

2026 ONN State of Ontario's Nonprofit Sector Survey

[Ontario Nonprofit Network \(ONN\)](#) has engaged Environics Research to conduct our 2026 State of the Sector survey.

Our collective advocacy for understanding and sharing information about the sector's realities is built upon good, consistent, high-quality data made possible through this annual survey. The story our data tells can be used to demand and shape a different future for nonprofits; one where all are thriving.

About the survey:

- Survey is bilingual.
- Scope is organizational.
- Confidential and anonymous.
- If you have the necessary information handy, the survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.
 - 30 core questions, 7 demographic questions, and 3 wrap-up questions
 - Download a PDF/WORD version to preview the questions.
- The survey will be available between May 1, 2026 until July 6, 2026 5:00pm EDT.
- Organizations who complete the survey can enter a draw to win 1 of 2 Visa gift cards, valued at \$250.00 each.

Who can fill out the survey?

- Any nonprofits, charities, and grassroots groups in Ontario with a mission to serve a public benefit. This includes volunteer-run organizations, nonprofit social enterprises, and nonprofit co-operatives.
- A senior representative from your nonprofit who can best estimate and provide organizational operational, financial, and HR information.
- If you require accommodations to complete the survey please email ONN at admin@theonnc.ca.

Data privacy and confidentiality

Data privacy and confidentiality is important to ONN and our partners. Below are the steps we are taking to protect respondents' data.

Environics Research will:

- Host the data collected in servers located in Toronto, Canada.
- Only collect IP addresses to detect fraud and will not share IP addresses with ONN.
- Enable password protection and encryption for the data stored.
- Share de-identified individual responses (i.e. raw data) with ONN and de-identified individual responses from Toronto with Toronto Foundation.

- Raw data will be transmitted using secure file transfer mechanisms.

ONN will:

- Report survey results only in aggregate form with the objective of identifying the common experiences of nonprofit organizations during a moment in time. Survey results will sometimes be illustrated with anonymous verbatim comments from open-ended questions in the survey.
- Work with Environics Research to publish the survey data as an open data set, taking care to ensure that respondents cannot be identified. For example, breakdowns will be provided by Ontario regions, subsectors (e.g., social services or arts and culture), organizational budget size. If the response rate does not ensure confidentiality, the data will not be published.
- Enable password protection for the raw data stored.

Click "Continue" to begin the survey.

Survey Screening Questions

S1. Does your organization operate on a nonprofit or unincorporated grassroots basis (this includes charities, grassroots groups, volunteer-run organizations, nonprofit social enterprises, and nonprofit co-operatives in Ontario) with a mission to serve a public benefit? Yes / No

S2. Is your organization based in Ontario? Yes / No

S3. Are you able to estimate and provide organizational operational, financial, and HR information on behalf of your organization? Yes / No

Main survey questions

Context First, a few questions about the broader context your organization is operating in.	
1 NEW	<p>Overall, how would you describe your organization's situation over the past year? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Thriving and have all the resources to carry out your work B. Stable and operating without major issues C. Facing some challenges, with some constraints on your work D. Facing significant challenges with major constraints on your work E. Not sure
2	<p>To what extent have the following trends impacted your organization, if at all, over the past year?</p>

	<p><i>Response scale: No impact, minor impact, moderate impact, major impact, N/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Shifts in federal policy landscape B. Shifts in provincial policy landscape C. Shifts in municipal policy landscape D. Weakening social safety net and the affordability crisis E. Economic turmoil F. Backlash and/or decline in commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives G. Rise in polarization H. Rise in fascism, extremism, far-right movements I. Political instability outside of Canada (e.g. global conflict, wars) J. Technological and digital advancements (e.g. Generative AI adoption) K. Climate change related events and emergencies L. Measures undermining democracy safeguards M. Shorter time between crisis/constant rapid change requiring quick organizational pivots N. Increase in hostility against organizational mission from local communities or neighbourhoods
3	<p>How would you rate government response to the needs and priorities of nonprofits between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026?</p> <p><i>Response scale: 1- Very good, 2 - Good, 3 - Fair, 4 - Poor, 5 - Very poor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Federal government (including agencies) B. Provincial government (including agencies) C. Municipal government (including agencies)

