

Federal Nonprofit Data Coalition 2023

Purpose, Membership and Structure

Last updated March 16, 2023

Purpose

The mission of the Federal Nonprofit Data Coalitions (FNDC) is to improve the availability, quality and accessibility of data collected by the federal government about the nonprofit sector. We aim to centre equity in all of our activities.

History

A previous iteration of the FNDC was active in 2017-18. The efforts of that group led to the first update in almost 10 years to the Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering.

A new iteration of the FNDC was launched in January 2022. Over that year, the group advanced several initiatives, including participating in the 2023 pre-budget submission process, building relationships with Statistics Canada, and making improvements to several data products. However, the structure of the group in 2022 was sub-optimal; we had sub-committees that matched Statistics Canada data products in the interest of simplicity and expediency.

For 2023, we are proposing to restructure the group to have working groups that focus on outcomes rather than data products. We're also attempting to provide more clarity about what membership in the FNDC means and about the roles, responsibilities, goals, and required expertise of each working group.

Membership

Membership to the FNDC is open; individuals from the sector can join by contacting the FNDC coordinator or any member of the FNDC.

Members have a choice about the level of commitment they'd like to offer the FNDC. Individuals can also change their desired level of commitment over time as their availability and capacity changes. Individuals can choose to be:

- *General FNDC members (lightest level of commitment)*: Individuals who choose this level of commitment are invited to meetings of the full FNDC, receive updates about

FNDC initiatives by email, and have an opportunity to weigh in on major decisions and documents whether at the FNDC meetings or over email.

- *Working group members (medium level of commitment)*: Individuals who choose this level of commitment are engaged in all of the ways that general FNDC members are. Additionally, they choose to join one or more working groups and contribute actively to advance that group's objectives. This includes attending working group meetings and may also include doing light background research, creating or contributing to documents, consulting with the sector, corresponding with Statistics Canada staff or attending meetings with Statistics Canada staff.
- *Working group chairs (highest level of commitment)*: Each working group must select a chair. The chair is responsible for booking and chairing meetings, proposing agendas, guiding the working group through a process of creating an annual work plan for the group and then implementing it, and for updating the FNDC about the working group's progress on a regular basis. Additionally, the chairs of the committees make up the FNDC Coordinating Committee and collectively carry out its functions.

Other roles include:

- *FNDC chair*: Role currently held by Cathy Barr, Vice-President, Research & Strategic Relationships at Imagine Canada. Responsible for chairing meetings of the FNDC and the FNDC Coordinating Committee. Works with the FNDC coordinator to plan meetings, develop agendas, etc.
- *FNDC coordinator*: Role currently held by Emily Jensen, Manager, Strategic Advocacy at Imagine Canada. Responsible for scheduling meetings, creating agendas, and taking notes for the FNDC and the FNDC Coordinating Committee; for sending regular updates to the FNDC about FNDC activities; for connecting new members with the appropriate working group chairs; and for maintaining the FNDC's shared Google Drive and major documents, such as its membership list.

Structure

The FNDC will be structured as follows.

Federal Nonprofit Data Coalition

This is the name for the full group. This group will meet periodically (generally, once a quarter).

This is not a working group. The purpose of its meetings is to discuss and weigh in on proposals from the FNDC Coordinating Committee related to the coalition's overarching strategy and objectives; to hear updates from the working groups; and to share information about relevant nonprofit data initiatives or emerging nonprofit data issues.

Federal Nonprofit Data Coalition Coordinating Committee

This group is made up of the chairs of the FNDC's working groups. It meets at least once per quarter, and more frequently when circumstances require it.

This group is responsible for: proposing strategies and objectives related to the overall direction of the FNDC to the membership of the FNDC and then ensuring that decisions are carried out. It is also responsible for ensuring that information is shared among the working groups, that coordination between working groups happens where appropriate, and that the FNDC's overall relationship with Statistics Canada is managed appropriately.

Working Groups

Working groups are where a large part of the FNDC's concrete work is carried out. Each working group has its own objectives and strategies. Each group is responsible for consistently advancing its objectives, but their activities may vary widely. In some cases, the working groups may have areas of common interest and may work together on certain initiatives.

Members of the FNDC can sign up to sit on a working group, and a working group may also determine that it is missing a particular type of expertise it requires to meet its objectives and recruit new members to fill those gaps.

