

ONN POLICY AGENDA 2018-19

The 2018 provincial election offers ONN, our network, and the wider nonprofit sector a great focus for network-building and advocacy work. But, of course, the election is just one of many opportunities we will make and take over the year in order to drive forward our policy agenda to strengthen the sector and create thriving communities.

The following policy issues are those on which ONN plays a lead role in advocacy with our partners across the Ontario (and in some cases Canadian) nonprofit sector. ONN supports other sector leaders on a variety of other issues not listed below. We also respond to policy opportunities as they open and try to make space to react to emerging issues as well as be proactive.

If you know of an emerging policy issue that affects a range of Ontario-based nonprofits (for example, arts and culture, sports, environmental, faith-based, health and social services nonprofits), please tell us about it. We love to hear about policy advocacy work in the sector and we may be able to spread the word and connect you with new partners.

1. OUR PEOPLE

Our goal is to strengthen and support the nonprofit sector labour force and its diverse and active volunteer base. This will result in the mobilization of a decent work movement in the sector.¹

1.1 LABOUR FORCE STRATEGY

Build a strategy to strengthen Ontario's one million-strong nonprofit workforce

THE ISSUE

A fragmented and reactive approach to workforce development

To attract and retain the best people, Ontario's nonprofit sector must position itself as a "sector of choice" for good careers as well as good volunteer opportunities. Ontario's nonprofit sector would be strengthened by better coordinated labour force planning. How can nonprofits and subsectors (such as child care and the arts), as well as the sector as a whole, work to address critical issues affecting our sector's labour force, such as leadership and skills development, diversity and inclusion, the need for decent work and meaningful volunteer opportunities, and succession planning?

VISION

Coordinated workforce planning for greater impact

The nonprofit sector has a labour force that is growing, diverse, resilient, inclusive, and well supported through fair salaries, benefits, and pensions; good working conditions; and relevant developmental opportunities and mentorship. Our sector's leaders work together to continually anticipate and plan for nonprofit labour force needs. Our expanding volunteer base is well supported and plays an effective role in helping nonprofits meet their missions.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to promote the inclusion of research and policy focused on volunteering, volunteer management, and the economic contribution of Ontario's volunteers in labour force initiatives for the sector.

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to promote our [Shaping the Future](#) report and videos on a labour force strategy for the sector, and our [Leading our Future](#) report on emerging leadership competencies in the nonprofit sector to encourage nonprofits to take up this work and create links between labour force development efforts across the sector.

¹ The three sections (our people, our financing, and our regulatory environment) and their goals are from our 2017-20 strategic plan.

1.2. DECENT WORK AND PENSIONS

Champion a decent work movement for good working conditions to better serve communities

THE ISSUE

There is a need to improve working conditions and reduce precarity in the sector

Job quality issues affect many of the sector's one million employees, 80 percent of whom the ONN estimates are women workers. Issues include salaries and overtime pay; low levels of pension plan and benefits coverage; high rates of part-time and contract employment; underinvestment in training and development; and poor work-life balance. [There is a need to improve working conditions](#) for all while investigating the intersections between gender and labour – in the nonprofit sector and beyond.

The decent work movement, combined with an intersectional gender-based analysis ([GBA+](#)), presents an opportunity for the sector to act as a champion of good working conditions for all through organizational practices and funding reform. The movement also calls on our sector to participate in advocacy for broader socio-economic policy that ensures supportive work environments for all employees and enables the overall health and effectiveness of the nonprofit sector.

VISION

Supported by labour-force-wide standards and decent work funders, the nonprofit sector is a champion of decent work

The nonprofit sector in Ontario is a champion for decent work and leads by example with a well-supported, healthy, and vibrant workforce that plays a vital role in the social and economic development of our communities. The nonprofit sector is known for a growing number of employment opportunities, fair income, stable employment tenures, access to benefits and pensions, equality and rights at work, opportunities for development and advancement, and leadership on promoting a decent work culture for diverse employees. Nonprofit employees, boards, partners, and funders work together to support decent work practices.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to:

- Commit to decent work funding practices such as covering [proportional indirect costs](#) ("overhead"), the cost of benefits and pension premiums, and annual inflationary increases
- Introduce an enabling regulatory framework for nonprofit workplaces (most of which are non-unionized) to participate in Multi-Employer [Pension Plans](#)
- Promote gender equity by [valuing the work of women-majority sectors](#) (in addition to promoting the presence of women in men-dominated sectors)

