

TO: Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry

CC: André Loranger, Chief Statistician of Canada, Statistics Canada

May 25, 2026

RE: Cancellation of the Canadian Survey of Business Conditions

Dear Minister Joly,

We are writing to express our deep concern at the news of the cancellation of the Canadian Survey of Business Conditions (CSBC).

This innovative survey was introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic at a time of great economic uncertainty for organizations operating in Canada. It has become a crucial source of timely, trusted information for businesses and nonprofits as the country has continued to weather trade and political uncertainty over the past six years. Its large sample size allows for disaggregated, local data by industry. Its mix of repeated questions and crowdsourced, occasional questions mean that the survey's data allows organizations to track key indicators while getting timely data about emerging trends. Its quarterly release cadence has helped ensure the relevance and utility of its results.

For the nonprofit sector specifically, the CSBC has been crucial. We generate a significant economic impact, contributing 8.4% to Canada's GDP¹ and employing 2.9 million people.² Despite our significant economic and social contributions, we face a data deficit which hinders our ability to serve our communities and creates inefficiencies for both government and nonprofits. We operate in a complex ecosystem and require good data for good decision-making.

The quarterly CSBC data is used by the nonprofit sector for workforce planning, fund development, advocacy, service planning, and more. Additionally, in early 2024, Statistics Canada released [data on the nonprofit sector](#) collected through a special module of the CSBC. This was the first time since the 2003 National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO) that Statistics Canada had conducted such a large-scale survey of our sector. Although significantly smaller in scope and sample size than the NSNVO, the survey gave us crucial insights that we hadn't had in decades into the size and scope of the sector, its finances, its leadership, and who it serves. Ultimately, the CSBC data strengthens our sector's capacity to serve communities and deliver results in national priority areas ranging from housing and affordability to climate action.

¹ [Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0616-01: Gross domestic product \(GDP\) of non-profit institutions by sub-sector](#)

² [Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0617-01: Employment in non-profit institutions by sub-sector](#)

Now, as Canada continues to face significant uncertainty, is not the time to cancel the nonprofit and private sector's most reliable source of up-to-date information on our operating environment.

We understand that the cancellation of the CSBC is part of broader financial realignment efforts under the Comprehensive Expenditure Review. However, the cancellation of data products that enable solid, data-driven decision making is counter to the government's stated focus on growing the economy, improving efficiency and driving results.

We are calling on the government to maintain the CSBC with a biannual data collection schedule. This would allow the government to save approximately \$1 million per year while still providing organizations with the timely, accurate data they need to navigate these uncertain times.

We remain at your disposal for any questions regarding our letter.

Sincerely,

Members of the Federal Nonprofit Data Coalition

As organizations:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada
- BridgePoint Center for Eating Disorder Recovery
- Circle on Philanthropy
- Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador
- EMBRACEHEALTHFOUNDATION
- Imagine Canada
- National Alliance for Children and Youth
- OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
- Philanthropic Foundations Canada
- Pillar Nonprofit Network
- Resilient Kids Canada
- Vantage Point
- Skills for Change
- SETSI
- Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society
- The Nonprofit Chamber
- Volunteer Canada

As individuals:

- Bruce Martin, Professor, Thompson Rivers University
- Cathy Barr, Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University
- François Brouard, Full Professor, Sprott School of Business, Carleton University

- Nathan Grasse, Associate Professor, Carleton University
- Ushnish Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Algoma University