Extended Days Mean More Opportunities for Marketers to Engage with Canadians

Canadian Day Averages 31.3 Hours, Creating More Opportunities for Engagement

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Toronto, ON – As Canadians continue to adapt to new technologies, a clear impact is seen in their day-to-day behaviours. Ipsos' Canadian Media Landscape, a single-source syndicated study that captures the daily activities of Canadians (both media and non-media related), reveals important implications for marketers.

Launched earlier this year, including data as recent as October, the study reveals that in an average day, adult Canadians spend 5.8 hours engaging with some form of media (e.g., watching, listening, reading, gaming, social networking, browsing), 6.2 hours involved in leisure activities (e.g., socializing, attending a live event, playing a sport), 10.3 hours occupied (e.g., working/studying, household chores, caring for children, commuting) and 9 hours sleeping. Together this accounts for 31.3 hours of activity which far exceeds the 24-hour day!

"Multi-tasking is nothing new, however, adoption of new technology has made this easier, and therefore more prevalent," says Mary Beth Barbour, Senior Vice President with Ipsos Reid in Toronto. "Widely adopted, smartphones and tablets not only add to the number of screens available, but enable engagement with media anyplace and anytime. Adding to this, access to new services help Canadians not only control when and how they engage with media, but also allows them to curate their own content to suit their tastes, which certainly creates new challenges for marketers today."

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Looking across generations, it is clear not everyone's level of media engagement is the same. Boomers spend the most time consuming media at an average of 6.2 hours a day, with Millennials (5.8 hours) and Gen Xers (5.3 hours) trailing. There are even differences within generations: leading Millennials (25-32 years) spend 5.2 hours engaging with media, but adult trailing Millennials (18-24 years) spend 27% more time engaged (6.6 hours). These skews are likely rooted in life stage: Boomers have more time on their hands as 32% are retired, or they may have an empty nest, while Gen X and older Millennials are busier trying to balance careers and family and simply have less time to devote to media.

"Boomers are leading the way in media consumption," adds Barbour. "While many marketing efforts are focused on younger 'digital natives,' marketers would be well-advised to leverage this opportunity to engage with Boomers as well."

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted from May – October 2014. This online survey of 9,700 Canadian adults (18+) was conducted via the Ipsos Online Panel, one of Ipsos Reid's national online panels. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/-1.1 percentage points had all Canadians adults been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.



Data Table

		Generations								
		Trailing		Leading						
	Overall	Millennials		Millennials		Millennials		Gen Xers		Boomers
		(Ages 18-24)		(Ages 25-32)		(Ages 18-32)		(Ages 33-49)		(Ages
										50-68)
Time Spent	n=9,700	n=1,000		n=1,370		n=2,400		n=3,200		n=3,490
Yesterday	Mean (hours)									
Sleeping	9.0	9.8	9.	2	9.4		8.7		8.9	
With Media	5.8	6.6	5.	2	5.8		5.3		6.2	
Leisure Activities	6.2	6.9	6.	5	6.7		6.3		5.7	
Occupied	10.3	10.0	11	1.2	10.7	,	11.1		9.5	

For more information on this news release, please contact:

Mary Beth Barbour Senior Vice President, Ipsos Reid (416) 572-4409 marybeth.barbour@ipsos.com

Elen Alexov
Director, Marketing Services
Ipsos in North America
(778) 373-5136
elen.alexov@ipsos.com

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