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to:

- Build a [decent work movement](#) in the sector.
- Promote the Decent Work [Charter](#), [Checklist](#), and [Promising Practices](#) among nonprofits, including boards of directors
- Analyze policy/legislation/regulations that affect the nonprofit workforce, including the amended Employment Standards Act and related regulations
- Promote decent work funding practices across the full range of public (federal, provincial, municipal) and private funders
- Integrate an intersectional gender-based analysis (GBA+) lens into our public policy work
- Strengthen our sector's organizational policies and practices that prevent and respond to harassment in the workplace
- Develop a public policy agenda that brings to the forefront nonprofit sector labour force voices in broader gender equity conversations and builds gender equity voices into nonprofit labour force conversations

1.3. LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

Advocate for current and comprehensive data and research on the nonprofit sector's labour market and economic impact

THE ISSUE

Shortage of sector data makes it difficult to propose sector-wide solutions and to describe our sector's economic and societal impacts

While Statistics Canada, academic research, and independent surveys provide detailed information on labour markets and economic impact of many sectors of Canada's economy, there is a critical shortage of high-quality, relevant, and current data on the nonprofit labour force and economy in Ontario and Canada. The two main coding systems for national labour market information (LMI) (industrial and occupational classification systems) do not take into account sector boundaries (nonprofit vs. business, nonprofit vs. public sector). Furthermore, data specific to the nonprofit labour force consists of national surveys that are out of date (Statistics Canada's "occasional" Satellite Account of Non-profit Institutions and Volunteering was last conducted in 2007) and smaller-scale surveys that are not necessarily representative of the sector as a whole. Without a robust source of nonprofit sector LMI, disaggregated by gender, race, and other dimensions of diversity, our sector cannot answer many questions that would allow it to engage in workforce planning and to assess challenges such as retention rates, training and development, equality in the workplace, and retirement planning. Without current economic impact information, it is more difficult to tell the important story of our sector's contribution to society and make the case for more sustainable investment in our work.

VISION

Nonprofits can advance sector-wide solutions and tell their collective story with powerful data

Ontario nonprofits have access to current, relevant, and comprehensive LMI (including salary data, tenure, and occupational information) and data on the sector's economic impact. Distinct data for charities, nonprofit co-operatives, and other nonprofits is disaggregated by sub-sector and geographic region. Data is collected on a regular basis so that researchers can identify trends over time.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to:

- Collect and share labour market information and economic impact data on the Ontario nonprofit sector, informed by advice from the sector, via the proposed Ontario Statistics Office, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and other government offices
- Collect and share openly nonprofit organizational data under the proposed business registry (to be implemented as part of the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, or ONCA, by 2020)

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector (and nonprofits across Canada) to:

- Advocate for and inform Statistics Canada's next general survey of the nonprofit sector in Canada so as to ensure data are usefully categorized and disaggregated (through Imagine Canada's [Data Working Group](#))
- Explore administrative data-sharing for improved service delivery, innovation, research and development, and advocacy

1.4. POLICE RECORD CHECKS

Reduce barriers to employment and volunteering by creating a fair and streamlined process for police record checks

THE ISSUE

Unproclaimed legislation means police record checks continue to be done in a policy vacuum

There is variation across Ontario in the process and rules governing police record checks. Some police services charge fees for volunteer checks while others do not and some services take many weeks to process requests. Furthermore, as employers and stewards of volunteers, nonprofits currently have to interpret sensitive information in police record checks, instead of receiving a straightforward “pass/fail” report for candidates. Legislation was passed in 2015 but has not yet been proclaimed, pending development of regulations – including regulations that would ideally address these issues.

VISION

Timely and affordable access to appropriate information to support employers and stewards of volunteers in risk management

Nonprofit organizations in Ontario have timely and affordable access to appropriate information from police record checks that helps them manage risks to their employees, volunteers and clients, particularly those from vulnerable groups.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to:

- [Proclaim the Police Record Checks Reform Act \(2015\)](#) and implement Ontario-wide regulations that control the cost and administrative burden of police record checks and harmonize the process across jurisdictions
- Launch a centralized screening service that provides clear results (pass/fail/adjudicate/appeal) for for police record checks ([as in British Columbia](#)) so nonprofits don't have to interpret sensitive information on prospective employees and volunteers
- Launch a program that covers the costs of police record checks for volunteers at eligible nonprofit organizations if the fees are not waived ([as in Alberta](#))

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to use police record checks appropriately in the context of an [overall employee and volunteer screening approach](#).

