

VOLUNTEER SECTOR

The voluntary sector lacked research about the numbers of organizations, what they do and the impact they have on their communities. In Canada there are 161,000 nonprofit, voluntary organizations, 19,000 in Alberta, and about 7,000 in Calgary.

Collectively, Alberta based organizations have a total revenue of \$10 billion and a total paid staff of 176,000. (\$9 billion annual revenues and 105,000 staff in hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded)

No surprise to Community Associations, the most common type of voluntary organization in Alberta, accounting for 26% of all organizations, is sports and recreation, but reporting only 10% of the total revenues. Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are 1% of the organizations, reporting 11% of the revenues and 40% of the staff.

Virtually all nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Alberta involve volunteers, either as a Board member or to carry out the activities of the organization. The majority of the organizations (58%) are completely volunteer run, having no paid staff. Collectively Alberta based organizations have approximately 2.5 million volunteers, of whom 161,000 are Board members and 2.3 million are non Board volunteers contributing 449 million hours of volunteer time and talent. Alberta based organizations report a total membership of 9 million people, meaning that the average Albertan is a member of three organizations.

One in four (42%) nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Alberta have paid staff of the 176,000 employees 57% are full time and 43% part time. Over 78% of paid staff work for large organizations with \$1 million of more in annual revenues.

Where do the organization revenues come from? Revenues from government account for one third (33%) of total revenues, almost half (49%) comes from earned income, 16% from gifts and donations and the balance from other sources.

What does this mean for the Calgary Community Associations? Is it just interesting or will it make a difference to you? The voluntary sector is changing. More organizations are hiring staff, government funding is decreasing and in Alberta the organizations are heavily reliant on Alberta Gaming revenues as the source of grants and fundraising. There is stiff competition for volunteer support; volunteer expectations are more defined, and many volunteers are interested in term projects with a timeline. Parents are required to volunteer for their children's activities, and job expectations often reduce the discretionary time parents have available. Baby boomers, those born between 1946-1964, are approaching retirement and this will have an impact, and if managed carefully may be a positive source of skilled volunteers. All of these factors need to be considered and the organizations that succeed will be those that strategically plan for the changing future.

(taken from the 2003 National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations)



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