

OVERVIEW

ONN POLICY PRIORITIES 2019-2020

ONN works within three broad policy areas: our sector's **people** (the paid and volunteer work force), our **finances**, and our **regulatory environment**. Our goal is to create a more enabling environment for a strong and resilient sector so that nonprofits can focus on supporting Ontario's vibrant communities.

1. OUR PEOPLE

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

- We are building a **labour force strategy** to strengthen Ontario's nonprofit workforce. ONN advocates for coordinated workforce planning across the nonprofit sector to support a growing, diverse, resilient, inclusive, and well supported labour force and volunteer base. We want the Ontario Government to recognize the social and economic contributions of the nonprofit sector's paid labour force and volunteer base to our province.
- We are building a **decent work movement in the nonprofit sector** by finding and connecting champions who promote good working conditions, including access to benefits and a pension plan. ONN uses a gender-based intersectional lens to identify issues and solutions. We also advocate for legislated standards and funding practices that support nonprofits to be decent work employers.
- We advocate for useful **labour market information** (LMI) and research on **the nonprofit sector's economic impact**. ONN seeks robust data on the Canadian and Ontario nonprofit sectors, including LMI and data on the economic impact of nonprofits (including nonprofit social enterprises, charities, and nonprofit co-operatives).
- ONN advocates for the Ontario nonprofit sector to use police record checks appropriately in the context of an overall employee and volunteer screening approach. We also advocate for an **accessible, digitized police record checks processing system** for nonprofit employees and volunteers, including free police record checks for volunteers and affordable checks for employees, with standardized processing times across Ontario.

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.

- We promote **community wealth building for a better economy** and vibrant communities. Community ownership (by nonprofit social enterprises and cooperatives) means that

OVERVIEW

local people, especially equity-seeking groups, can keep more of the the wealth they generate. We advocate for community finance and public policy that can help community-owned structures scale up to provide opportunities and dignity for residents.

- We advocate for **burden reduction and modernization of transfer payment agreements** so that government and nonprofits can spend less time on paperwork and more time focusing on service delivery outcomes. We advocate that new forms of funding (such as social impact bonds) be evaluated to ensure that they contribute to cost-effective, sustainable programs. We advocate for governmental and non-governmental funders to provide **open data**, and to engage in **administrative data sharing arrangements** that provide valuable information on programs while respecting privacy.
- We encourage the Ontario Government, broader public sector anchor institutions (such as hospitals and municipalities), and nonprofits to engage in **social value purchasing** that supports positive social and environmental outcomes for Ontario's communities.
- We advocate for strong public policies that support the **transfer of surplus public lands and buildings with community value to nonprofit hands** for community use, including surplus schools. We encourage governments and nonprofits to explore **community land trusts** to provide community amenities that are protected from real estate spikes.

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.

- We advocate for **public benefit nonprofits** (as distinct from member-serving nonprofits) to be recognized in law so that their contributions to communities and relationship with government is respected. Governments should apply a "public benefit nonprofit" lens in the development of all legislation, regulations, and policy.
- We advocate for the **Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) to be proclaimed by January 2020**. Our sector needs a modern corporate legal framework that is regularly updated to meet changes in technology and practice. ONN advocates for the data from the ONCA nonprofit registry to be open data.
- We advocate for the Ontario Government to create a **web portal**, similar to the Small Business Access portal, that explains **all the legal and regulatory requirements that apply to nonprofits** operating in Ontario.
- We advocate for an enabling policy environment and greater take-up in the nonprofit sector of **shared platforms** so as to create a more efficient way for the sector to support emerging leaders and grassroots community initiatives that shouldn't have to incorporate.