

# The Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector in Ontario



According to the 2003 National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO), there are approximately 45,000 nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Ontario, which account for about 28% of the 161,000 nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Canada.

Collectively, Ontario-based organizations have total annual revenues of \$48 billion and a total paid staff of 959,000 (\$29 billion annual revenues and 597,000 staff when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded). Organizations in Ontario report a volunteer complement of 7.8 million people, who collectively contribute about 791 million hours of volunteer time, the equivalent of approximately 412,000 full-time jobs. Ontario-based organizations also report a total membership of 69 million people, meaning that the average Ontarian is a member of six organizations.

## Activity Area

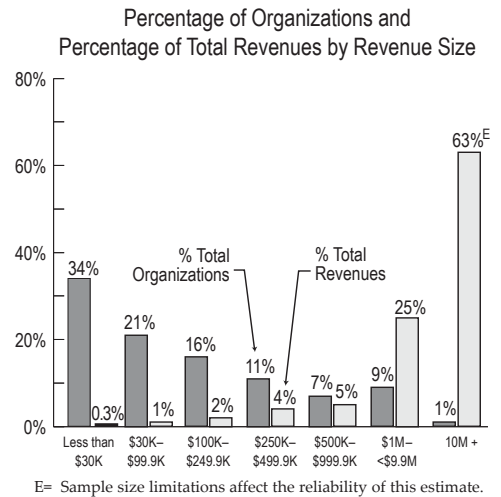
Religious organizations are the most common type of organization in Ontario, accounting for 23% of all organizations, followed by Sports and Recreation organizations (16%), Grantmaking, Fundraising and Voluntarism Promotion organizations (12%), and Social Services organizations (11%). Although Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent less than 1% of organizations, they account for over one third (38%) of total revenues.

## Revenue Size

Most revenues are concentrated among a comparatively small number of very large organizations. Although just 1% of organizations in Ontario have annual revenues of \$10 million or more, these organizations account for nearly two thirds (63%<sup>E</sup>) of total revenues. The one third (34%) of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 collectively account for less than 1% of total revenues. Hospitals, Universities and Colleges account for almost two thirds (59%) of the revenue in the \$10 million or more category (37% of total revenues for all organizations).

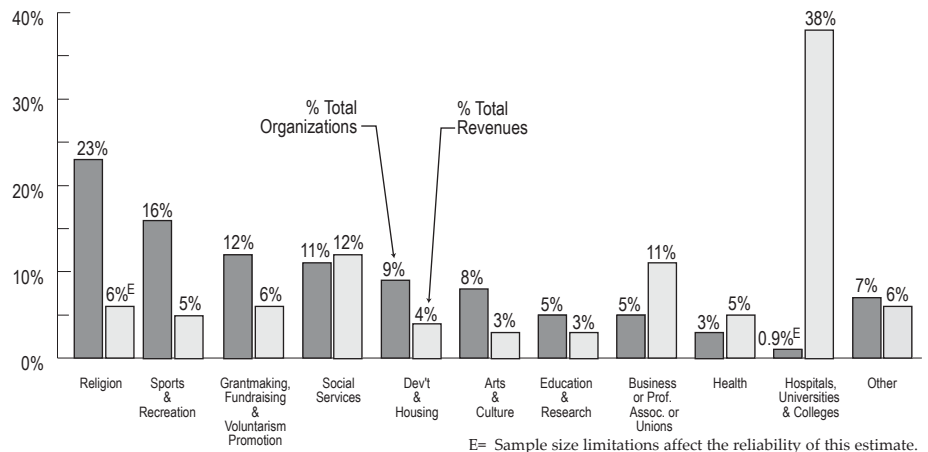
## Revenue Sources

Revenues from government account for nearly half (45%) of total revenues of nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Ontario. Roughly one third (36%) of total revenues

