ANNUAL REPORT
2022 - 2023

ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

REFLECTING ON 2022-2023

Change and uncertainty remained constant for the nonprofit sector in 2022-2023, with a challenging fiscal environment, struggles with human resources and volunteer engagement, and the end of pandemic specific supports. At the same time, the **demand for our sector's services continued to grow exponentially**.

At ONN, we also experienced staffing changes and financial pressures but just like our network, **we dug deep and used our creative and innovative spirit**. Our team took on a website rebuild. The goal of the rebuild was to help our network find the information, resources, and inspiration they need for their work, workers and to communities.

We also **launched the Reimagining Governance virtual lab**, and restarted our network engagement activities through our annual conference, and planning of regional meetings. The conference was a welcome few days of in-person connection, providing us a chance to meet and reunite with sector leaders to discuss and dream up future possibilities for our sector.

Most importantly, **we took the time to pause**, to re-think our conference, and to take the time to strategically consider our future work with a determination to ground our work in equity and care for each other.

ONN's ability to persevere through tough times is made possible because by our members, supporters, and our network. **Thank you for your continued support.**

CATHY TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONN

ANDRE VALLILLEE
BOARD CHAIR, ONN

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

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.

FINANCING

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

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

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

DATA

Lead the development of a Data, Evidence-use, and Learning (DEAL) strategy for the Ontario nonprofit sector, in partnership with other sector leaders. Ensure that data is ethically used and appropriately harnessed to support learning and data-driven decision-making.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL SURVEY

Our fifth annual state of the sector survey received over **1,500 responses**. The data and policy recommendations were a critical way for nonprofits to engage government, funders, and other stakeholders on urgent issues. The sector also used the survey data to advocate for and secure cost of living increases (better funding for wages for staff), and better programs and services for communities. ONN used the survey data to engage government officials and highlight the sector's impact and value.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ONN continued to build relationships as a key stakeholder of the provincial government.

- Engaged with seven different cabinet ministers and their ministries.
- Engaged with 24 MPPs across current government and the official opposition.
- Received multiple consultation invitations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Decent Work: learning through listening

We engaged in listening sessions with the nonprofit sector to learn how best to create the decent work pathways (formally the decent work checklist), and shared learnings by participating in over 15 presentations on decent work and racial justice. We hosted a webinar to engage the broader sector on decent HR practices, and hosted a networking space for racialized workers at Nonprofit Driven 2022. This networking space led to the launch of The Well events in April 2023. ONN collaborated with partners on projects/working groups such as, Black Health Equity Working Group, Equity Benchmarking Collective and BIPOC Leadership Energies Advisory Committee.

