



ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020

LOOKING BACK ON 2019-2020

As we write this in September 2020, it's challenging to look back and reflect on 2019-2020 given the emerging impacts of COVID-19, highlighting the disproportionate impact on vulnerable individuals and coinciding with the urgent call to address long standing anti-Black racism.

In the “before” period, ONN's operational focus was a renewal of our strategic plan and priorities. We continued to see growth in our engagement and communications, as we tackled emerging policy opportunities and challenges for Ontario's 58,000 nonprofits. It was a year focused on relationship building, working with a still relatively new provincial government, and with new network allies and partnerships. ONN's network model continued to be our strongest asset as we supported the sector in public policy, communications, services and government relations - with, for and by our broad network.

In reflection, it was a year that lay the groundwork for us to dive into 2020-2021 to do our very best to create an enabling environment for nonprofits and their communities to thrive. And as we ended the year in March 2020 - working remotely amid so much uncertainty, we knew that no matter what was to come, we were stronger together.

Today, as a sector, we are faced with a clear opportunity to look within, to work with one another and to centre the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour to rebuild communities that are resilient for all. We take this spirit forward and thank you for your continued engagement with ONN.

CATHY TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONN

MICHELLE BALDWIN
BOARD CHAIR, ONN

STRATEGIC PLAN

3 priorities and 11 strategies to drive our work and strengthen Ontario's nonprofit sector



PRIORITY 1

Advocate for an enabling public policy environment so nonprofits can thrive



PRIORITY 2

Champion the nonprofit sector's value and influence to strengthen its social and economic impact



PRIORITY 3

Strengthen ONN's network and increase engagement and skills of the network to positively influence public policy and respond to changing environments

ONN is the independent nonprofit network for the 58,000 nonprofits and charities in Ontario, focused on policy, advocacy, and services to strengthen Ontario's nonprofit sector as a key pillar of our society and economy.

KEY POLICY AREAS

OUR PEOPLE

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.

OUR FINANCING

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.

OUR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that the Ontario nonprofit sector's legal frameworks – policy, legislation, and regulation – support and empower the sector's work.

A YEAR OF GROWTH, ADVOCACY, AND BUILDING A RESILIENT SECTOR

ONN focused on growing and strengthening our powerful network, demonstrating the sector's value by sharing its stories, and building a decent work movement within nonprofits.

ONN's provincial engagement continued to take flight with regional events that fostered local collaboration. Our network was broadened with new collaborations including becoming the first International Ally of the US's National Council of Nonprofits and chairing the Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks.

Following a provincial budget with many funding cuts to the sector and structural changes, ONN's first ever Sector 360° Survey captured the story of nonprofits continuing to innovate and collaborate despite constrained budgets. ONN and network members met with many MPPs to demonstrate the sector's social and economic contributions of our labour force and volunteer base.

ONN created resources and provided advocacy skills-building for the sector, furthered services such as a sector-wide pension plan, and engaged tens of thousands of sector leaders to advance public policy priorities.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



Recommendations from ONN included in the Catalyst for Change: A Roadmap to a Stronger Charitable Sector report by the Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector



Advocated directly to 80 decision makers, including Members of Provincial Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, and top public servants



Gathered data from almost 450 nonprofits in ONN's Sector 360° Survey on impacts of the 2019 provincial budget on the sector, with media coverage prompting scrutiny of funding cuts and significant restructuring



Participated in 19 policy and advocacy coalitions and projects and completed 16 submissions to government.

OUR PEOPLE

No increase of WSIB premiums

In September 2019, the Ontario Minister of Labour announced that Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums would be frozen for nonprofits for five years. ONN was part of the announcement to note the significance for the sector.

Reimagining Governance engages leaders across Ontario

Through a variety of in-person activities and virtual sessions the Reimagining Governance initiative engaged over 400 people across Ontario. In addition to activities and sessions, the initiative informed and fostered dialogue by developing a video series, engaging with new stakeholders on social media, and continuing the conversation with its 200+ loyal subscribers.

STRENGTHENING A DECENT WORK MOVEMENT IN THE SECTOR

ONN continued building a decent work movement in the sector through case studies, online sector engagement, and access to benefits and a pension plan.

