

ONN POLICY PRIORITIES 2020-2021

DECENT WORK AND PENSIONS

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

THE ISSUE

The nonprofit sector faces recruitment and retention challenges while nonprofit workers are not always assured of a clear “decent work” career path in the sector. Job quality issues, such as precarious work, low salaries, and a lack of benefits and pensions, affect many of the sector’s one million employees, particularly its women workers who make up 80 percent of the labour force.

POLICY STATEMENT

ONN advocates for labour-force-wide standards and decent work funding practices that support nonprofits to be decent work employers. ONN supports improvements to working conditions for all while taking a GBA+ approach.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Government of Ontario to:

- Exempt community-governed nonprofits from [wage restraint legislation \(Bill 124\)](#) to create a level talent recruitment playing field with for-profit corporations, and enable a sector with wages that are 29 per cent lower than the Canadian average to keep pace with inflation.
- Proclaim in effect the Pay Transparency Act, 2018, which would mean job postings must include pay ranges and large employers must track gender and diversity wage gaps.
- Consult the nonprofit sector when making changes to employment laws and regulations.

Advocate for the Government of Canada to:

- Expand women workers’ access to Employment Insurance maternity and parental leave benefits by reducing the EI benefit [waiting period](#) to zero weeks, reducing the number of hours required to qualify for benefits, and increasing the benefit rate from 55 percent.
- Promote gender equity by implementing a universal child care program and recognizing the value of the (women majority) nonprofit sector’s contributions to society and the economy.

Advocate for governmental (federal, provincial, municipal) and non-governmental funders to:

- Become Decent Work Funders and adopt practices such as covering [proportional indirect costs](#) (“overhead”), the cost of extended health benefits and pension premiums, and

annual inflationary increases in more stable, multi-year funding agreements.

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to:

- Continue building a [decent work movement](#) in the sector by recruiting Champions and Leadership Voices and partnering with provincial associations and regional networks.
- Promote the Decent Work [Charter, Checklist](#), and [good practices](#) among nonprofits, including boards of directors
- Promote our sector-wide and organizational [policy solutions](#) that promote women's economic equity in the nonprofit workforce.
- Foster widespread adoption of sector-wide solutions such as an [employee health benefits plan](#) and a [pension plan for the sector](#).
- Support emerging youth leaders in the sector to be Decent Work Leadership Voices.