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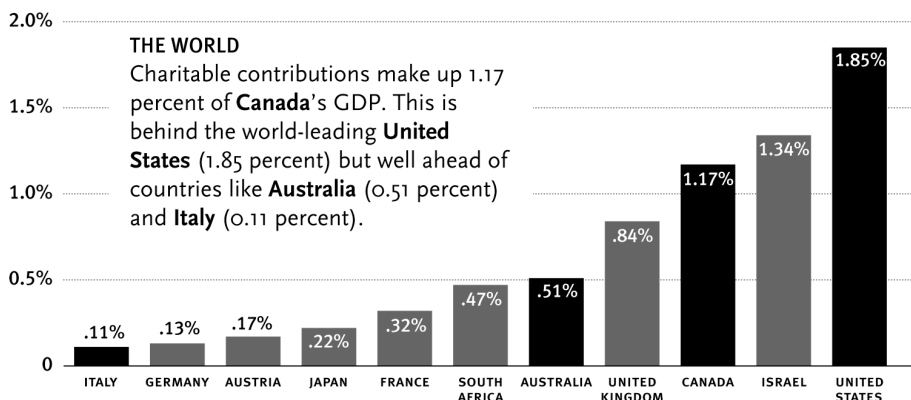
# Charity by the numbers

BY DEREK ROSIN

**CHARITIES ARE BIG BUSINESS** in Canada. How big? In 2006, Canadians donated \$8.5 billion to charity, equalling what we spent on beer. That much money could also pay America's Iraq war bills for 42 days—or ensure that the world's hungry are fed for a year. Here's a closer look at giving in Canada.

**THE BIGGEST**

Financially, the biggest charities in Canada are universities and hospitals. The largest of them all is the governing council of the University of Toronto, with assets of \$2.5 billion. Annual donations to this monster match the collective yearly income for over half a million of the planet's poorest citizens.



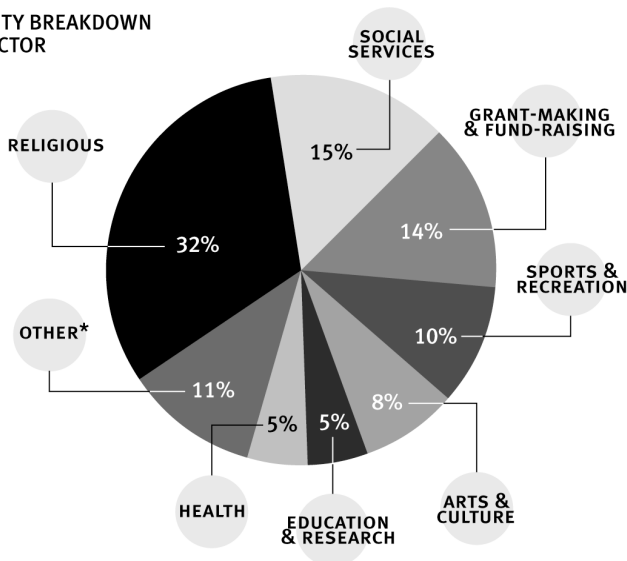
**THE GIVERS**

Canadians give an average of \$250 to charity each year. The stingiest are **Quebecers**, who donate \$130 annually, while the people of **Nunavut** fork over the most: \$450. Citizens of Abbotsford, the Fraser Valley city, give an annual median of \$620, the most for a Canadian city. Second-place Toronto stands at \$360.



There are over 80,000 registered charities in Canada. To attain and keep charitable status, groups must refrain from what the Canada Revenue Agency calls "partisan political activity." This may help explain why 94 percent of religious organizations in Canada are registered as charities, while just 41 percent of environmental groups qualify for status. Creation Truth Ministries, based in Alberta, is a biblical-literalist group whose self-proclaimed mission is to "counteract the atheistic/evolutionary indoctrination that faces adults and children alike on a daily basis." It is also a registered Canadian charity. Christians for the Abolition of Torture is not—its work was deemed too political by the courts.

**CHARITY BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR**



\*The remaining charities are a mix of universities and hospitals, as well as housing, environment and law-advocacy groups.

STEVE MURRAY