<p>Demand</p> <p>Next, a few questions to help us understand how demand for your programs and services may be changing year over year. Questions are on a fiscal year basis (between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026) as it aligns with both provincial and federal government, and the majority of the nonprofit sector fiscal years. If your year end is a different date, please answer the questions to the best of your ability.</p>	
4	<p>How has demand for your programs and services changed between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026?</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Increased by more than 100% B. Increased by 75% to 100%

	<p>C. Increased by 50% to 74%</p> <p>D. Increased by 25% to 49%</p> <p>E. Increased by 1% to 24%</p> <p>F. Stayed the same</p> <p>G. Decreased by 1% to 24%</p> <p>H. Decreased by 25% to 49%</p> <p>I. Decreased by 50% to 74%</p> <p>J. Decreased by 75% to 100%</p>
5	<p>How well is your organization meeting the demand for your programs and services? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <p>A. We are unable to meet the demand.</p> <p>B. We can somewhat meet the demand.</p> <p>C. We can meet the demand.</p> <p>D. Not sure.</p>

<p>Finances</p> <p>The following section focuses on your organization's financial situation over the past year. Some questions are asked on a fiscal year basis (between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026). If your year end is a different date, please answer the questions to the best of your ability.</p>	
6	<p>How has your revenue changed between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <p>A. Increased by more than 100%</p> <p>B. Increased by 75% to 100%</p> <p>C. Increased by 50% to 74%</p> <p>D. Increased by 25% to 49%</p> <p>E. Increased by 1% to 24%</p> <p>F. Stayed the same</p> <p>G. Decreased by 1% to 24%</p> <p>H. Decreased by 25% to 49%</p> <p>I. Decreased by 50% to 74%</p> <p>J. Decreased by 75% to 100%</p>
7	<p>What trends are you seeing in your actual revenues? <i>Response scale: Increased, stayed the same, decreased, N/A</i></p> <p>A. Revenue from earned income (e.g., sales of goods and services, membership fees)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Revenue from special events C. Revenue from other fundraising (e.g. crowdfunding) D. Revenue from individual donations E. Revenue from foundation grants (including United Ways) F. Revenue from businesses G. Revenue from municipal funding (including municipal agencies) H. Revenue from provincial funding (including provincial agencies) I. Revenue from federal funding (including federal agencies)
8	<p>Have your expenses changed between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Increased by more than 100% B. Increased by 75% to 100% C. Increased by 50% to 74% D. Increased by 25% to 49% E. Increased by 1% to 24% F. Stayed the same G. Decreased by 1% to 24% H. Decreased by 25% to 49% I. Decreased by 50% to 74% J. Decreased by 75% to 100%
9	<p>What trends are you seeing in your actual expenses? <i>Response scale: Increased, stayed the same, decreased, N/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Capital B. Professional fees C. Salaries and benefits D. Programs, services, and activities E. General administration costs F. Office space expenses G. Programming space expenses H. Investments in equity related professional development and/or education I. Communications and public relations
10 NEW	<p>Has your organization made any of the following changes between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026? <i>Select all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Lay off/let go of staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Not backfill vacant positions C. Change staff complement to build strength in other ways (e.g. fundraising, advocacy, management/leadership) D. Give up office space E. Sell assets F. Limit or flatline wage increases G. Shut down programs and services H. Scale back programs and services I. Underspend on budget lines J. Not sure K. Other, please specify: L. No, we did not make any changes this past year.
11 NEW	<p>Why did your organization [Q10 ANSWER]? <i>Text box.</i></p>
12	<p>Does your organization have a reserve fund? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Yes B. No
13	<p>Has your organization had to access its reserve fund between April 1, 2025- March 31, 2026? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Yes B. No, our organization is resorting to other measures (e.g., pay cuts, selling assets). C. No, our reserve fund is designated for specific uses. D. No, we did not need to use it. E. Not sure
14 NEW	<p>Based on your experience, where are the biggest gaps in funding (from all sources) for nonprofits? <i>Select all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. For organizations led-by, focused-on, and serving equity-denied communities B. Volunteer-related infrastructure C. Advocacy D. Networks and/or intermediaries E. Innovation/seeding/piloting/testing ideas F. Growing/maintaining ideas

