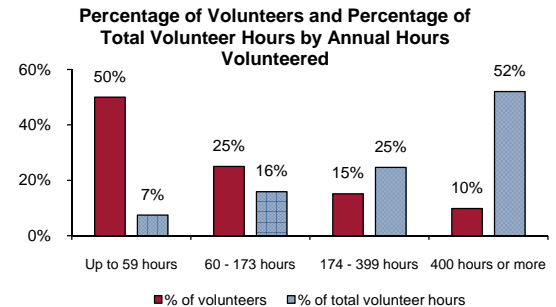


# Volunteering in ONTARIO

According to the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), 50% of Ontario residents aged 15 and over (5 million people) volunteered in 2004. Each volunteer contributed an average of 162 hours, for a total of 819 million hours, or the equivalent of approximately 427,000 full-time jobs.

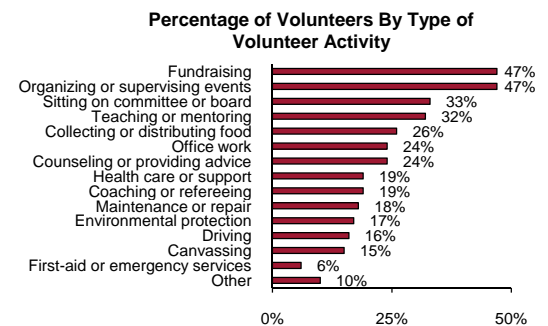
## Much comes from the few

Although many Ontarians volunteer, the majority of volunteer hours are contributed by a small minority. One in ten volunteers contributed 52% of all hours. These volunteers contributed 400 hours or more over the course of the year. Another 25% of all volunteer hours came from the 15% of volunteers who volunteered between 174 and 399 hours. Together, this top 25% of volunteers (representing 13% of all Ontario residents) contributed 77% of total volunteer hours.



## What volunteers do

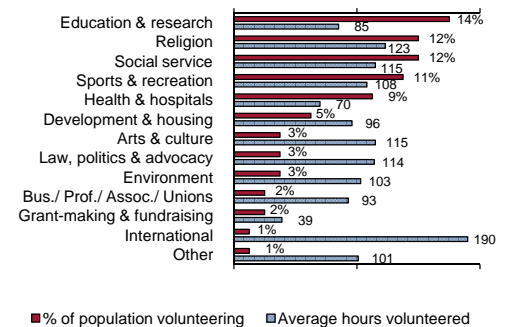
The most common activities performed by Ontario volunteers were fundraising (47% of volunteers did this), organizing or supervising events (47%), sitting on a committee or board (33%), and teaching, educating, or mentoring (32%).



## Where they volunteer

Ontarians were most likely to volunteer with Education & Research organizations (14% volunteered), followed by Religious (12%), Social Service (12%), and Sports & Recreation (11%) organizations. Smaller numbers of Ontarians volunteered with Business and Professional Associations and Unions and Grant-making, Fundraising & Voluntarism Promotion (2% in each) and International (1%) organizations.

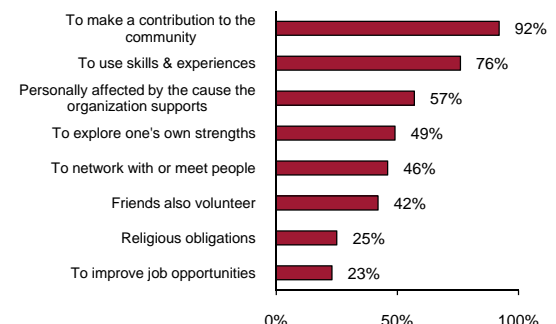
Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Hours Volunteered By Type of Organization



## The motivations of volunteers

Ontario volunteers were most likely to say they volunteered because they wanted to make a contribution to the community (92%), wanted to use their skills and experiences (76%), or had been personally affected by the cause the organization supports (57%). Comparatively few volunteers volunteered in order to fulfill religious beliefs or obligations (25%) or to improve their job opportunities (23%).

Percentage of Volunteers Reporting Motivations for Volunteering



## Barriers to volunteering

Those who did not volunteer were most likely to say they did not do so because they did not have the time (68%), were unable to make a long-term commitment (61%), or donated money instead of

volunteering (52%). They were much less likely to report the costs of volunteering (18%), having contributed enough time already (15%), or dissatisfaction with previous volunteer experiences (6%) as reasons for not volunteering.

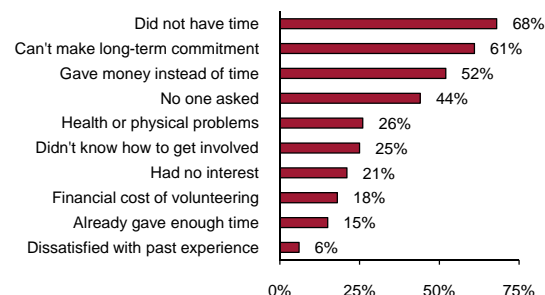
## Personal and economic characteristics of Ontario volunteers: education level and labour force status<sup>1</sup>

In general, the likelihood of volunteering in Ontario increased with the level of education. Individuals with a university degree were most likely to volunteer (61% volunteered) while those who had not completed high school were least likely to do so (43%). Volunteers with some postsecondary education tended to volunteer the most hours (190 on average).

Ontarians with a university degree contributed a disproportionately large percentage of total volunteer hours, given their numbers (they accounted for only 25% of the population but contributed 32% of total volunteer hours). Conversely, those with less than a high school education contributed a disproportionately small percentage of volunteer hours (16% of the population vs. 11% of volunteer hours).

Those who were employed were roughly as likely to volunteer as those who were not in the labour force (53% vs. 51%); however, volunteers who were not in the labour force tended to contribute more hours (197 on average) than volunteers who were employed (147 hours).

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



Accordingly, residents who were not in the labour force contributed a disproportionately larger percentage of the total volunteer hours, given their numbers (they made up 29% of the population but contributed 35% of total volunteer hours).

**Percentage of Population Who Volunteer and Distribution of Volunteer Hours by Education and Labour Force Status**

	% Volunteering	Average Volunteer Hours	% of Pop.	% Volunteer Hours
<b>Education</b>				
Less than high school	43%	127	16%	11%
Graduated from high school	49%	152	19%	16%
Some postsecondary	53%	190	6%	8% <sup>E</sup>
Postsecondary diploma	50%	163	34%	33%
University degree	61%	178	25%	32%
<b>Labour force status</b>				
Employed	53%	147	69%	63%
Unemployed	62%	177 <sup>E</sup>	1%	2% <sup>E</sup>
Not in the labour force	51%	197	29%	35%

<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 education and labour force status, 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).

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