2. OUR FINANCING

Our goal is to catalyze improvements in the Ontario nonprofit sector's funding environment by advocating for the reform of the sector's investment relationship with the government and for the removal of barriers for nonprofits to earn income.

2.1. CHAMPIONS FOR A DECENT ECONOMY

Advocate for public policy and nonprofit practices that promote community-based investment and financial solutions to growing inequality and financial insecurity

THE ISSUE

There is a need for capital investment in community-owned nonprofit structures so that these enterprises can continue to create jobs, innovate, scale up social enterprises, deliver essential services in communities, and take advantage of market opportunities.

Amidst growing inequality and household debt levels, coupled with rising social polarization and distrust in government, nonprofits are under increasing strain to meet demands for community services while performing their traditional function of building community cohesion and bridges to the public policy process. In other jurisdictions (and to a limited extent in Ontario), nonprofits are finding ways to address these challenges by engaging people in community ownership of critical services like housing, food, and energy, which helps to keep the wealth generated by communities circulating in the local economy so it can serve local needs instead of being extracted for shareholder profits. Public benefit nonprofits (charities, cooperatives, and other nonprofits) should be supported to scale up these local economic development initiatives that put community well-being first and provide opportunities and dignity for local residents. To do so, they need access to financing and investment mechanisms so they can amplify what's already happening in a few communities. However, lenders are reluctant to lend to nonprofits with few assets or uncertain or modest revenue streams and are hesitant about business models they often don't understand or appreciate. There is a central role for the provincial government to offer or facilitate capital investment, including via the Infrastructure Ontario Loans Program. Eligibility for this program was expanded six years ago to certain parts of the nonprofit sector but it still remains inaccessible to others, including arts and culture groups, employment services, and nonprofit social enterprises.

At the same time, some public and private investors are interested in investing in the nonprofit sector for a social and financial return. It is important that new “[social finance](#)” mechanisms primarily support nonprofit social enterprises and do not end up subsidizing private investment. There is a clear need for community-led, nonprofit intermediaries (similar to the \$25 million [RISQ](#), Réseau d'Investissement Social du Québec, and the Québec sector's \$50 million “patient capital” fund, [Fiducie](#)) to link small- and large-scale capital with local and emergent nonprofit enterprises that need investment.

VISION

Nonprofits have access to new and more accessible investment mechanisms so they can support the growth of community wealth and well-being

With an enabling policy environment, Ontario nonprofits are empowered to leverage their collective assets – like buildings, reserve funds, and investments – to generate community-driven investment in more inclusive, equitable forms of local economic development. Community-driven finance initiatives (such as community bonds) connect individuals who would like to invest their dollars locally with community-led enterprises – such as arenas, food hubs, community kitchens, community-owned co-working spaces, housing, and energy cooperatives. Public benefit nonprofits are categorically eligible for the Infrastructure Ontario Loans Program. The government actively facilitates the vibrancy, diversity, and scaling up of nonprofit social enterprise through business development supports and an enabling regulatory environment.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to:

- Expand nonprofit access to provincial capital funding and low-cost loans via the [Infrastructure Ontario Loans Program](#) (PDF) so that all categories of public benefit nonprofits are eligible
- Develop and promote a Community Finance Policy Framework for Ontario to advance locally driven community investment mechanisms (like community bonds) for individuals with savings, nonprofits with assets, and other institutions to channel investments into public benefit nonprofits

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to:

- Convene the “Champions for a Decent Economy” network to provide a forum for nonprofits and cooperatives to develop a shared understanding of our role in fostering a more inclusive economy
- Update and continue to promote our [Policy Blueprint for Strengthening Social Enterprise in the Province of Ontario](#)
- Foster social procurement by governments, nonprofits, and other purchasers, including through [Akelos](#), the national marketplace for social purchase
- Convene a Community Finance working group and connect nonprofits holding assets with intermediaries in the sector and those looking to test these finance mechanisms to grow the nonprofit and collaborative economy

