



Canadian Centre for Philanthropy™  
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## **British Columbia's nonprofit and charitable sector reports \$11 billion in revenue, 147,000 employees** *Research identifies challenges facing sector*

**Toronto, December 15, 2004.** According to a groundbreaking new study, British Columbia's charitable and nonprofit sector is made up of 20,000 organizations that report more than \$11 billion in annual revenues and have a total paid staff of 147,000 (\$9 billion and 114,000 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 42% of paid staff are employed part-time
- Most of B.C.'s nonprofit and charitable organizations (60%) have no paid staff and are run solely by volunteers
- Organizations report that the province's 1.5 million volunteers contribute 114 million hours of their time to these organizations – the equivalent of about 60,000 full-time jobs

The NSNVO indicates that religious organizations are the province's most common type of charitable and nonprofit organization, accounting for 19% of all organizations, but that they account for only 8% of total revenues. Conversely, hospitals, universities and colleges represent only 1% of all organizations, but account for 18% of total revenues.

"The \$11 billion in revenue reported by B.C.'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 challenges 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.

"Many of B.C.'s nonprofit organizations report difficulty in obtaining funding, and many tell us that reductions in government funding are a source of their financial worries," says Vic Murray, adjunct professor, School of Public Administration at University of Victoria, a partner in the national research consortium.

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

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