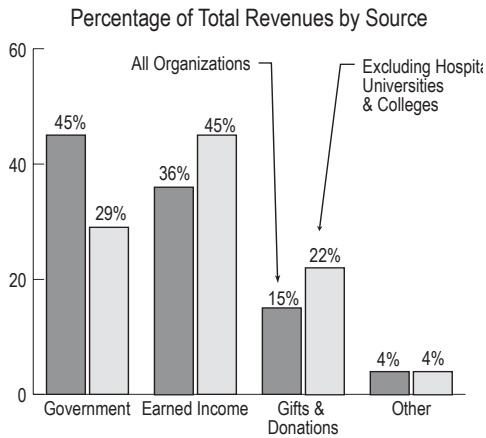


comes from earned income, 15% from gifts and donations, and the balance (4%) from other sources. However, excluding Hospitals, Universities and Colleges, organizations receive 29% of their revenues from government, 45% from earned income, 22% from gifts and donations, and 4% from other sources.

Percentage of Organizations and Percentage of Total Revenues by Activity Area



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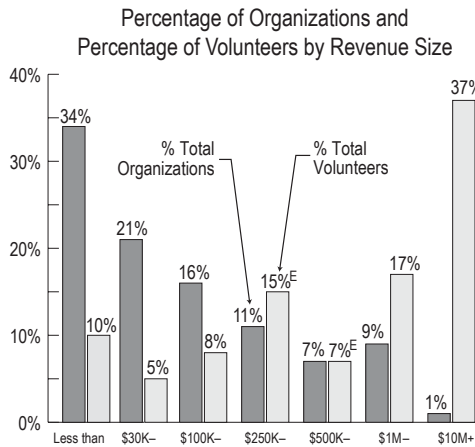


## Volunteers

Virtually all nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Ontario involve volunteers, either as board members or to help carry out their activities. In fact, the majority of organizations (53%) are completely volunteer run, having no paid staff. Collectively, Ontario-based organizations have approximately 7.8 million volunteers, of which 386,000 are board members and 7.4 million are non-board volunteers.

In Ontario, volunteers tend to be concentrated in larger organizations, although the degree of concentration is not as pronounced as it is with revenues or with paid staff. The 1% of organizations with annual revenues of \$10 million or more

account for over one third (37%) of all volunteers and the 9% of organizations with revenues between \$1 and \$10 million account for 17% of total volunteers. Conversely, the third (34%) of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 account for just 10% of total volunteers.



<sup>E</sup> Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

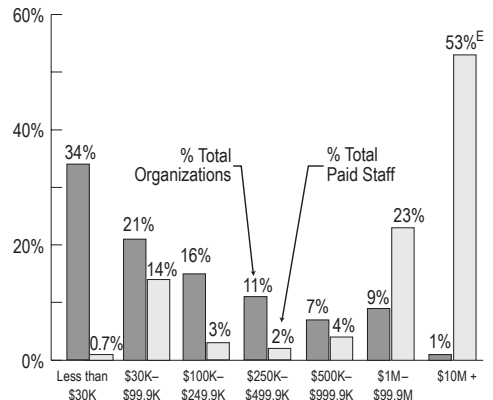
## Employees

Less than half (47%) of nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Ontario have paid staff. Collectively, these organizations have approximately 959,000 employees (597,000 when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded). Over half (55%, about 531,000 Ontarians) of these employees work full-time, while 45% (428,000) work part-time

(373,000 full-time and 224,000 part-time when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded).

Most paid staff in Ontario (53%<sup>E</sup>) work for very large organizations (those with \$10 million or more in annual revenues), even though these organizations account for just 1% of organizations. In contrast, the 34% of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 account for less than 1% of total employment. Even though Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent a tiny minority of organizations, they account for two thirds (66%) of total employment in the \$10 million or more category (35% of total employment for all organizations).

Percentage of Organizations and Percentage of Paid Staff by Revenue Size



<sup>E</sup> Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

The National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO) was conducted by a consortium of organizations consisting of Imagine Canada (formerly the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy), l'Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale à l'Université du Québec à Montréal, the Canada West Foundation, the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Capacity Development Network at the University of Victoria, the Community Services Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector Organization of Manitoba, Queen's University School of Policy Studies, and Statistics Canada.

A summary of the survey findings may be found in *Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations*, available at [www.nonprofitscan.ca](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca).



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