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Canadians and their leisure time habits – 1975 survey

Television viewing and performing arts events were more popular in Quebec than in any other province in Canada in 1975, while the highest rate of non-TV viewers was in Manitoba (7.9 per cent) and the highest number of book readers was in British Columbia (67 per cent). These observations are from *A Leisure Study – Canada 1975*, published recently by the Secretary of State Department, which was based on a survey of 30,000 Canadians aged 14 years and over. Sports attendance and participation were not considered in the study.

Although some regional patterns did emerge from the survey, most results represent a cross-section of Canadians, whose interests range from a low preference for ballet performances (3 per cent of those polled) to an overwhelming interest in television (viewing time varied according to education, income and season, but a total of 96 per cent of those polled claimed to watch some television).

Researchers learned that 26 per cent of those questioned read no newspapers;

43 per cent did not read magazines, and 39 per cent spent no time reading books. Of the book readers queried the majority described themselves as "light" readers (one to seven hours a week). A surprising 67 per cent of the respondents said they engaged in no hobby projects in 1975, while one-third of those who did devoted more than seven hours a week to their pursuits.

A low interest in certain activities, such as television viewing among upper-income families, and fine art displays among those with little formal education, underlined the relationship between leisure habits and education and income. The study also reveals a preference for commercial films among teenagers and an over-proportionate attendance of university-educated young adults at art films.

Music and records

An estimated 8 per cent of Canadians, or 1.2 million, reported playing or practising some music (one to seven hours a week), and 3 per cent spent eight or more hours



A reported 1.2 million Canadians devoted up to seven hours a week playing or practising music in 1975. (Above) solos are fine but duets are divine.

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