2.2. FUNDING REFORM

Foster a new investment relationship between the Ontario government and the nonprofit sector to support decent work and a partnership approach to addressing community challenges

THE ISSUE

A high administrative burden; short-term, restrictive funding agreements; and government contributions eroded by inflation

Funding agreements (called “transfer payment agreements”) with the Ontario government take up a significant amount of nonprofits’ administrative capacity, especially when it comes to financial accountability and budget constraints. There is a need to simplify and streamline application processes, agreements, budget templates, and reporting requirements. Beyond administrative modernization, the sector grapples with a range of funding challenges and trends, such as funding sufficiency (including funding to meet new employment standards, to address inflationary increases in operating costs, and to invest in innovation/systems change work), investment in [core mission support](#), changing modes of funding (e.g., commissioning, collective impact, lead agency model), and the need for data and evaluation capacity to measure outcomes. We need a new approach to government investment – one based on reciprocal respect – so the Ontario Government and the nonprofit sector can work together to address society’s challenges.

VISION

A new funding partnership based on stability, respect, and real costs for real results

The funding relationship between funders and the Ontario nonprofit sector is characterized by reciprocal respect, a shared commitment to transparency and mutual accountability, continuous improvement of administrative processes, a spirit of partnership, and a focus on outcomes for communities. Transfer payment agreements across the provincial government reflect the [six principles](#) co-designed by Ontario Public Service and Ontario nonprofit sector representatives. Provincial funders that contract with nonprofits for ongoing service delivery support decent work and organizational sustainability by offering multi-year funding agreements that reflect real costs, including coverage of health benefits and pension premiums, annual inflationary increases, any changes to statutory requirements (e.g., new employment standards), and proportional indirect costs for critical functions such as research/program innovation. New forms of funding are rigorously evaluated to ensure that they contribute to cost-effective, sustainable programs that provide long-term benefits to participants and local communities while strengthening the capacity of the nonprofit sector to continue to innovate. *For more on our sector’s relationship with the Ontario Government, see the joint [Vision Document](#).*

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to:

- Explore a Cabinet or legislative framework to re-start the stalled [Joint Funding Reform Forum](#) (JFRF) process, a joint table for the nonprofit sector and government ministries to identify challenges and facilitate the implementation of solutions on the investment relationship. The JFRF has not met since March 2017
- Implement the new Transfer Payment Operational Policy and related template agreements that will be mandatory to use within two years of April 1, 2018, across ministry funders (and voluntary for agencies such as Ontario Trillium Foundation and Local Health Integration Networks) -- and keep the sector informed of progress
- Include inflationary increases and the costs of Bill 148 (and any other proposed Employment Standards changes) in 2018-2019 transfer payment agreements and beyond

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to:

- Undertake a research project to compare how different governments contract/procure public benefit services from the nonprofit sector (e.g., transfer payments, legal contracts, commissioning processes) and the impact of these on nonprofits' financial health and sustainability
- Provide feedback on the Grants Ontario portal

2.3. SOCIAL PROCUREMENT

Channel the social purchasing power of the public sector and anchor institutions to provide community benefits

THE ISSUE

Missed opportunities to leverage public and nonprofit spending

There is an opportunity to leverage the purchasing power of the public service and broader public sector to promote nonprofit social enterprise. Organizations can buy with social value in mind at any scale, whether it is a government requiring community benefit clauses in infrastructure contracts or universities having their annual meetings catered by a nonprofit social enterprise. Major government infrastructure contracts (e.g. for the construction of transit and highways) and urban development can be designed to include community benefits that support employment opportunities for marginalized communities, procurement opportunities for social enterprises, affordable housing, and other community initiatives. Social procurement policies can direct public sector spending to social enterprises and other diverse suppliers from marginalized communities.

VISION

Broader public purchasing power is harnessed for public benefit

The Ontario Government, broader public sector anchor institutions (hospitals, schools, postsecondary institutions, and municipalities), and nonprofits themselves engage in purchasing that supports positive social and environmental outcomes for Ontario's communities. Social procurement policies are commonplace among public and nonprofit organizations. Local nonprofits in Ontario communities work together and with other sectors to identify, advocate for, and implement community benefits linked to large-scale infrastructure and development projects. The nonprofit social enterprise sector grows continuously relative to the size of the overall economy.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to:

- Implement a robust social procurement strategy across government and the broader public sector
- Operationalize the commitment to “community benefits” in the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015, and the 2017 Long-Term Infrastructure Plan

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to:

- Promote a shared understanding of the critical role played by nonprofit social enterprise and other forms of earned income in sustaining the nonprofit sector
- Promote purchasing from social enterprises on the part of government, the broader public sector, and nonprofit organizations themselves
- Share best practices and successes on implementing social procurement policies and practices in all sectors

2.4. PUBLIC LANDS AND CIVIC SPACES

Maintain and expand community access to public land and ensure critical public infrastructure is operated on a nonprofit basis

THE ISSUE

We must preserve the assets built with public dollars for current and future public use.

