

2014 Provincial Election: 5 Key Priorities for Ontario's Nonprofit Sector

Ontario's 59,000 nonprofit organizations are at the heart of thriving communities. The sector makes over \$50 billion in economic impact across the province. The community nonprofit sector, not including MUSH organizations (municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals), employs 600,000 workers and represents 2.6% of Ontario's GDP.

The impact of nonprofits and charities on the lives of Ontarians and their interconnectedness with government and business activity mean that it is in the interest of all Ontarians to have a healthy, efficient and sustainable nonprofit sector.

The following questions have been posed to all provincial party leaders and we encourage you to share with candidates in your communities!

[MODERN LEGISLATION]

- 1. If elected, will you ensure that the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA), that was passed unanimously by all three political parties, is proclaimed immediately to end the legislative limbo so Ontario's nonprofit organizations can grow and develop?**

The ONCA will support transparency and accountability in the governance and operations of nonprofit organizations. It replaces 60 year-old legislation that our sector currently works within. Bill 85, a supplementary bill that contained the technical amendments that are required to proclaim the ONCA, died when the election was called. A commitment to re-introducing and ensuring a timely passage of the former Bill 85 is essential to a strong and resilient nonprofit sector. [More information](#)

[CREATING JOBS & LEADERS]

- 2. Will you commit to supporting the creation of a youth internship program for post-secondary graduates that will provide paid, meaningful work experience while supporting the training and development of the next generation of community leaders in the nonprofit sector?**

Ontario's community nonprofit organizations employ more than 600,000 people, making them a major economic driver in the province. They are also a source of job creation. At the same time, the sector is facing a serious leadership gap, with two-thirds of all executive directors expected to retire in the next five years without succession plans in place. [More information](#)

- 3. If elected, will you work with the nonprofit sector to develop a workplace-based pension plan and ensure the sector's inclusion in the development of any future provincial pension plans?**

The majority of people working in nonprofit organizations have no workplace-based pension plan. This is an issue that has affected the development of the nonprofit sector's labour force and is increasingly making it difficult to recruit and retain employees. [More information](#)

[EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS]

4. Will your party commit to implementing a cross-government nonprofit sector council, led by the Premier and community nonprofit leaders, to advance the mutual interests of the Government of Ontario and nonprofit organizations?

A strong partnership between the nonprofit sector and government will open up opportunities for innovative and efficient policies, programs and services that serve our communities. All ministries of the Ontario government have a stake in a healthy nonprofit sector and an “all of government” approach that brings together representatives from across Ministries is essential to ensuring a streamlined, coordinated and effective relationship. [More information](#)

[INVESTMENT REFORM]

5. Will your party commit to working in partnership with the nonprofit sector to cut the red tape in administering the sector’s funding so that both government and nonprofits can save money and time in order to reinvest in more services?

The government of Ontario in partnership with the community nonprofit sector stewards billions of dollars (through transfer payments and grant programs) to provide services to millions of people throughout the province. Modernizing the funding tools and rules is essential to an effective and responsive public service delivery system. [More information](#)

For more information about the Ontario Nonprofit Network and the community nonprofit sector: www.theonn.ca

As a 7,000-strong provincial network of nonprofits and charities, with a volunteer base of 300 sector leaders, the Ontario Nonprofit Network engages, advocates and leads with- and for- nonprofit and charitable organizations that work for the public benefit in Ontario.