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Alberta's charitable and nonprofit sector reports \$10 billion in annual revenues

Research identifies challenges facing sector

CALGARY, Alberta – November 24, 2004. Alberta's charitable and nonprofit organizations report annual revenues of almost \$10 billion, according to new research from the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and Statistics Canada. This amount is roughly equivalent in size to the province's booming information and communications technology sector.

The National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations* (NSNVO) was conducted by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and a consortium of nonprofit organizations across the country, including Calgary's Canada West Foundation, working in partnership with Statistics Canada. The study looked for the first time ever at the size, scope and challenges facing Canada's charities and nonprofit organizations. The specific breakdown for Alberta shows that the sector in the province:

- Reports revenues of \$10 billion (\$9 billion excluding hospitals, universities and colleges).
- Employs 176,000 paid staff.
- Benefits from 449 million volunteer hours.
- Consists of 19,000 organizations.

"We know that Canada's charities and nonprofit organizations represent a significant amount of economic activity," says Georgina Steinsky-Schwartz, president and CEO of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy (CCP). "But we also know from the research that these organizations face significant obstacles in performing their important work in our communities."

"The economic impact of this sector is not surprising, given the number of charities and nonprofit organizations that are operating in every Alberta community," says Katherine van Kooy, president and CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations. "Yet this sector is caught in a real financial and human resources crunch - we need collaboration with business and government to address this challenge."

Steinsky-Schwartz will be in Calgary to discuss the challenges facing the nonprofit sector with CCP members and stakeholders on November 26 and will be available for media opportunities.

The full report, titled *Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations*, is available at www.nonprofitscan.ca.

The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy is a national, charitable organization that works to advance the role and interests of the charitable sector for the benefit of Canadian communities.

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*The NSNVO was conducted by a consortium of organizations consisting of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, l'Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale à l'Université du Québec à Montréal, the Canada West Foundation, the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Capacity Development Network at the University of Victoria, the Community Services Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector Organization of Manitoba, Queen's University School of Policy Studies, and Statistics Canada. Financial support was provided by the Government of Canada through the Voluntary Sector Initiative.