Public lands (land and buildings owned by the government and broader public sector, including surplus school lands) are often sold to the highest bidder without consideration for their local community value. There is a need for a more deliberate approach to assess the value of public lands and engage communities on potential uses that serve the public benefit before they go on the market. Once property is sold to the private market, it becomes part of the speculative economy, whereas if a property is sold to a nonprofit, it continues to serve the public benefit. If a parcel is converted to a [community land trust](#), it can furthermore provide permanently affordable rental and for-purchase housing as well as community amenities like child care centres, social enterprises, community hubs, recreation facilities, and community gardens that are protected from real estate spikes forever. Infrastructure that is needed for services and housing for vulnerable people (like nursing homes, hospitals, disability services) should be protected from being sold and resold on the private market, as these transactions transfer assets built with public funds into private hands; they also increase debt loads and operating costs, placing entire services at risk.

More broadly, Ontarians need access to public spaces to promote civic engagement, social cohesion, and vibrant, healthy communities. In some communities, traditional meeting spaces - churches, schools, and legion halls - are becoming more scarce. Organizing an art class, a public meeting, or a little league game is becoming more of a challenge. Community nonprofits are well positioned to keep these spaces in community hands and retain them for the future as the needs of their surrounding communities evolve. Whether in rural, suburban, or urban communities, nonprofits should be supported to act as stewards of existing and potential lands and facilities.

VISION

Public lands and buildings remain in public or nonprofit hands for community use

Surplus public lands and the assets on them (e.g. buildings) are first accessible (by gift, purchase, long-term lease, or other arrangement) to the nonprofit sector for public use and benefit, today and in the long term. Community land trusts are increasingly used across Ontario to remove land from the speculative economy and create permanently affordable housing and community amenities. Community access to civic space is supported by strong government policy at the provincial and municipal levels.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to mandate the inclusion of broader public sector lands in the existing [Nonprofit Lands Registry](#). With this, qualified nonprofits may have the opportunity to purchase surplus public lands in advance of their availability on the open market.

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to develop a policy statement on the role and value of public and community-governed assets; and explore the role and value of mechanisms such as [Community Land Trusts](#) in providing permanently affordable land for critical services such as nonprofit housing, child care, recreation facilities, and community food/urban gardening initiatives.

3. OUR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Our goal is to ensure that the Ontario nonprofit sector's legal frameworks - policy, legislation, and regulation - support and empower the sector's work

3.1. PUBLIC BENEFIT LENS

Advocate for the provincial government to use a “public benefit nonprofit lens” to assess proactively the impact of new legislation, regulations, and policy frameworks on the nonprofit sector

THE ISSUE

Governments have no mechanism in law to distinguish public benefit nonprofits from member-serving nonprofits- so they treat them all the same (with negative consequences for communities).

The Ontario nonprofit sector is a \$50 billion economic driver that collectively employs one million people. Rather than extracting shareholder profit, nonprofits leverage government and other investments via earned income, donations, and volunteer hours to promote community benefit throughout the economic sectors in which they are active. The sustainability and vibrancy of the nonprofit sector is constrained, however, by our regulatory environment. Too many times our network has had to advocate for changes to legislation, regulations, and policies that have been introduced without due consideration for how they affect our sector. From lobbyist registration to business development funds to ensuring employment standards compliance costs are embedded in funding agreements, our sector is not given an enabling policy environment to help it meet its mission. Now that ONN has proposed a [public benefit distinction in law](#), government has the ability to distinguish between public benefit nonprofits (including nonprofit social enterprises, cooperatives, charities, and other nonprofits) and member-serving nonprofits such as trade associations. Our sector needs government to employ a public benefit nonprofit “lens” to make sure their legislative frameworks do no harm – and where possible these frameworks actively enable the nonprofit sector to thrive in service to our communities.