	<p>G. Data strategies</p> <p>H. AI adoption</p> <p>I. Democracy related initiatives (e.g. civic engagement)</p> <p>J. Not sure</p> <p>K. Other, please specify:</p> <p>L. There are no gaps we're aware of.</p>
15	<p>In the next 6-12 months, do you expect your organization's financial situation will:</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <p>A. Improve</p> <p>B. Remain the same</p> <p>C. Worsen</p> <p>D. Do not know</p>
16	<p>How would you describe your organization's risk of not existing in the next three years on a scale of 1 (low risk) to 10 (high risk)?</p> <p><i>Enter a number between 1 and 10.</i></p>

Staff	
17	<p>Does your organization have paid staff?</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <p>A. Yes</p> <p>B. No, our organization is entirely volunteer driven.</p>
18 NEW	<p>How many paid staff does your organization have?</p> <p>Please provide an estimate but not a range.</p> <p><i>Text box.</i></p>
19 NEW	<p>What, if any, is the most pressing human resource challenge your organization is currently facing?</p> <p><i>Text box.</i></p>
20 NEW	<p>What strategies, if any, has your organization implemented to address the human resource challenge you described?</p> <p><i>Text box.</i></p>

21	<p>Did your organization experience challenges with recruitment and/or retention of paid staff between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Yes B. No C. Not sure
22	<p>How would you describe the organization's ability to recruit for each type of position: <i>Response scale: 1(Very easy) - 4(Very difficult), Not sure, Not applicable</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Executive (e.g. executive director, CEO/president) B. Senior leader (e.g. directors, senior managers) C. Middle management (e.g. managers, advisors) D. Frontline (e.g. coordinators, leads, specialists, analysts)
23	<p>Is your organization currently using any of the following to fill staffing gaps? <i>Select all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. External consultants B. Splitting roles across existing roles C. Combining roles D. Changing full-time roles to part-time roles E. Changing part-time roles to full-time roles F. Temporary staffing agencies G. Volunteers (including board members) H. We don't have any staffing gaps. I. Other, please specify:
24 NEW	<p>Thinking about team members who <u>joined</u> your organization in the past year, what were they doing before? <i>Select all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Working at another nonprofit for the same and/or similar role B. Working in the public sector for the same and/or similar job C. Working in a for-profit for the same and/or similar job D. Self-employed or doing freelance work E. Changed careers F. Student G. Not working H. Retired I. Not sure J. Other, please specify:

	K. Not applicable
25	<p>Thinking about team members who <u>left</u> your organization in the past year, what are they doing now?</p> <p><i>Select all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Working at another nonprofit for the same and/or similar role B. Working in the public sector for the same and/or similar job C. Working in a for-profit for the same and/or similar job D. Self-employed or doing freelance work E. Changed careers F. Went back to school G. Not working H. Retired I. Not sure J. Other, please specify: K. Not applicable

Volunteers	
26	<p>Did your organization experience challenges with recruitment and/or retention of volunteers between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026?</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Yes B. No C. Not sure D. Not applicable
27 NEW	<p>Which types of volunteer roles are currently difficult for your organization to recruit?</p> <p><i>Select all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Administration B. Event planning C. Fundraising D. Board/Committee members E. Program and service delivery F. Outreach/Advocacy G. Data/Research/Evaluation

Impact	
28 NEW	<p>As a result of the services and programming your organization provides, which of the following changes, if any, have you observed among the people and communities you serve?</p> <p><i>Select all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Increased access to important programs/services B. Improved skills, knowledge, or confidence C. Improved well-being (e.g. mental/physical health, safety, stability) D. Stronger community connections or support networks E. Greater inclusion for equity-denied communities F. Increased community capacity (e.g. local leaders, volunteers) G. Increased sense of community identity and belonging H. An economic boost to the community (e.g. more jobs, local spending or business activity) I. Increased civic engagement (e.g. voting, advocacy) J. Another community benefit, please describe K. None of the above/Too soon to tell
29 NEW	<p>Some organizations have experienced changes in how they are perceived or treated in their communities.</p> <p>Has your organization experienced hostility against its mission from local communities or neighbourhoods between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026?</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Yes B. Yes, but prior to April 1, 2025 C. Unsure D. No
30 NEW	<p>Please describe the nature of this hostility if you are able to share (i.e. where it came from, how it affected your organization, what you did to manage it, timeframe).</p> <p><i>Text box.</i></p>

Demographics	
31	Enter the postal code for your organization's main Ontario office/headquarter?