Moving the needle on women's economic empowerment

Over the year, the Decent Work for Women project completed ten presentations that reached 760 people. The project also published ten written pieces that reached over 2,800 people. Publications included a Pay Equity Backgrounder, GBA++ Compensation Guide, and Employment Insurance Brief.

More nonprofits are committing to decent work

The Decent Work project continues to grow its reach with 15 additional organizations signing on to participate in the Decent Work Champions Circle, over 200 leadership voices sharing their vision, and a new aspiring leaders network engaging hundreds of participants at Nonprofit Driven.

OUR FINANCES

Media coverage highlights significant funding cuts

In November 2019, media coverage of ONN's Sector 360° Survey report prompted public scrutiny of provincial funding cuts to the sector and highlighted the importance of government consultation and working in partnership with nonprofits.

Advocating for social procurement

Advocated alongside the sector to the Federal Government to push for the adoption of a social procurement policy. ONN was proud to be part of advocacy efforts, so existing government spending can be leveraged to meet community-defined goals and outcomes.

Encouraged the Ontario government, broader public sector anchor institutions (such as hospitals and municipalities), and nonprofits to engage in social value purchasing.

ADVOCATING FOR NEW AND STREAMLINED FINANCING

Supporting and exploring community land trusts

Advocated for strong public policies that support the transfer of surplus public lands and buildings with community value to nonprofit hands for community use, and encouraged governments and nonprofits to explore community land trusts.

Streamlining Transfer Payment Agreements

Advocated for burden reduction and modernization of transfer payment agreements. In November 2019, ONN co-announced with the President of the Ontario Treasury Board an initiative to streamline Transfer Payment Agreements (including umbrella agreements).

Promoting community wealth building

Promoted community wealth building for a better economy and vibrant communities, including nonprofit social enterprises and cooperatives.

OUR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

ONN priorities included in Senate report

In June 2019, many of ONN's priorities were included in the Senate report, Catalyst for Change: A Roadmap to a Stronger Charitable Sector, including.

- Decent work and pensions in the sector
- Better data on the sector and its labour force
- Funding reform
- A level playing field for nonprofit social enterprise
- Changes to financing within the sector: More flexibility to earn revenue for charities and nonprofits
- Flexibility for charities to partner and collaborate with other organizations
- Clarify definitions of member focused and public benefit nonprofits

ADVOCATING FOR A STRONGER POLICY ENVIRONMENT

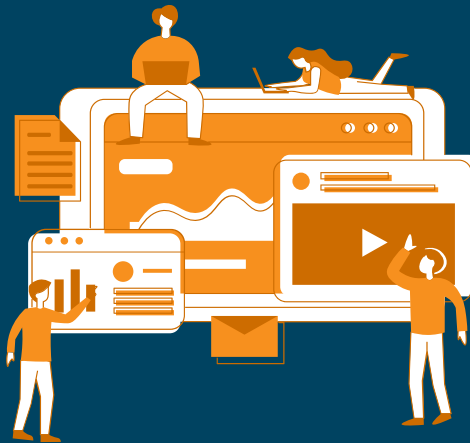
Advocating for a regulatory environment where nonprofits can thrive

- Advocated 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 are respected. Governments should apply a “public benefit nonprofit” lens in the development of all legislation, regulations, and policy.
- Advocated for the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) to be proclaimed by January 2020.
- Advocated for the Ontario government to create a web portal that explains all the legal and regulatory requirements that apply to nonprofits operating in Ontario.
- Advocated for an enabling policy environment and greater take-up of shared platforms in the nonprofit sector.

BROADENING THE NETWORK AND CHAMPIONING THE SECTOR'S VALUE



500+ members
and four regional nonprofit
networks dedicated to
advancing the advocacy
efforts of Ontario's
nonprofit sector



Almost two million views
of our resources, analysis,
and social media posts
online and over 40,000
online engagements



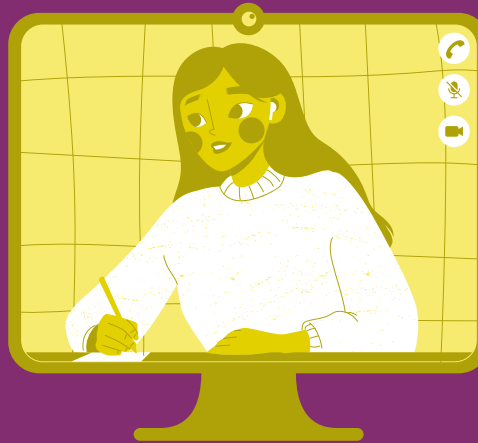
Over one million people
reached through media
coverage including CBC
News, Vancouver Sun, TVO,
and Queen's Park Today.

