

Our Research and Policy Priorities: 2021

The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO) policy priorities provides clear principles to all nonprofits regarding policy priorities at the local, provincial and federal levels. Our policy priorities represent our annual framework for addressing public policy that impacts and strengthens nonprofits in Alberta.

CENTRE COMMUNITY IN ALBERTA'S RECOVERY

CCVO is committed to improving the nonprofit sector's funding environment and investments from governments centred on community prosperity. CCVO advocates for policies that enable the nonprofit sector to create more jobs, innovate, deliver essential services and create community prosperity.

Actions We Are Taking

1. **Advocate for the Government of Alberta to invest in community recovery.**

Support for the nonprofit sector is support for community recovery in Alberta. It is therefore critical to maintain current investment for the nonprofit sector, to grow funding levels in existing programs to keep pace with growing need and inflation, as well as to support new investments in community recovery.

2. **In-depth Research Study to Quantify COVID-19 Impacts within Alberta's Nonprofit Sector.**

Alberta's nonprofit sector has an important role to play in creating a healthier and more just society. Recent analysis and reporting on the sector show that many organizations are facing several challenges (e.g., funding, new ways of working) due to the uncertainties in our operating landscape, as a result of the global pandemic and economic downturn. However, most of the data collected on the impacts of these challenges has been overarching data on the entire sector, with no way to understand and compare impacts within the sub-sectors in a statistically accurate representative way. This understanding of who within the nonprofit sector is the most impacted, and how they're impacted, is essential to supporting strategies for response, recovery, and for future rebuilding. CCVO will undertake this study, which will facilitate open access to data vital for nonprofit organizations, governments, and other sectors to inform their decision-making.

3. **Research and report on the role of nonprofits in addressing inequity.**

This pandemic is a global crisis that will no doubt be a defining historical moment. There is no clear sense yet of what changes are to come because of this experience but it has exposed and amplified some of the existing inequities, and there is a push to reduce those inequities in a recovery that includes all. Inequities have been particularly exacerbated for: Women; Racialized People; and People Living in Low Income.

As we move into recovery, the nonprofit sector will be crucial in fostering an equitable recovery. CCVO will undertake research into the nonprofit sector's role, report our findings, and make recommendations.

A VIBRANT NONPROFIT SECTOR WORKFORCE

The Alberta nonprofit sector is a source of great innovation, solutions for complex problems, and exceptionally creative collaborations. None of these activities occur without a committed, professional, and skilled workforce. This policy priority area aims to support and recognize the nonprofit workforce in all the contributions it makes both to the quality of life for each and every Albertan and to the economic strength of the province.

CCVO is committed to support and advocate for policies that benefit people working in the nonprofit sector and the community.

Actions We Are Taking

1. Foster diversity, equity and inclusion through research on Decent Work for the nonprofit sector.

CCVO will expand the use of a gender-based plus (GBA+) intersectional lens to analyze Decent Work for the most vulnerable in the nonprofit sector in Alberta. Decent Work is a term developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) which seeks to advance opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity.

The experiences of women and individuals with intersecting factors and the lack of leadership positions that these individuals hold in the nonprofit sector is one that requires more attention. Literature exploring gendered leadership within the nonprofit sector and in general the experiences of women and individuals with intersecting factors in the sector is minimal. Addressing workforce and organizational development remains an important priority if the sector is to continue to meet the growing needs of our communities. To be effective and sustainable over the long-term, organizations must be aware of – and deal with – a myriad of factors, including achieving fair, stable, and productive workplaces.

CCVO is committed to obtaining this type of information to guide the nonprofit sector and governments to make the best policy decisions.

2. Advocate for timely, reliable, and comprehensive nonprofit and charitable sector data.

CCVO will continue to focus on initiatives that will increase availability and access to high quality data, including: offering and improving the Boland survey, which provides access to valuable employment data for the nonprofit sector; supporting and working with provincial and federal counterparts to improve national data access by supporting a National Charitable Sector Data Strategy, and will seek ways to advocate for data on diversity in the sector.

3. Explore policies that lead digital transformation.

The pandemic highlighted a digital divide within the nonprofit sector and the use of technology and seeking advancements in this area can no longer be seen as nice to haves for most nonprofits, they are now essential components of an effective and efficient organization. As we move forward, this is an area that will increase efficiency, scale impact, save costs, bridge the knowledge gap, provides organizations with core support and flexibility, and enables better data collection on impact. CCVO will explore and promote ways that nonprofits can be supported to lead digital transformation.

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MEANINGFUL CIVIC AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

The wealth of knowledge and expertise in Alberta's nonprofit sector is often untapped for its full potential. The nonprofit sector has an obligation to the people it serves, and to all Albertans, to share insights, expertise, and uniquely qualified opinions with governments, political parties, the business community, and the general public so that decision-making and planning is done with the best knowledge available.

More important than any single activity in this area, CCVO will be ramping up our efforts to show leadership for the sector on important issues of democratic engagement and to build policy capacity among nonprofits.

Actions We Are Taking

- 1. Build The Nonprofit Vote to support the nonprofit sector and other stakeholders with the tools to advocate.**

CCVO is committed to developing The Nonprofit Vote – an initiative that will further unify the nonprofit sector among other sectors with a foundation to talk about the nonprofit sector's impact in our local communities. The Nonprofit Vote will support and encourage democratic engagement and facilitate more nonprofits to engage in public policy advocacy and dialogue.

TIMELY ANALYSIS AND ACTION ON EMERGING ISSUES

The sands are always shifting and changes in government, changes in policies and legislation, fluctuations in the economy, for example, make constancy an impossible state for the nonprofit sector. As such, CCVO will remain nimble and open to addressing emerging issues that affect the sector as a whole.

CCVO will continue to: challenge perceptions and misconceptions of the nonprofit sector by responding to media coverage and engaging in public discourse in support of fact-driven information related to the sector.