	<p>If you are a grassroots group that does not have a physical location, please share the postal code of the region you operate in.</p> <p>Answers will be disaggregated by Ontario regions and rural, remote, and small communities.</p> <p><i>Text box.</i></p>
32	<p>Where does your organization primarily operate?</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Local B. Regional C. Provincial D. National E. International
33	<p>What is the primary language of operation of your organization?</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. English B. French C. Bilingual (i.e. French and English) D. Other, please specify:
34	<p>What nonprofit subsector* does your organization primarily belong to?</p> <p>For multi-service organizations please indicate your priority area.</p> <p>*Based on International Classification of Nonprofit Organizations</p> <p><i>Select one response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Arts, culture, heritage and tourism B. Business associations, professional associations and unions C. Community development and housing D. Education and research E. Environment (e.g. this also includes animal welfare) F. Faith group G. Grantmaking, fundraising, and volunteerism promotion H. Health (e.g. nursing homes, mental and crisis intervention) I. Hospitals, universities and colleges J. International K. Law, advocacy, politics

	<p>L. Social services (e.g. multi-service agencies, childcare, settlement services, employment and training services)</p> <p>M. Sports, recreation, and other social clubs (e.g. leisure clubs, fitness and wellness, amateur sports)</p>
35	<p>What was your organization's annual operating budget in fiscal 2025-2026? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <p>A. 0 - \$99,999 B. \$100,000 - \$249,999 C. \$250,000 - \$499,999 D. \$500,000 - \$999,999 E. \$1,000,000 - \$2,999,999 F. \$3,000,000 - \$9,999,999 G. \$10,000,000 + H. Do not wish to answer</p>
36 NEW	<p>How many years has your organization operated for? <i>Select one response.</i></p> <p>A. Less than 1 year B. 1-5 years C. 6-10 years D. 11-20 years E. 21-50 years F. 50+ years</p>
37	<p>Please select no if your organization is not all three: -led, -serving, and -focused.</p> <p>Is your organization:</p> <p>A. Black-led, Black-serving, and Black-focused (See B3 definition) a. Yes b. No</p> <p>B. Indigenous-led, Indigenous Benefiting, an Indigenous Partnership, and Indigenous informed (See I4 definition) a. Yes b. No</p> <p>C. 2SLGBTQIA+ led, 2SLGBTQIA+ serving, and 2SLGBTQIA+ focused (ONN adopts The Enchante Network's definition) a. Yes b. No</p>

	<p>D. Disability-led, Disability-serving, and Disability-focused (ONN crafted this definition with the support of partners)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Yes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. No</p> <p>E. Women-led, women-serving, and women-focused (ONN crafted this definition with the support of partners)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Yes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. No</p> <p>F. Francophone-led, Francophone-serving, and Francophone-focused (ONN crafted this definition with the support of partners)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Yes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. No</p> <p>G. Cultural group-led, cultural group-serving, and cultural group-focused (ONN crafted this definition with the support of partners)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Yes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. No</p>
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Wrap-up	
38	<p>Are you interested in any of the following:</p> <p>A. Do you wish to enter a draw for one of two Visa gift cards (\$250). (EnviroNics Research will conduct the draw.) Yes/no</p> <p>B. Are you willing to speak to the media on issues impacting nonprofits and the communities they serve? Yes/no</p> <p>C. Would you like to be added to ONN's electronic communications list.</p> <p>D. Not interested in any of these. Yes/no</p>
39	<p>Please include your contact information so ONN and/or EnviroNics Research can contact you. Your contact information will not otherwise be connected to your survey responses or shared with ONN.</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Organization:</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Email:</p>
40	<p>Any last comments or concerns?</p> <p><i>Text box.</i></p>



Thank you for completing our survey. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. If you're new to ONN, explore [our website](#) and [subscribe](#) to our mailing list for policy and network updates, including funding updates, resources, and more!