



October 10, 2016

Paddy Buckley, Assistant Deputy Minister (Acting)  
Advanced Education and Skills Development  
Mowat Block 17th Floor, Room 1747  
900 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Re: Your participation in federal-provincial consultations on labour market funding

Dear Paddy Buckley,

We are writing to express our interest in contributing to the Government of Canada's initiative to improve its labour market agreements with provinces and territories.

The Ontario Nonprofit Network's (ONN) vision is to support thriving communities and a dynamic province through a strong and resilient nonprofit sector. We are the provincial network for the 55,000 nonprofit organizations across the province of Ontario. ONN brings the diverse voices of the sector to government, funders and the business sector to create and influence systemic change. ONN activates its volunteer base and the network to develop and analyze policy, and work on strategic issues through its working groups, engagement of nonprofits and charities and government.

Through our work to develop both a labour force strategy and a pension plan for the nonprofit sector in Ontario, we have become increasingly aware of the need for robust and updated labour market information on the nonprofit sector. Currently, data on the nonprofit sector, as noted by the HR Council for the Nonprofit Sector, is limited and incomplete. There is a significant knowledge gap around what we need to know to help the nonprofit sector to engage in workforce planning and to quantify labour force policy challenges such as retention rates, training and development, and retirement planning.

In 2003, the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO) provided, for the first time, data on the size of Canada's nonprofit labour force, which was estimated at 1.2 million (excluding colleges, hospitals and universities) or 7% of the country's labour force. However, since then, there has not been an update to that survey.

We recommend that Statistics Canada, provincial governments, academic researchers, and nonprofit sector representatives work together to fund and implement sector-specific labour market research. We have heard from our counterparts in other parts of the country and it is clear that there is interest from others in the sector to collaborate on such an initiative.

We further recommend that foundational data on the Canadian nonprofit sector should be developed by creating nonprofit categories in Statistics Canada surveys, such as by incorporating nonprofit status into the National Occupational Classification (NOC), the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and labour force surveys. This practice is common in other industrialized countries and would, if implemented in Canada, provide the foundation for much higher quality research on the sector's labour force.

Thank you for considering this input and we look forward to being able to contribute to this process further should the opportunity arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" being more prominent than the last name "Taylor".

Cathy Taylor  
Executive Director