VISION

Public benefit nonprofits are recognized in law and policy so that their unique contributions to communities and relationship with government is respected.

Public benefit nonprofits are recognized by the government as distinct from member-serving nonprofits. Governments apply a “public benefit nonprofit” lens in the development of all legislation, regulations, and policy frameworks so as to anticipate their impact on the nonprofit sector.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to adopt an integrated, cross-government approach to modernizing the relationship between the province and public benefit nonprofits to recognize the social, economic, and environmental returns associated with investing in public benefit nonprofits; and exempt public benefit nonprofits from lobbyist registration and third-party elections advertising registration.

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to continue to identify and draw the attention of the Ontario government to legislative, regulatory, and policy frameworks that should apply a public benefit lens – and that otherwise hinder the nonprofit sector in achieving its mission.

3.2. ONCA

Proclaim and implement the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)

THE ISSUE

Key regulatory decisions still to be made on our sector's governing legislation.

The Government of Ontario has now passed amending legislation allowing ONCA to be proclaimed, and announced that it will become law on January 1, 2020. ONCA will come with a new nonprofit registration process allowing open access to comprehensive data on the sector. The current *Ontario Corporations Act* has also been subject to minor amendments to make it easier for nonprofits to operate (such as giving notice of general meetings via email) in the meantime. But there are still regulatory decisions to be made under ONCA and the nonprofit sector needs to watch to ensure proclamation happens on schedule.

VISION

Our sector is subject to appropriate, modern governance legislation.

The nonprofit and charitable sector has an enabling corporate legal framework that is designed to meet the needs of the sector and regularly updated to meet changes in technology and practice.

NEXT STEPS

Advocating for the Ontario Government to:

- Establish a modern and efficient nonprofit registry that can also be used for data collection purposes
- Meet its ONCA proclamation date of Jan. 1, 2020
- Provide adequate transitional support for the nonprofit sector, once the ONCA has been proclaimed, through the re-establishment of the Implementation Steering Committee and an educational and support program

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to provide sector voices on the development of regulations under ONCA via the Implementation Steering Committee.

3.3. FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Advocate on critical federal issues that affect Ontario nonprofits

THE ISSUE

Ontario nonprofits and charities are subject to an archaic federal regulatory framework that hampers their ability to meet their missions.

ONN works closely with [Imagine Canada](#) and other partners to address the federal policy and regulatory environment for nonprofits and charities. Each year, ONN advocates on select federal issues that are of critical importance to the Ontario nonprofit sector.

VISION

Public benefit nonprofits are free to engage in policy advocacy, earn revenue to support their missions, and partner with all levels of government in the development of public policy in service to communities.

Ontario nonprofits are supported by federal and provincial policies and regulations that create an enabling environment for the sector. Nonprofits and charities are supported, not hindered, in their ability to participate in public policy debate (at all levels of government), to voice the concerns of Canadians, to earn revenues in support of their missions, and to sustain themselves in the service of their communities. Governments at all levels have policy frameworks in place that recognize that the ability and importance of Canadian nonprofits and charities to participate in shaping public policy is vital for a healthy democracy.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Government of Canada to:

- Create an enabling federal policy environment for nonprofits to engage in public policy advocacy, earn income, and otherwise undertake activities to achieve their missions, including by:
 - [Ending the regulation of non-partisan policy advocacy by Canada's charities](#) – and implement a charities regulation framework that regulates charitable *purposes* rather than *activities*
 - [Creating a distinction in the Income Tax Act between public benefit nonprofits and member-serving nonprofits](#) to enable relevant distinctions between the two groups in areas such as access to public funding streams, [earning non-taxable revenues](#), elections advocacy, and [lobbyist registration](#)
 - Implementing our sector's recommendations on Shared Platforms as outlined in our [policy paper](#) and [case for support](#), including modernizing the definition of direction and control under charities regulations to one of responsibility

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector (and nonprofits across Canada) to:

- Amplify the voices of [public benefit nonprofits](#) (charities, nonprofit coops, and other nonprofits) during the [Senate of Canada's Special Committee studying the charitable and nonprofit sector](#)
- Share and promote our Shared Platforms [Guidebook](#)
- Participate with Imagine Canada in the [CASL](#) (Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation) legislative review