 | 38 | 25.4 | 4.2 | 43 | 1.36 | 3.3 | 37 |
| Manitoba | 3.7 | 38 | 28.5 | 5.1 | 27 | 1.02 | 2.3 | 50 |
| Tennessee | 3.7 | 38 | 21.6 | 3.0 | 51 | 1.73 | 4.4 | 14 |
| Arkansas | 3.6 | 41 | 20.7 | 2.8 | 54 | 1.73 | 4.4 | 14 |
| Maine | 3.5 | 42 | 26.4 | 4.5 | 37 | 1.07 | 2.4 | 49 |
| Ontario | 3.4 | 43 | 27.7 | 4.9 | 30 | 0.87 | 1.9 | 52 |
| Mississippi | 3.3 | 44 | 20.2 | 2.6 | 56 | 1.62 | 4.1 | 23 |
| Texas | 3.2 | 45 | 21.1 | 2.9 | 53 | 1.44 | 3.5 | 34 |
| Vermont | 3.2 | 45 | 24.2 | 3.8 | 45 | 1.09 | 2.5 | 47 |
| Saskatchewan | 3.1 | 47 | 26.7 | 4.6 | 34 | 0.81 | 1.7 | 55 |
| Wyoming | 3.1 | 47 | 17.0 | 1.6 | 60 | 1.82 | 4.6 | 12 |
| Alberta | 3.0 | 49 | 25.6 | 4.3 | 42 | 0.83 | 1.8 | 53 |
| New Mexico | 3.0 | 49 | 22.1 | 3.2 | 50 | 1.18 | 2.8 | 43 |
| Prince Edward Island | 2.9 | 51 | 26.1 | 4.4 | 39 | 0.71 | 1.4 | 57 |
| British Columbia | 2.7 | 52 | 24.1 | 3.8 | 45 | 0.81 | 1.7 | 55 |
| Alaska | 2.7 | 52 | 20.2 | 2.6 | 56 | 1.17 | 2.7 | 45 |
| Louisiana | 2.5 | 54 | 18.6 | 2.1 | 58 | 1.21 | 2.8 | 43 |
| New Brunswick | 2.5 | 54 | 23.3 | 3.6 | 48 | 0.70 | 1.4 | 57 |
| Nova Scotia | 2.4 | 56 | 23.8 | 3.7 | 47 | 0.62 | 1.1 | 59 |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 1.9 | 57 | 21.5 | 3.0 | 51 | 0.51 | 0.8 | 60 |
| South Dakota | 1.8 | 58 | 15.3 | 1.1 | 62 | 1.09 | 2.5 | 47 |

Table 4: Generosity Index Scores for Canada and the USA

| State/Province | Generosity Index | | Indicator 1: Percent of returns with charitable donations | | | Indicator 2: Percent of income donated | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) | % | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) | % | Score (out of 10) | Rank (out of 64) |
| Quebec | 1.8 | 58 | 22.6 | 3.4 | 49 | 0.33 | 0.3 | 61 |
| North Dakota | 1.7 | 60 | 15.6 | 1.2 | 61 | 0.96 | 2.1 | 51 |
| Yukon | 1.5 | 61 | 20.7 | 2.8 | 54 | 0.34 | 0.3 | 61 |
| West Virginia | 1.3 | 62 | 14.1 | 0.8 | 63 | 0.85 | 1.8 | 53 |
| Northwest Territories | 1.0 | 63 | 17.5 | 1.8 | 59 | 0.27 | 0.1 | 63 |
| Nunavut | 0.0 | 64 | 11.5 | 0.0 | 64 | 0.23 | 0.0 | 64 |

Sources: Internal Revenue Service (2006); Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (2006); Bureau of Economic Analysis (2006); calculations by the authors.

The top-ranked jurisdiction was Utah, with an overall index score of 8.8. Maryland, with an overall score of 7.9, and the District of Columbia, scoring 6.9, ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively. Canada's top province, Manitoba, was 38th overall, scoring 3.7 on the 2006 Generosity Index. Quebec ranked last among Canadian provinces, placing 58th overall with a score of 1.8. The three territories ranked at the bottom of the list, placing 61st (Yukon), 63rd (Northwest Territories) and 64th (Nunavut). Last-placed Nunavut earned a score of 0.0 out of 10.0, while the Northwest Territories and Yukon scored 1.0 and 1.5 out of 10.0 respectively.

Conclusion

The Generosity Index uses readily available data to measure private monetary generosity in Canada and the United States. By measuring

both the percentage of tax-filers that donate to charity and the percent of aggregate income donated

The top-ranked jurisdiction was Utah, with an overall index score of 8.8... Canada's top province, Manitoba, is 38th overall, scoring 3.7 on the 2006 Generosity Index

to charity in each jurisdiction, the Generosity Index recognizes the significance of every charitable donation. The results indicate that while the percentage of aggregate income donated to charity is growing in Canadian provinces, in most

provinces an increasingly smaller proportion of the population is donating. Most notably, however, the index shows that private monetary generosity in Canada is considerably lower than in the United States. This generosity gap limits the power and potential of charities to improve the quality of life in Canada.

Notes

- 1 While earlier editions of the Generosity Index incorporated donations of time as well as money (Francis, 1998; Clemens and Samida, 1999) the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) no longer collects data on volunteer time donated to charity. For survey data on rates of volunteerism in Canada, see Statistics Canada, 2006a.
- 2 The authors would like to acknowledge the original contribution of Johanna Francis and Jason Clemens in the first edition of the Generosity Index, and Dexter Samida, Niels

Veldhuis, and Todd Gabel in subsequent years.

- Aggregate personal income is the sum total of all income that individuals earn in each jurisdiction considered for the index. There are currently more than 80,000 charities registered with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA). This figure, and the data used for the Generosity Index, only includes organizations formally registered with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA), or classified as 501(c)(3) organizations with the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that are able to issue tax receipts and accept grants and donations from philanthropic foundations. Canada's non-profit sector also includes another 80,000 organizations that are exempt from paying income tax, but may not issue tax-deductible receipts to donors. The US non-profit sector also includes 501(c)(4) social

and welfare organizations that are not eligible for tax-receiptable contributions.

- It is likely that these numbers actually *underestimate* American charitable donations due to differences in the Canadian and US tax systems. In the US, tax-filers may file either itemized or non-itemized returns, although only those filing itemized tax returns can claim charitable donations. Thus, a whole group of US tax-filers may donate to registered charities but are unable to claim the donations.

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