Reimagining Governance Lab doors opened

We launched a virtual Reimagining Governance Lab in January, after incorporating the takeaways and feedback from the Learning Labs of the previous year. The Lab contains informative resources and practical tools that were co-created throughout the project's journey, offering a wide range of options for nonprofits to explore what reimagining governance could look like for them. It also offers stories and insights from diverse sector voices. The project also began convening groups to cross-pollinate ideas and share learnings, and will continue to engage the sector on this topic.
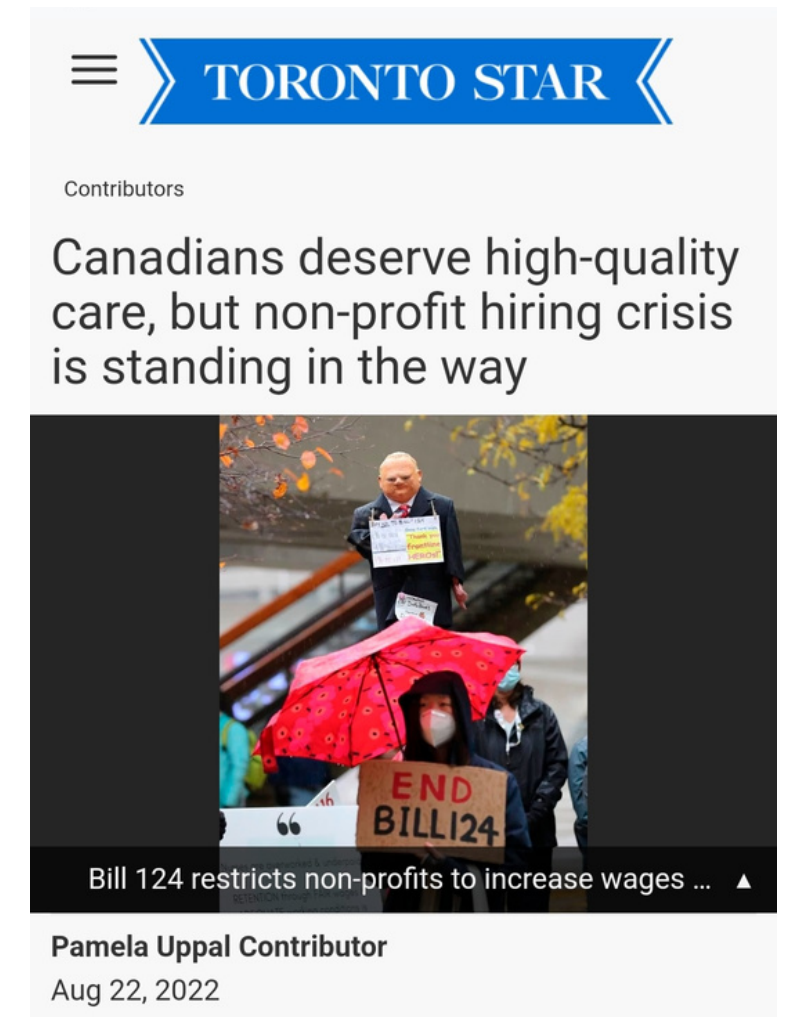
Catalyzing an advocacy moment across the sector

Our report, Creating Wage Parity in Community Care and accompanying advocacy toolkit catalyzed an advocacy movement across the sector. The sector identified wage disparity as a driving force for the nonprofit HR crisis, and we researched the issue, the root causes, and developed recommendations for wage parity that could be used for advocacy.

The report catalyzed a broader wage parity advocacy movement across the sector from boards to frontline workers asking for wage parity. We supported the advocacy efforts through multiple presentations, and an op-ed in the Toronto Star.

Creating wage parity in community care

ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

TORONTO STAR

Contributors

Canadians deserve high-quality care, but non-profit hiring crisis is standing in the way

Bill 124 restricts non-profits to increase wages ...

Pamela Uppal Contributor
Aug 22, 2022

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS: OUR PEOPLE

First-ever policy summit on care economy

We hosted our very first care economy policy summit for Ontario's care economy network. This policy summit brought together leaders and organizations from across Ontario that are part of the care economy. We convened, shared information, strategized for next steps, and built relationships across advocacy, frontline, labour, and funder organizations to prepare for future advocacy efforts.


Co-created a strategy on privatization of publicly-funded services

ONN Connected and convened the sector on the issue of privatization of publicly-funded services and co-created a strategy. Goals of the strategy include: Educating the public and government on the nonprofit business model, and supporting nonprofits to preserve and grow social infrastructure, and advocate for the same.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS: OUR FINANCES

Community Wealth Building gaining ground

With new community benefit networks emerging across Ontario, and an increasing number of municipalities piloting social procurement policies, the community wealth building model is gaining more interest. ONN supported a growing and stronger ecosystem for community wealth building with multiple social media posts, a blog, and a webinar on social finance.

What does the term "community wealth building" mean?

