



Canadian Centre for Philanthropy™
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Charitable and nonprofit sector in Atlantic provinces reports \$6 billion in revenues, employs 106,000

Religious groups most common type of organization

Toronto, December 15, 2004. According to a groundbreaking new study, the charitable and nonprofit sector in Atlantic Canada is made up of 13,000 organizations that report more than \$6 billion in annual revenues and have a total paid staff of 106,000 (\$4 billion annual revenues and 83,000 staff when hospitals, universities and colleges are excluded). The National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations* (NSNVO), conducted by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and a consortium of organizations in partnership with Statistics Canada also reveals that:

- A full 35% of paid staff are employed part-time
- Almost half (48%) of nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Atlantic Canada have no paid staff and are run solely by volunteers
- Organizations in Atlantic Canada report that approximately 1 million volunteers contribute 127 million hours of their time to these organizations – the equivalent of about 66,000 full-time jobs

The NSNVO indicates that while they account for only 7% of total revenues, religious organizations are the most common type of charitable and nonprofit organization in the Atlantic provinces, accounting for 27% of all organizations – the highest such regional percentage across Canada. Conversely, hospitals, universities and colleges represent less than 1% of all organizations, but account for 26% of total revenues.

“The \$6 billion dollars in revenue reported by these province’s nonprofit and charitable organizations represents 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.”

Approximately half of Canada’s charitable and nonprofit organizations report problems with planning for the future, recruiting and retaining volunteers and board members, and securing funding from foundations, corporations, governments, and individuals. Despite these difficulties, nonprofit and voluntary organizations touch virtually every aspect of our lives by providing important services within our neighbourhoods, cities, towns, and municipalities.

“Nonprofit and charitable organizations in Atlantic Canada are definitely having difficulty recruiting volunteers and board members,” says Penelope Rowe, CEO of the Community Services Council of Newfoundland & Labrador, a member of the research consortium. “And the current shift towards short-term and project-based funding from governments has serious impacts on their ability to plan for the year ahead,” says Rowe.

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.

*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.

For further information:

Lisa Hartford, Manager, Research Communications
Canadian Centre for Philanthropy
416.597.2293 x 225, 1.800.263.1178 x 225

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