

# Nearly a Year In: How the Nonprofit Sector is Adapting to Covid-19

Charity Village and Imagine Canada Panel

w/ guests: Vantage Point and Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia

# Outline

- What the data says: BC, NS, National (25)
- Analysis and calls to action: what does this mean, and where do we go from here? (20)
- Questions from audience (15 mins)

∴ vantage point is on a mission to...

## Transform Not-For-Profit Organizations

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**GOVERNANCE**



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**PEOPLE**



# UNRAVELING: Nonprofits, COVID-19, and the Fabric of BC Communities

February 2021



British Columbia's non-profit sector is vast in size, scope, and impact. It contributes \$6.4 billion to BC's GDP and employs 86,000<sup>1</sup> people across the province. It makes a significant and meaningful impact on the economy and lives of people across British Columbia.



**930**  
respondents

completed a survey in November/December 2020 about the impacts of COVID-19 on their organization.<sup>2</sup>



**48%**

of organizations anticipate needing to close down their operations if the current situation continues.

Organizations particularly at risk of closing down include those with an operating budget under \$1 million, arts and culture, sports and recreation, and those serving racialized populations.

“We've received a fair bit of short term funding. As welcome as funding is, when it requires us to create novel constructive programs and services and use the funding in a very short period (within months) it causes considerable stress and adds to administrative loads (e.g., budget development, supplies purchasing, hiring, reporting).”

“COVID stopped the momentum we had generated in our programs/services/activities, leaving us wondering if we will get back to pick up where we were, or need to start at the beginning again.”

Many respondents are experiencing a disruption of services to clients and communities, disruption in fundraising patterns, and an increase in time spent away from program and service delivery.

Strongest impacts of COVID-19 on organizations, based on percentage of respondents who reported an increase or decrease



See the full report and an interactive dashboard to filter this survey's results by geography, subsector, budget, target population served, and more.  
[thevantagepoint.ca/unraveling](http://thevantagepoint.ca/unraveling)



<sup>1</sup> Reflects community nonprofits, and excludes hospitals, colleges, and universities.  
<sup>2</sup> This snapshot updates the work of "No Immunity", a report released in May 2020.

## Mission Delivery and Community Impacts

**64%**have a **decreased ability to deliver programs and services****58%**have an **increased demand for programs and services****50%**are spending **more time reporting to funders**

## Financial Impacts

**61%**

have less revenue from special events

**51%**

from earned income

**42%**

from individual donations

**71%**are expecting a **budget shortfall in 2021**

Many organizations have benefitted from COVID-related government and foundation funding, but are concerned about what will happen when funding ends.

Emergency funding distributed locally was accessed most successfully.

## Human Resources and Governance Impacts

**37%**

report a decrease in staffing levels.

**59%**

have a drop in volunteer involvement.



More time on workplace policies, planning, and wellness.



Less time for program delivery.

## Operational Sustainability Impacts

**48%**

are concerned about shutting down



Those most concerned about having to shut down are arts/culture, sports/recreation, small organizations, and organizations serving racialized people.

**71%**

of organizations expressed interest in receiving support such as rent subsidies and donated space to retain their operating space.

**Community Resilience and Vibrancy is Vulnerable****An Opportunity for Trust-Based Philanthropy**



## A CALL TO ACTION

**Nonprofits touch the lives of everyone in some way or another in British Columbia, and there is a role for everyone to play in collectively helping them to survive these turbulent times to protect our vital and vibrant community resources.**

### GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDERS



Increase trust-based philanthropy practices. Liberate more funds. Streamline eligibility and reporting requirements so that more time can go towards delivering programs.

Provide more unrestricted, core infrastructure/capacity funding that focuses on sustaining the core operations of nonprofit organizations, while also developing new support programs to respond to emergent needs.

Distribute funding through local funders, who have a better understanding of the community context.

Update and develop additional support programs based on feedback.

Invest in nonprofit infrastructure that will help nonprofits rebuild philanthropic and earned income dollars, re-engage volunteers safely, and improve staff wellness.

Review changes made to funding processes during COVID-19 to consider which practices were improvements and should be maintained going forward.

### BUSINESSES



Support greater employee volunteerism. Donate unused space, even temporarily. If your revenues have remained stable or increased, increase your corporate giving and make it unrestricted. Offer coaching/mentorship related to virtual events and program delivery. Advocate to governments to ensure that COVID-19 supports for businesses also include the nonprofit sector.

### VOLUNTEERS

Explore ways to return to volunteering in your community as soon as safe. Skilled volunteers can support facilitation of scenario planning, governance, change management, and technology training.

### DONORS



If your income has remained stable or increased, increase your giving and make it unrestricted. Notice which organizations are not able to fully operate at the moment, and donate in order to help them prepare for future adaptations. Support local funders who give discretionary funding in the community. Advocate to government and funders to implement calls to action.

### NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Collaborate and partner so that larger or more stable nonprofit organizations can support smaller ones in equitable ways.

### CAPACITY-BUILDERS, NETWORKS, AND UMBRELLA ORGANIZATIONS

Help organizations navigate funding, especially those not used to applying for government funding. Help organizations to support staff wellness. Advocate for government supports that align with the needs of your nonprofit community. Partner with government, funders, and business to help implement calls to action.

### GENERAL PUBLIC



Become a new donor to an organization you value. Stay subscribed to communications from your favourite organizations. Spread the word about the work of organizations you value within your circles. Support people in your life with difficulties accessing/using technology, so that they are more likely and/or able to access services or volunteer opportunities.