How can social finance benefit nonprofits?
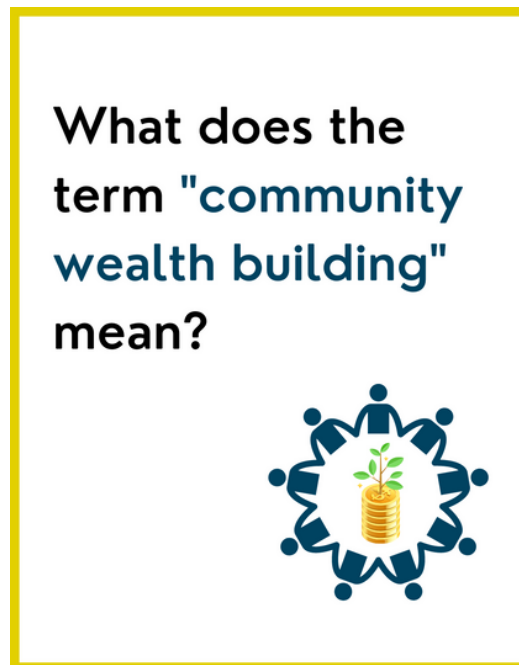
Convened sector on Bill 23

ONN convened the sector around Bill 23 to share information and identify opportunities for collaboration to mitigate the long-term negative economic, environmental, and social impacts of Bill 23. ONN also provided comments to government on Bill 23 through a submission to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Publication

Bill 23: More Homes Built Faster Act

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ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

November 24, 2022

The Hon. Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Flr
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (ERO #019-6172, ERO #019-6163)

We are writing to provide comments on proposed regulatory and legislative changes under Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022.

Ontario is facing unprecedented affordability, labour market, public health, and climate challenges that require immediate and effective solutions. Nonprofits across Ontario deliver programs and services that support the well-being of Ontarian's, from poverty reduction, housing, and health to climate resilience. While Bill 23 may seem like the right fix right now, many of its proposed changes will have long-term negative economic, environmental, and social impacts on Ontario's communities. The proposed changes will not solve our province's challenges, rather they will deepen the housing affordability crisis, create irreversible harm to our environment, and further damage community well-being.

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

Knowledge mobilization beyond Data Day

ONN hosted Data Day in June 2022, which included presentations on various data topics and generated a lot of interest from the sector. It also led to increased collaboration between data projects. Prior to the event, we launched the What's The DEAL e-newsletter to keep those interested in data up-to-date on our project, share learnings, events, and resources.

ONN started a small informal Community of Data Practitioners group to bring together nonprofits doing similar data work who wanted to connect with others to share learnings. We also joined Imagine Canada's Federal Data Working Groups, which is a space for nonprofit intermediaries with interests in Statistics Canada products to discuss the implications of these products on the sector and supported a Federal Budget Submission.

