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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Abbotsford Leads the Country in Charitable Donations

**Abbotsford, November 2, 2007** – The City of Abbotsford is the most generous city in the country, according to a Statistics Canada report released on Thursday. The announcement reaffirms a key characteristic of the community.

Data from income tax declarations filed for 2006 tax year showed that Abbotsford residents were by far the highest with a median donation at \$620. Toronto donors were next with a median donation of \$360, followed by Vancouver at \$340. This is the fourth year in a row that Abbotsford reported the highest median donation.

“This comes as no surprise to me,” says Abbotsford Mayor, George F. Ferguson. “We are a community that thrives on generosity of spirit and goodwill towards others. Our contribution is more than double the national average. This is a statistic to be proud of and makes us a great community to be a part of.”

Statistics Canada reported that the amount of donations increased in all provinces and territories for the 2006 tax year. The highest increases were in Alberta (15.5%), the Yukon (15.2 %), and Newfoundland and Labrador (15.5%). All totaled, Canadian tax filers claimed more than \$8.5 billion in donations last year, up 8.3% from 2006.

Nationally, 25% of tax filers claimed charitable donations, the same proportion as in the past. At 28%, Manitoba has the highest percentage of tax filers who declared a donation, followed by Ontario with 27%. Only 23% of British Columbians make charitable donations.

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