Labour market information working group

- Objective: Improve the availability, quality and accessibility of data about nonprofit sector workers, especially those from equity-seeking communities.
- Potential activities:
 - Determine gaps in and issues with currently available labour market information
 - Consult with the broader nonprofit sector about labour market information needs
 - Work with Statistics Canada to produce new data and/or improve existing data products to fill in gaps in labour market information
- Required expertise and competencies (collectively from among the group, not from any one working group member):
 - Knowledge of existing nonprofit sector labour market data
 - Government relations
 - Public policy
 - Knowledge of nonprofit sector labour issues, including equity-related labour issues
 - Knowledge of expected use-cases for data

- Relevant Statistics Canada data products and initiatives (non-exhaustive):
 - Canadian Census
 - Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering
 - HR Module of the Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering
 - Disaggregated Data Action Plan
 - Linkable File Environment

Nonprofit sector diversity and equity data working group

- Objective: Improve the availability, quality and accessibility of data about diversity in the nonprofit sector, including data on the diversity of nonprofit workers, volunteers, board members; data on the diversity of the communities that the nonprofit sector serves; data related to challenges faced by organizations from equity-seeking communities; etc.
- Potential activities:
 - Consult with the broader nonprofit sector, and especially organizations from equity-seeking communities, about their data needs
 - Determine gaps in and issues with currently available nonprofit sector diversity and equity data
 - Work with Statistics Canada to produce new data and/or improve existing data products to fill in gaps in nonprofit diversity and equity data
 - Maintain connections with the advisory committee working with Statistics Canada on its upcoming survey of diversity in the nonprofit sector
- Required expertise and competencies (collectively from among the group, not from any one working group member):
 - Knowledge of the diversity and equity data needs in the nonprofit sector
 - Knowledge of best practices related to data equity, data sovereignty, etc.
 - Lived experience in and relationships with organizations from equity-seeking communities
 - Knowledge of existing nonprofit diversity and equity-related data
 - Government relations
 - Public policy
- Relevant Statistics Canada data products and initiatives (non-exhaustive):
 - HR Module of the Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering
 - Disaggregated Data Action Plan
 - Upcoming survey of diversity in the nonprofit sector
 - Canadian Census

Organizational data working group

- Objective: Improve the availability, quality and accessibility of basic organizational data (e.g., number of organizations, their location, their legal structure, their revenues and

expenses) about nonprofits, charities and grassroots (unincorporated) organizations, especially organizations from equity-seeking and rural communities.

- Potential activities:
 - Determine gaps in and issues with currently available organizational data
 - Consult with the broader nonprofit sector about their needs in relation to organizational data
 - Work with Statistics Canada to produce new data or improve existing data products to fill in gaps in organizational data
 - Maintain connections with the advisory committee working with Statistics Canada on its upcoming survey of diversity in the nonprofit sector (the first stage of this project will collect organizational data)
- Required expertise and competencies (collectively from among the group, not from any one working group member):
 - Knowledge of existing organizational data about the sector
 - Knowledge of organizational data needs and use-cases
 - Knowledge of the data gaps pertaining to organizations from equity-seeking and rural communities
 - Government relations
 - Public policy
- Relevant data products and initiatives (non-exhaustive):
 - Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering
 - Non-profit organizations in rural Canada, 2019
 - Disaggregated Data Action Plan
 - T3010 data (produced by the Canada Revenue Agency, not Statistics Canada)
 - Linkable File Environment

Nonprofit sector current conditions working group

- Objectives:
 - Improve the availability, quality and accessibility of data about current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
 - Mobilize data being released by Statistics Canada about the current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
- Potential activities:
 - Determine gaps in and issues with currently available data on current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
 - Consult with the broader nonprofit sector about needs related to data on current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
 - Work with Statistics Canada to produce new data and/or improve existing data products to fill in gaps in data on current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
 - Find ways to ensure that the nonprofit sector is aware of and can make use of data on current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment

- Required expertise and competencies (collectively from among the group, not from any one working group member):
 - Knowledge of existing data on current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
 - Knowledge of issues with existing data on current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
 - Knowledge of the gaps and needs pertaining to data on current conditions in the nonprofit sector's operating environment
 - Government relations
 - Public policy
 - Knowledge of emerging trends in the nonprofit sector's operating environment (political, social, environmental, economic, etc.)
 - Knowledge translation and mobilization
- Relevant Statistics Canada data products and initiatives (non-exhaustive):
 - Canadian Survey on Business Conditions
 - Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering
 - General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participation

Federal/provincial/territorial relations working group

- Objective: Work with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Network of Charity Regulators in order to advance the nonprofit sector's various data needs with other levels of government.
- Potential activities:
 - Build relationship with and raise awareness of data issues amongst the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Network of Charity Regulators
 - Advance change on data issues that relate to jurisdictional issues between the federal, provincial and territorial governments (such as unlocking a list of all nonprofits in Canada)
- Required qualities, expertise and competencies (collectively from among the group, not from any one working group member):
 - Ideally, membership should include at least one member from each province and territory who can act as a representative for the sector in their jurisdiction.
 - Knowledge of data issues and needs that relate to jurisdictional issues between the federal, provincial and territorial governments
 - Government relations
 - Public policy
- Relevant data products and initiatives (non-exhaustive):
 - T3010 data (produced by the Canada Revenue Agency, not Statistics Canada)
 - Corporate data made available by some provinces