According to the 2003 National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO), there are approximately 161,000 nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Canada. Collectively, these organizations report annual revenues of $112 billion and employ over 2 million people. When Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded, the sector has $75 billion in annual revenues and 1.3 million employees.

Canada’s nonprofit and voluntary organizations report a total volunteer complement of 19 million people. These volunteers collectively contribute more than 2 billion hours of volunteer time per year, which is the equivalent of approximately 1 million full-time jobs. Organizations also report some 139 million memberships, an average of approximately 4 memberships per Canadian.

**Activity Area**

Sports and Recreation organizations are the most common type of organization in Canada, accounting for 21% of all organizations. Religious organizations are the next most common at 19%. Other common types are Social Services (12%), Grantmaking, Fundraising and Voluntarism Promotion (10%), and Arts and Culture (9%). Although Hospitals, Universities and Colleges account for less than 1% of organizations, they account for one-third (33%) of total revenues.

**Revenue Size**

Most revenues are concentrated among a comparatively small number of very large organizations. Although just 1% of organizations report annual revenues of $10 million or more, these organizations account for well over half (59%) of total revenues in the sector. In contrast, the 42% of organizations with annual revenues less than $30,000 collectively account for just 1% of total revenues.

**Revenue Sources**

Revenues from government account for 49% of total revenues reported by Canada’s nonprofit and voluntary organizations. Just over one third (35%) of total revenues comes from earned income, 13% comes from gifts and donations, and the balance (3%) comes from other sources. When Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded, this picture changes considerably. In this scenario, 36% of revenues...
come from government, 43% from earned income, 17% from gifts and donations, and 4% from other sources.

**Volunteers**

Virtually all of Canada’s nonprofit and voluntary organizations rely on volunteers to some degree, and more than half (54%) rely solely on volunteers as they have no paid staff. Of the 19 million volunteers reported by organizations, 7% serve on boards of directors, while the remaining 93% are engaged in non-board roles such as helping to deliver programs and services, or fundraising.

**Employees**

Fewer than half (46%) of Canada’s nonprofit and voluntary organizations have paid staff. Collectively, these organizations employ approximately 2 million people (1.3 million when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded). Over half (56%, or 1.1 million people) of these employees work full-time and almost two-thirds (65%, or 1.3 million people) hold permanent positions.

Paid staff are heavily concentrated among large organizations. Nearly half (46%) of all paid staff positions in the nonprofit and voluntary sector are with the 1% of organizations that have annual revenues of $10 million or more. Conversely, the 42% of organizations with annual revenues under $30,000 employ just 1% of paid staff.