

Non-Profits Make Manitoba's Communities Thrive

Election 2023 Policy Priorities from Manitoba's Community Non-Profit Networks & Associations



Policy Recommendations



Provide multi-year, predictable, sustainable funding

with cost of living increases for community nonprofits receiving provincial funds.

Why?

Short-term funding with no inflationary increases that arrives late in bank accounts leads to unnecessary financial stress, uncertainty, and potentially less effective community services. Stable funding agreements would let nonprofits focus on their work achieving strong outcomes.

Establish a permanent 'home' in government for community non-profits

and strengthen systems of collaboration between government and representative associations.

Why?

With increased communication and a clear understanding of who is in charge, community non-profits' role in Manitoba's economic and social development can be fully harnessed and the development and implementation of provincial policy will be more effective.

Resource a sector-led Manitoba Community Non-Profit Strategy

with a provincial approach to address the challenges facing community non-profits.

Why?

Manitoba is desperately in need of a plan for addressing worker wellbeing, wages, and sick leave, better data collection about non-profits, a provincial approach to non-profit training and shared services, and support for the development of a provincial non-profit association.

About Manitoba's Community Non-Profits

Without community non-profits, more Manitobans would go to bed hungry, lack access to services that support their well-being, and miss out on vital social and cultural connections. Community non-profits are crucial for our communities, economy, health and well-being.¹ As grassroots organizations often with volunteers on boards or staff team, they provide services that governments depend on at a cheaper cost.

These essential roles include: social services, cultural programming, housing, childcare, health, arts & culture, sports & recreation, environmental conservation, climate action, employment, education, public policy advocacy, research, public education and awareness, capacity building, and more.

Region ²	# of Organizations	Revenues (\$)	Employment
Manitoba (all)	3,767	3,972,866,394	54,380
Urban	2,495	3,504,107,951	43,286
Rural	1,272	468,758,443	11,094

Beyond the services provided, community nonprofits are a significant contributor to the economy and labour force. However, the average community nonprofit salary was only \$34,252 in 2019.³ Many community non-profits offer limited or no pension or benefits plans.⁴

The Challenges and Opportunities faced by Manitoba's Community Non-Profits

Community non-profits face multiple competing challenges that threaten their ability to carry out services for Manitobans: ongoing pandemic impacts, the rising cost of living, budgetary pressures, access to funding, and needing to do more with less. At the same time, community non-profits are on the frontlines, supporting communities through complex social and economic needs.

Staffing is at a crisis. Inadequate wages and burned out staff leads to high rates of turnover, retirement, and retention challenges. Frozen provincial funding has not kept pace with inflation. Few organizations have multi-year agreements. Annual increases are not included for those that do.

A 2020 Manitoba and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce survey⁵ identified that community non-profits have been

deeply impacted by COVID-19 with specific needs for re-opening, recovery, and stability.

Despite these significant barriers, the work of community nonprofits continues to create positive outcomes such as climate resiliency, addressing poverty, supporting jobs and employment, connection through arts, cultural, sports, and recreational programming, developing communities, and supporting demographic groups with specific needs.

Given this reality, all political parties should support these collective recommendations to fully harness the significant contributions of community non-profits in Manitoba.

Endorsing Associations



¹ Community non-profits provide goods and services to individuals and families, differing from business nonprofits, professional associations, or government nonprofits. Community nonprofits are called "nonprofit institutions serving households" by Statistics Canada.

² Data courtesy of Workplace Education Manitoba.

³ 6 CANSIM tables 36-10-0650-01 (2019) and CANSIM table 14-10-0340-01 (2019). Data includes both full-time and part-time jobs/employees.

⁴ On average, community nonprofits are supported chiefly through government, United Way local chapters, foundation and corporate funding, donations and membership fees, and earned income activities.

⁵ "Get to Know Manitoba's Non-Profit Sector". <https://www.imaginecanada.ca/sites/default/files/Datasheet-MB-2022.pdf>

⁶ Survey available [here](#) from the Manitoba and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce.