



Volunteering in Calgary

- There are over 5,000 non-profit organizations in the Calgary area, most of which use volunteers.
- 50% of Calgarians volunteer within a non-profit organization and is engaged in “formal volunteering”.
- 58 million hours have been contributed by 421,000 volunteers.
- Volunteers have contributed to positions amounting to a year-round equivalent of 30,217 full-time paid jobs.
- On average, Calgarians spend 138 hours per year volunteering.

Who are volunteers in Calgary?

- 52% of females and 49% of males volunteer.
- People aged 35-44 years have the highest volunteer rate at 61%; followed by ages 25-34 and 55-64 both at 51%.
- 54% of married people volunteer while 46% of those who haven't been married volunteer.
- Volunteers mostly have some level of educational background: 70% of university graduates; 47% of post-secondary diploma holders; and 39% of high school graduates volunteer.
- 55% of employed individuals while 48% of individuals who are outside the labour force volunteer.
- Individuals with higher income tend to have a higher volunteering rate:
 - 100,000 or more a year at 64%;
 - 80,000 to 99,999 at 60%;
 - 60,000 to 79,999 at 53%;
 - 40,000 to 59,999 at 47% ;

- 20,000 to 39,000 at 19%.

Why do Calgarians volunteer?

- 94% of volunteers are driven by a desire to make a contribution to the community; 61% feel a personal connection to the organization that they volunteer with.
- 77% of volunteers want an opportunity to apply their skills and experience, 52% want to explore their strengths, 22 % want to improve their job opportunities.
- 50% of volunteers want to network or meet new people, 47% are motivated to volunteer by their friends, and 23% volunteer for religious reasons.
- 78% do not volunteer for lack of time; 58% are unable to make long-term commitments; 38% feel they have already given enough time; 33% gave money instead of time; 31% said nobody had asked them to.
- There are numerous skills one can hope to acquire when volunteering. 68% said they acquired interpersonal skills; 46% acquired communication skills; 45% acquired organizational skills; 38% acquired fundraising skills; 33% acquired increased general knowledge; 28% acquired technical or office skills; 15% acquired some other skill.

Where do Calgarians volunteer?

- There are different types of organizations that people choose to volunteer with. Volunteer rate is as follows within the most common ones types of organizations: 15% Sports and Recreation/Education and Research; 14% for Social Services; 13% for Religious Services; 7% for Health and Development and Housing; 4% for Environment; 3% for Arts and Culture; 2% for Law and Advocacy; 2% Hospitals.

* Source:

Statistics Canada, Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating 2007.