**COMMUNITY**  
SECTOR COUNCIL  
*of* NOVA SCOTIA



# COVID-19 Sector Report 8-month Update

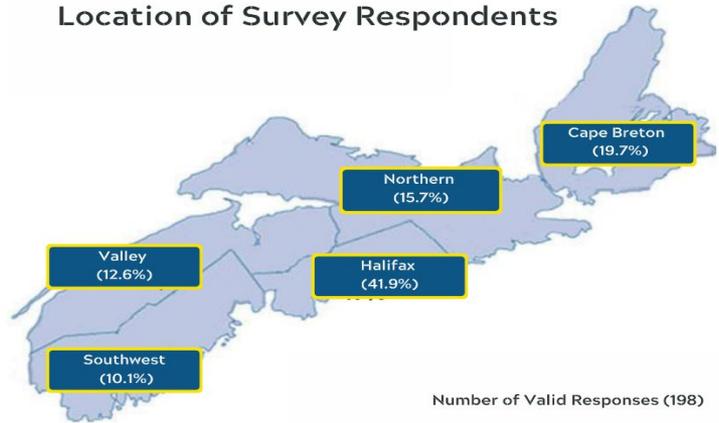
Presented by Annika Voltan, Executive Director

February 24, 2021

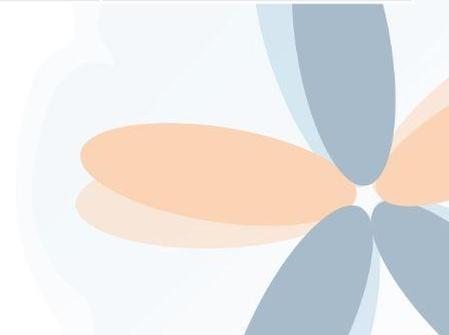


# Respondent Demographics

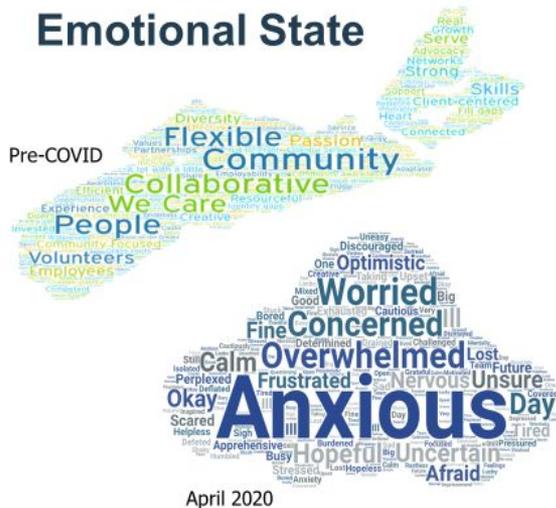
## Location of Survey Respondents



	April 2020	October 2020
# of complete survey responses	249 (48% of total)	211 (72% of total)
% Respondents at ED or Director level	64.5%	74.1%
Voluntary Organizations	21.8%	15.7%
Unincorporated NFPs	13.7%	11.4%
Incorporated NFPs	51.4%	59.5%
Charities	30.8%	47.6%
Community Interest Companies (CICs)	4.8%	1.4%
Self-identified Social Enterprises	23.3%	25.2%



## Emotional State



October 2020



# Rising Demand with Fewer Resources

**23%**

**Had staff layoffs**

**25%**

**Lost volunteers**

**44%**

**Have experienced increased demand for services**

**38%**

**Have had increased operating costs**

**40%**

**Have low or insufficient funds for survival**

**64%**

**Are concerned about ability to achieve their mission**



# Collaboration & Innovation on the Rise

40%

Have developed  
new partnerships

83%

Have moved services  
online

## The Nova Scotia Nonprofit COVID-19 Coalition



# National survey of charities

## IN THIS SECTOR MONITOR

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Imagine Canada's

## Sector Monitor

### Ongoing Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic

David Lasby, Director, Research

### Foreword

Nearly a year into the global COVID-19 pandemic, Canada's charitable sector has been at the forefront of providing supporting and vital services to people in need. In the early days of the pandemic, Imagine Canada sought to better understand how lockdowns, cancelled events, the need for immediate digital adaptations etc. were impacting the ability of organizations to fulfill their missions.

Months later, we felt that it was time to check-in.

This second Sector Monitor report, focused on the health and well-being of the country's charities, was commissioned to take the pulse of how organizations and leaders were faring. In particular, we sought to track the ripple effects of the global pandemic and its impact on the ability of organizations to continue to deliver services.

With over 1,000 organizations reporting, we are confident that this snapshot accurately reflects the 'on the ground' reality that is being experienced. We have been able to better understand the changes in demand for services, the softening of revenue streams, the impact of federal government support measures and the impact to staff well-being.

Thank you to all of those who took the time to complete the survey. Your insights are invaluable.



# Highlights

1. Needs are outstripping capacity
2. Federal gov't support is playing a significant role
3. Revenue sources are affecting experiences
4. Long term sustainability is at risk
5. The diversity of the sector in under threat
6. Workers are being spread thin



# Discussion Questions

1. How have your research findings informed your local advocacy work?
2. What does this research tell you about the resources and supports required by the sector in the year to come?
3. COVID-19 has changed our world at a previously unimaginable pace - have you seen any indicators of lasting transformative change in the sector based on your research or experience?

# For the Audience

- How is this data helping you make decisions?
- What future survey questions should we ask?

# Contact Us

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