Ongoing engagement and knowledge mobilization also took place through presentations at various events and conferences, including Nonprofit Driven 2022.
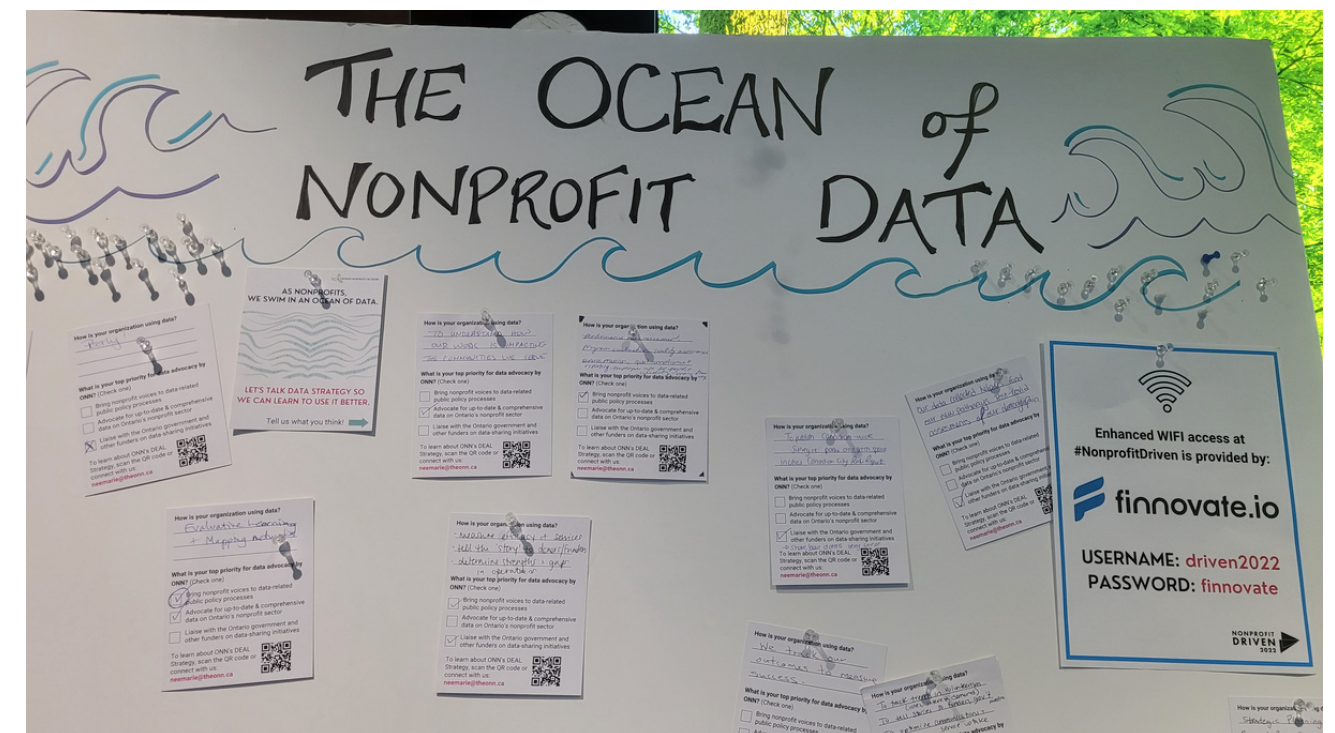
Federal and provincial advocacy forged ahead

ONN continued to advocate for an enabling public policy environment for nonprofits by participating in the public policy cycle both federally and provincially.