PROVIDING NONPROFIT RESOURCES AND SERVICES



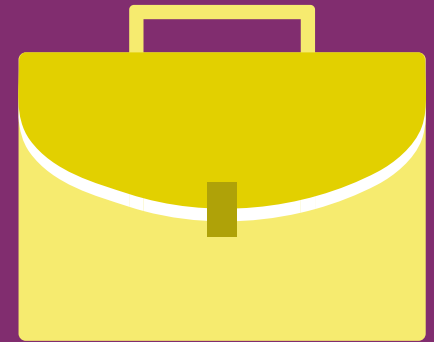
9 services

to help organizations advance decent work, pool their group buying power, and retain top talent with a sector-focused pension plan



10 interactive webinars

connecting 1,661 nonprofit leaders to sector knowledge, advocacy opportunities, and policy issues



320+ job postings

on connectjobs.ca helping nonprofits recruit top talent across the province

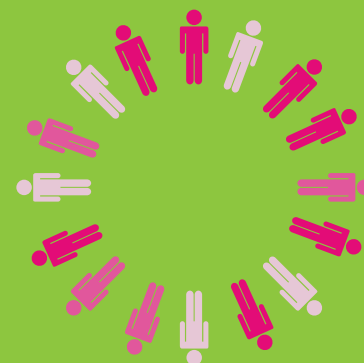
CONVENING SECTOR LEADERS ACROSS THE PROVINCE



Three regional roadshows bringing together 135 sector leaders in Greater Sudbury Area, York Region, and Hamilton and Halton to talk local issues and strategies



50+ provincial associations convened throughout the year to connect the dots on intersecting policy issues for collective advocacy



600+ sector leaders connected, collaborated, and shared knowledge at our annual Nonprofit Driven conference

ONN CONNECTORS

Thank you to our ONN Connectors, a special group of forward-thinking leaders committed to a strong and resilient nonprofit sector in Ontario.



ONN FUNDERS

Thank you to our funders who help us mobilize policy and advocacy action to connect the sector, government, and the communities we serve.



United Way
Toronto & York Region



**TORONTO
FOUNDATION**

ATKINSON

For social and economic justice

**LAWSON
FOUNDATION**

Ignite^{NPS}
Turning Insights into Action



**Status of Women
Canada**

**Condition féminine
Canada**

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

Toronto

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

THANK YOU ONN LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Board of Directors

Abdul Nakua, Andre Vallillee (Vice Chair), Gina Uppal (until September 2019), Lois Fine (Treasurer), Margaret Hancock (ex-officio), Maureen Fair (Secretary), Michelle Baldwin (Chair), Myna Kota, Peter Honeywell, Robin Cardozo (Past Chair)

Policy Committee

Alyssa Brierly, Bill Sinclair, Carla Leon, Deborah Simon, Devika Shah, Diane Davy, Helen Harris, James Janeiro, Jasmine Rezaee, Juliette Nicolet, Kat Clarke, Kathleen Sharpe, Margaret Hancock (Chair), Michelle Baldwin (Ex-officio), Norman Ragetlie, Paul Bubelis, Peter Cameron, Ryan Noble, Sané Dube

Advisory committees and working groups

Decent Work Advisory Group, Decent Work for Women Advisory Group, Reimagining Governance Steering Committee, Community Wealth Building Network, Transfer Payment Ontario Reference Group

STAFF TEAM FOR 2019-2020



Lynn Eakin
Teshini Harrison
Jacquelin Heichert
Erin Kang
Sarah Matsushita
Melanie Rodriguez
John Saunders
Jayant Singh
Liz Sutherland
Randall Terada
Cathy Taylor
Pamela Uppal

**We couldn't do this work without
you. Thank you for supporting the
Ontario Nonprofit Network.**

**Let's continue to work together
for thriving communities.**

