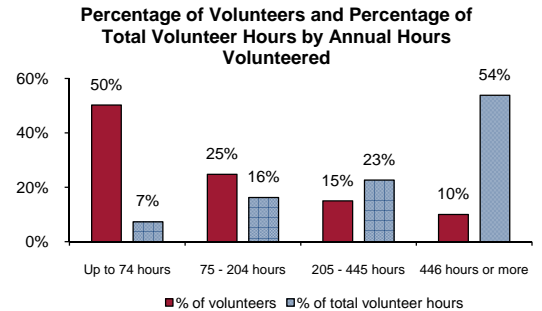


# Volunteering in BRITISH COLUMBIA

According to the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), 45% of British Columbia residents aged 15 and over (1.6 million people) volunteered in 2004. Each volunteer contributed an average of 199 hours, for a total of 315 million hours or the equivalent of approximately 164,000 full-time jobs.

## Much comes from the few

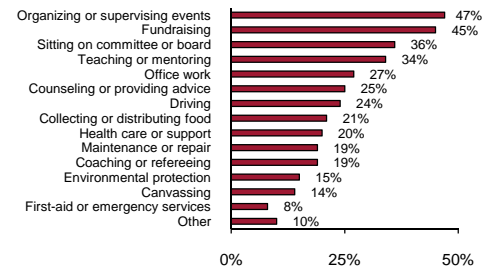
Although many British Columbians volunteer, the majority of volunteer hours are contributed by a small minority. One in ten volunteers contributed 54% of all hours. These volunteers contributed 446 hours or more over the course of the year. Another 23% of volunteer hours came from the 15% of volunteers who volunteered between 205 and 445 hours. Together, this top 25% of volunteers (representing 11% of all British Columbia residents) contributed 77% of total volunteer hours.



## What volunteers do

The most common activities performed by British Columbia volunteers were organizing or supervising events (47% of volunteers did this), fundraising (45%), sitting on a committee or board (36%), and teaching, educating, or mentoring (34%). Compared to the rest of Canada, volunteers in British Columbia were more likely to teach, educate, or mentor (reported by 34% of British Columbia volunteers vs. 30% of volunteers in the rest of Canada), to engage in office work (27% vs. 24%), and to drive (24% vs. 19%).

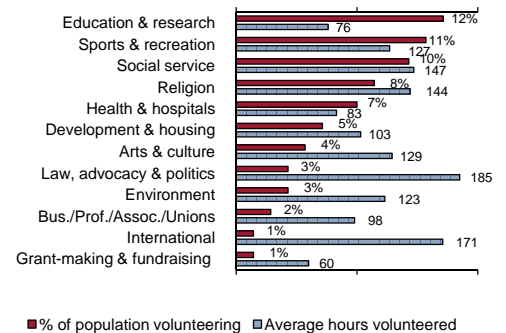
## Percentage of Volunteers Engaging By Type of Volunteer Activity



## Where they volunteer

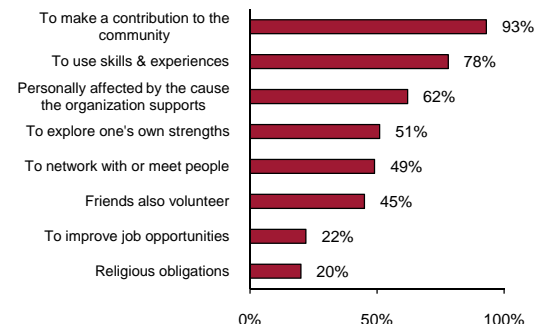
British Columbia residents were most likely to volunteer with Education & Research organizations (12% volunteered), followed by Sports & Recreation (11%) and Social Service (10%) organizations. Smaller numbers of British Columbians volunteered with Business and Professional Associations and Unions (2%), International and Grant-making, Fundraising & Voluntarism Promotion (1% in each) organizations.

## Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Hours Volunteered By Type of Organization



Volunteers tended to contribute the largest number of hours for Law, Advocacy & Politics (185 on average), International (171) and Social Service organizations (147 on average), followed by Religious (144), Arts & Culture (129), and Sports & Recreation (127) organizations. They contributed fewer hours to organizations working in the areas of Health & Hospitals (83), Education & Research (76), Grant-making, and Fundraising & Voluntarism Promotion (60).

## Percentage of Volunteers Reporting Motivations for Volunteering



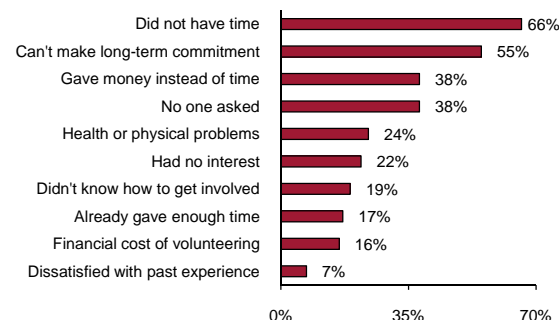
## The motivations of volunteers

British Columbia volunteers were most likely to say they volunteered because they wanted to make a contribution to the community (93%), wanted to use their skills and experiences (78%), or had been personally affected by the cause the organization supports (62%). Comparatively few volunteers volunteered in order to improve their job opportunities (22%) or to fulfill religious beliefs or obligations (20%).

## Barriers to volunteering

British Columbians who did not volunteer were most likely to say it was because they did not have the time (66%), were unable to make a long-term commitment (55%), or donated money instead of volunteering (38%). They were much less likely to report having contributed enough time already (17%), the costs of volunteering (16%), or dissatisfaction with previous volunteer experiences (7%) as reasons for not volunteering.

**Percentage of Non-Volunteers Reporting Barriers to Volunteering**



## Personal and economic characteristics of British Columbia volunteers: age and education level<sup>1</sup>

British Columbians aged 45 to 54 were most likely to volunteer (52%), followed by those aged 15 to 24 (50%). Those aged 65 and older were least likely to volunteer (32%). As a general trend, the average number of hours contributed increased with the age of volunteers.

Residents with a postsecondary diploma or a university degree contributed a disproportionately large percentage of total volunteer hours, given their numbers. By contrast, those who graduated from or had not completed high school contributed a disproportionately small percentage of total volunteer hours.

In general, the likelihood of volunteering in British Columbia increased with level of education. Residents with a university degree were most likely to volunteer (59%) whereas those who had not completed high school were the least likely to do so (31%). Volunteers with a postsecondary diploma tended to contribute the most hours on average (222), followed by those with a university degree (202).

**Percentage of Population Who Volunteer and Distribution of Volunteer Hours by Age and Education**

	% Volunteering	Average Volunteer Hours	% of Pop.	% Volunteer Hours
<b>Age</b>				
15 to 24	50%	155	16%	14%
25 to 34	43%	192	16%	15%
35 to 44	47%	177	19%	18%
45 to 54	52%	209	19%	23%
55 to 64	44%	244	13%	16%
65 and over	32%	247	16%	14%
<b>Education</b>				
Less than high school	31%	150	17%	9% <sup>E</sup>
Graduated from high school	40%	182	21%	17%
Some postsecondary	48%	166	9%	8% <sup>E</sup>
Postsecondary diploma	48%	222	31%	36%
University degree	59%	202	23%	30%

<sup>E</sup> Use with caution

<sup>1</sup> Volunteering tends to vary with the personal and economic characteristics of the individual. This fact sheet focuses on age and education, but many other characteristics are important. For more information, readers should refer to *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating*, available at [http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/pdf/CSGVP\\_Highlights\\_2004\\_en.pdf](http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/pdf/CSGVP_Highlights_2004_en.pdf).

This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program. The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.