- Federally we amplified national partners' advocacy on charities providing resources to non-qualified donees, limiting expansion of child care to the nonprofit and public sectors in the new child care Act, the need to support a labour force strategy, and integrating community benefit agreements in public transit funding.
- Provincially we brought forward the nonprofit perspective on access to provincial funding for nonprofit housing providers and portable benefits, the impact of Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act on various subsectors, echoed the arts subsector's calls on not cutting Ontario Arts Council funding, and urged provincial government to sign its bilateral child care agreement.
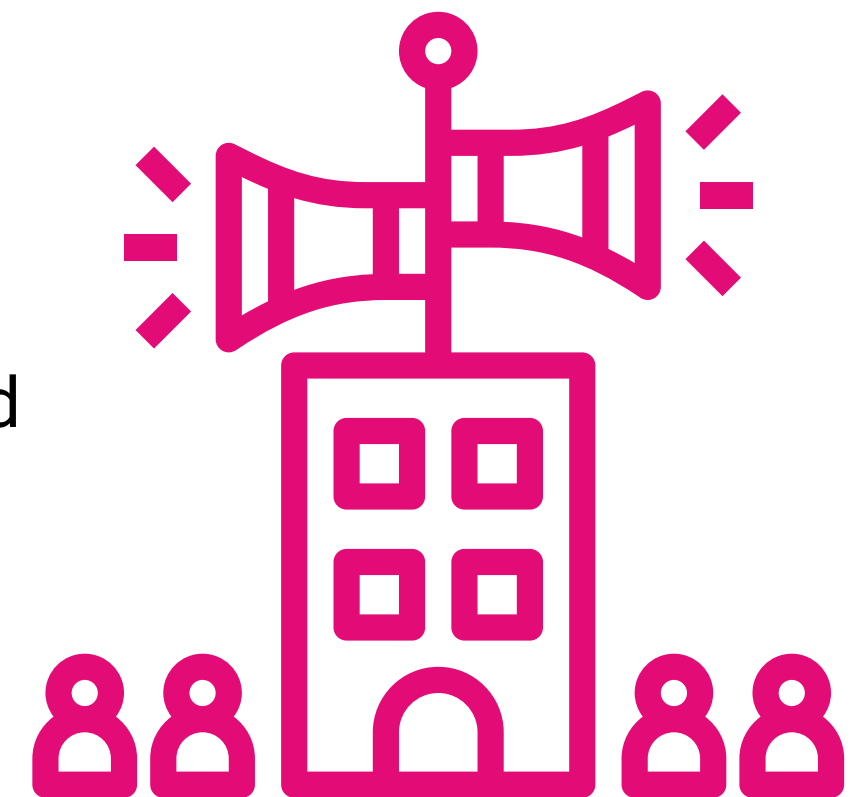
BROADENING AND ENGAGING THE NETWORK
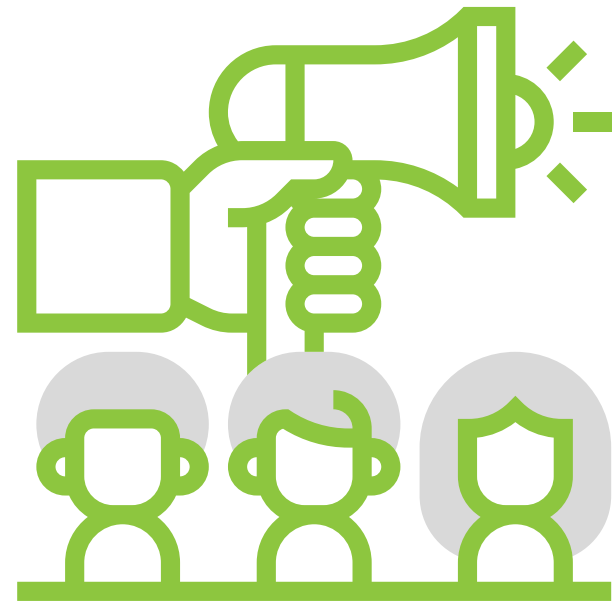
450+ members
and six regional nonprofit networks dedicated to advancing the advocacy efforts of Ontario's nonprofit sector.

Over one million views
of our policy analysis, resources and tools, and social media content.

Resource Centre
Over 30,000 visits last year. New resources on truth and reconciliation, racial Justice, and equity and data were added for the sector to engage with.
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CONVENING SECTOR LEADERS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Government relations training for members

ONN hosted two government relations training sessions exclusive to its members. Participants received introductory training on government relations, and became eligible to join our roster of GR partners.


Nonprofit Driven 2022

After two years of hosting the conference online, Nonprofit Driven was once again in-person, and over 500 attendees had the opportunity to share space, connect, learn, network, and strategize together. Over the two days, nonprofit leaders had the chance to engage in panels, workshops, fireside chats, a beading activity for Indigenous children, and more!

ONN chaired the Canadian Federation of Nonprofit Networks. We are mentoring a number of emerging nonprofit networks across Canada, and internationally.
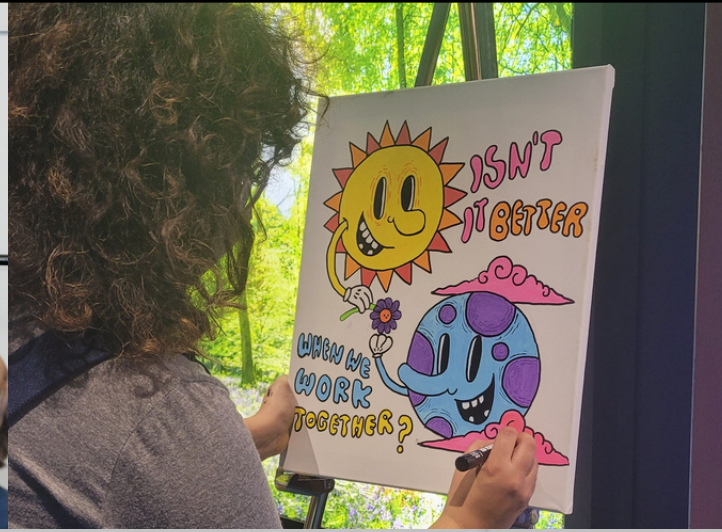
NEW SECTOR SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

