

Summary of Infrastructure Recommendations

APRIL 2025

A POLICY PLATFORM
FOR CANADA'S
NONPROFITS

IMAGINE
CANADA

Make Federal Funding for Nonprofits More Effective and Efficient

Problem:

Red tape creates inefficiencies that negatively impact the availability and quality of federally funded nonprofit programs and services. Federal funding often comes with excessive administrative burden, is overly restrictive, and isn't responsive to community needs.

Impact:

Increased administrative burden and redundant work, which siphons resources which could be dedicated to serving communities.

Recommendation for the first 100 days:

- Engage the nonprofit sector in the **development of an appendix for the Directive on Transfer Payments** and a risk framework that recognizes the unique role and operating models of nonprofit recipients in order to reduce red tape and better serve communities.

Improve Access to Reliable and Comprehensive Data

Problem:

Due to decades of irregular data collection, the government has failed to release comprehensive nonprofit sector data. Siloed approaches have produced data products that scope and define the sector differently, resulting in data sets that are not comparable and paint different pictures of our sector.



Impact:

High-quality disaggregated data is crucial to designing policies, planning interventions, anticipating changes and forecasting the needs of the nonprofit sector. Our sector lacks basic information on many aspects of our composition, finances, workforce and operations and must rely on outdated data.

Recommendations for the first 100 days:

- Provide **Statistics Canada with a mandate to carry out regular updates to the national survey of nonprofit organizations**, to be repeated every year, and provide funding of \$500,000 annually for this purpose. The survey should include grassroots (unincorporated) organizations.
- Establish a **unit within Statistics Canada whose mandate is to collect, analyze, and share data on the nonprofit sector**.

Strengthen the Relationship Between the Federal Government and the Nonprofit Sector

Problem:

The nonprofit sector is a natural partner in program and service delivery. We deliver on many government priorities. Despite this, no entity is tasked with improving its policy environment or economic landscape.

Impact:

Nonprofits frequently divert time and charitable resources to explain the unintended consequences of new bills to MPs and officials because new legislation is often passed without considering the impact that it will have on charities and nonprofits.

Recommendations for the first 100 days:

- Identify and adequately **resource a unit within the federal government** to act as a champion of the nonprofit sector.



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