

# NEWS RELEASE

## Atlantic Canadians among least generous nationwide

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For immediate release

**HALIFAX**—The amount Atlantic Canadians donate to charity—as a percentage of their income claimed on their taxes—is among the lowest in the country, 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 Atlantic Canadians are less charitable than other Canadians, which means charities in the region face greater challenges to secure resources to help those in need,” said Jake Fuss, senior economist with the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Generosity in Canada: The 2021 Generosity Index*.

The study finds that the total amount donated by Canadians in total during the 2019 tax year—just 0.53 per cent of income—is the second lowest amount since at least 2000. During that period, Canadians’ generosity peaked at 0.72 per cent in 2006, before declining in subsequent years.

Nationally, the percentage of Canadian tax filers donating to charity has fallen from 25.5 per cent to 19.0 per cent over that same 20-year period. Newfoundland & Labrador has the smallest proportion of tax filers donating to registered charities among provinces at 17.1 per cent, followed closely by New Brunswick at 17.2 per cent, and Nova Scotia at 17.6 per cent. By comparison, Prince Edward Island ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> best among all provinces, tied with Ontario, for the second highest percentage of tax filers who donated to charity with 19.8 per cent.

Crucially, the provinces with the largest decreases in the share of income donated over the last decade were Newfoundland & Labrador (29.4 per cent) and Prince Edward Island (20.6 per cent).

“This year, a smaller proportion of Atlantic Canadians are donating to registered charities than other Canadians, 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 2021 Generosity Index)	% of tax filers who claimed charitable donations	Average dollar value of all charitable donations	% of aggregate income donated to charity
<b>Manitoba</b> (1 out of 13)	21.9	\$2,193	0.74
<b>Ontario</b> (2)	19.8	\$2,272	0.61
<b>Prince Edward Island</b> (2)	19.8	\$1,488	0.49
<b>Saskatchewan</b> (4)	19.0	\$2,012	0.55
<b>Alberta</b> (5)	18.6	\$2,875	0.64
<b>Quebec</b> (5)	18.6	\$834	0.24
<b>British Columbia</b> (7)	18.0	\$2,695	0.66
<b>Nova Scotia</b> (8)	17.6	\$1,576	0.44
<b>New Brunswick</b> (9)	17.2	\$1,512	0.44
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b> (10)	17.1	\$1,133	0.29
<b>Yukon</b> (11)	15.5	\$1,576	0.24
<b>Northwest Territories</b> (12)	11.3	\$1,980	0.20
<b>Nunavut</b> (13)	6.2	\$2,228	0.14

NOTE: Table based on 2019 tax year, the most recent year of comparable data in Canada

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