ELECTION ADVOCACY FACTS

April 20, 2022

1. **IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO ADVOCATE**
   Nonprofits are allowed to advocate during the Ontario election.

2. **IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO ADVOCATE TOGETHER**
   Nonprofits are allowed to work together. Collusion is only when organizations work together for the purpose of getting around election laws or exceeding spending limits.

3. **IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO ADVOCATE THROUGH DIVERSE MEDIUMS**
   Ways of advocating that don't require nonprofits to register with Elections Ontario include: editorials, debates, letters and telephone get-out-the-vote campaigns.

NEW RESOURCE:
Decent Work Resource Bank

Ontario Election 2022 Resources

In the lead up to the provincial election in 2022, ONN created helpful graphics and launched multiple resources to help nonprofits engage in advocacy, including three underline podcast episodes, a Q&A doc, party platform analysis, and nonprofit sector asks.

ONCA Workshops

ONN hosted two working sessions to help nonprofits transition to Ontario's Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA). Participants worked through their bylaws and letters patent and a special workbook to identify what they might want or need to change in order to comply with ONCA.

Decent Work Resource Bank

This resource includes a curated collection of data, articles, and research addressing decent work, racial justice, and Indigenous sovereignty. The purpose is to support nonprofits, researchers, and advocates interested in decent work to advance public policy advocacy governance and organizational change within Ontario's nonprofit sector.

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 Greater Toronto

TORONTO FOUNDATION

TORONTO

METCALF FOUNDATION

Jumpstart

ATKINSON
For social and economic justice

The Counselling Foundation of Canada

The Law Foundation of Ontario
Advancing access to justice

SUNCOR

definity. INSURANCE FOUNDATION

Ontario Trillium Foundation / Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Status of Women Canada

Condition féminine Canada

LAWSON FOUNDATION

Ignite NP
Turning Insights into Ac

La Fondation McConnell Foundation

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.
(AS OF MARCH 31, 2023)

THANK YOU ONN'S VOLUNTEER LEADERS

(AS OF MARCH 31, 2023)

Board of Directors

Andre Vallillee (Chair), Myna Kota (Vice Chair), Maureen Fair, Emily Pang (Treasurer), Abdul Nakua (Secretary), Margaret Hancock, Peter Honeywell, Angela Carter

Policy Committee

Amanda Colella-King, Chelsea Combot, James Janeiro, Janet McCrimmon, Jasmine Rezaee (Committee Chair), Jin Huh, Margaret McGuffin, Marie-Lauren Gregoire Drummond, Paul Bubelis, Jennifer Ross, Rosalind Lockyer, Parinita (Pari) Rajagopalan

Advisory Committees and Working Groups

Decent Work Advisory Council, Data, Evidence-use and Learning (DEAL) Strategy Steering Committee, Finance & Audit Committee

STAFF TEAM FOR 2022-2023

Benjamin Miller, Candice Zhang, Cathy Taylor, Ebony Davitt, Erin Kang, Fikir Haile (summer student), Kavita Dogra, Laura Benglian, Lynn Eakin, Neemarie Alam, Nicole Farrell, Oveesh Mian, Pamela Uppal, and Yamikani Msosa.

A heartfelt thank you to team members who moved on in 2022-2023: Brooke Downey, John Saunders, Rishit Shah and Sarah Matushita.

thank you

Thank you for your ongoing support! Our work would not be possible without you.