

# The Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector in British Columbia



According to the 2003 National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO), there are approximately 20,000 nonprofit and voluntary organizations in British Columbia, which account for about 13% of the 161,000 nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Canada.

Collectively, organizations in British Columbia have total annual revenues of \$11 billion and a total paid staff of 147,000 (\$9 billion annual revenue and 114,000 staff when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded). Organizations in British Columbia report a volunteer complement of 1.5 million people, who collectively contribute about 114 million hours of volunteer time, the equivalent of approximately 60,000 full-time jobs. British Columbia-based organizations also report a total membership of 14 million people, meaning that the average British Columbian is a member of three organizations.

organizations, they account for almost a fifth (18%) of total revenues.

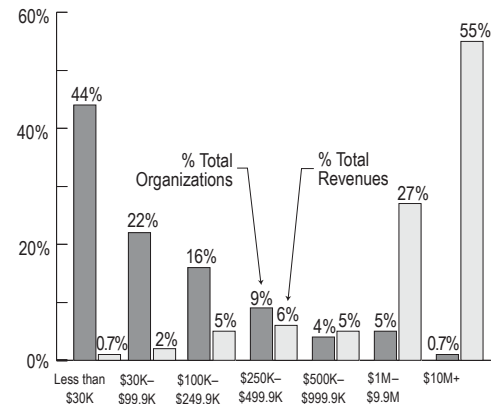
## Revenue Size

Most revenues are concentrated among a comparatively small number of very large organizations. Although less than 1% of organizations in British Columbia have annual revenues of \$10 million or more, these organizations account for over half (55%) of total revenues. The four in ten (44%) organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 collectively account for less than 1% of total revenues. Hospitals, Universities and Colleges account for about one third (31%) of the revenue in the \$10 million or more category (17% of total revenues for all organizations).

## Revenue Sources

Revenues from government account for nearly half (49%) of total revenues

Percentage of Organizations and Percentage of Total Revenues by Revenue Size

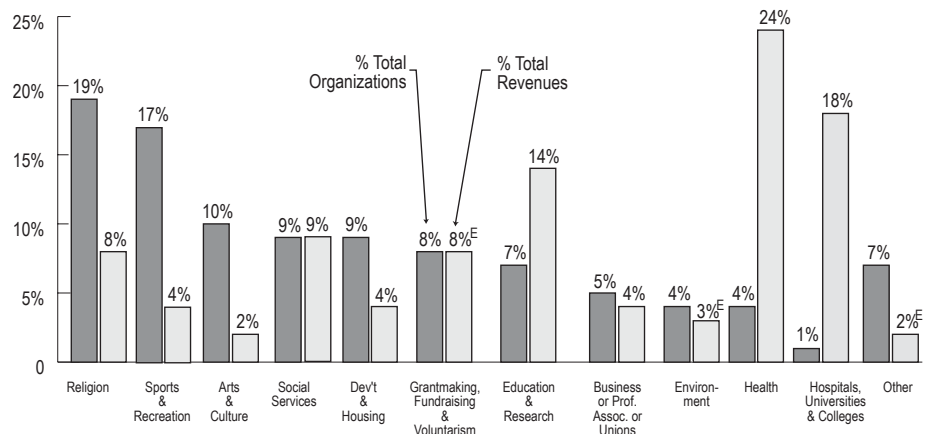


of nonprofit and voluntary organizations in British Columbia. One third (31%) of total revenues comes from earned income, 15% from gifts and donations, and the balance (5%) from other sources. Excluding Hospitals, Universities and Colleges, organizations receive 46% of their revenues from government, 34% from earned income, 16% from gifts and donations, and 5% from other sources.

## Activity Area

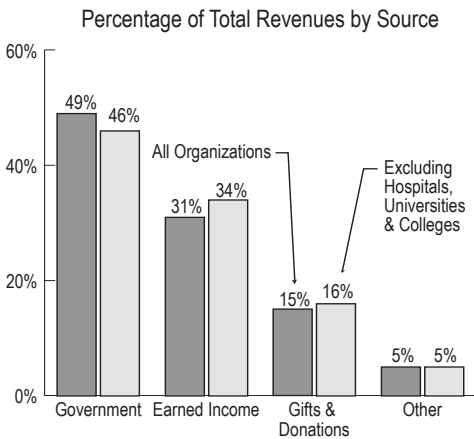
Religious organizations are the most common type of organization in British Columbia, accounting for 19% of all organizations, followed by Sports and Recreation organizations (17%), Arts and Culture (10%), and Social Services organizations (9%). Although Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent only 1% of

Percentage of Organizations and Percentage of Total Revenues by Activity Area



<sup>E</sup>= Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

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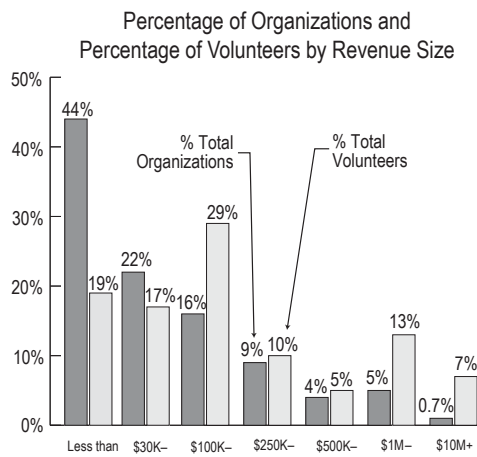


## Volunteers

Virtually all nonprofit and voluntary organizations in British Columbia involve volunteers, either as board members or to help carry out their activities. In fact, the majority of organizations (60%) are completely volunteer run, having no paid staff. Collectively, British Columbia-based organizations have approximately 1.5 million volunteers, of which 168,000 are board members and 1.3 million are non-board volunteers.

In British Columbia, volunteers tend to be concentrated in larger organizations, although the degree of concentration is not as pronounced as with revenues or paid staff. The 1% of organizations with annual

revenues of \$10 million or more account for almost one tenth (7%) of all volunteers, and the 5% of organizations with revenues between \$1 and \$10 million account for 13% of all volunteers. Conversely, the 44% of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 account for just 19% of all volunteers.

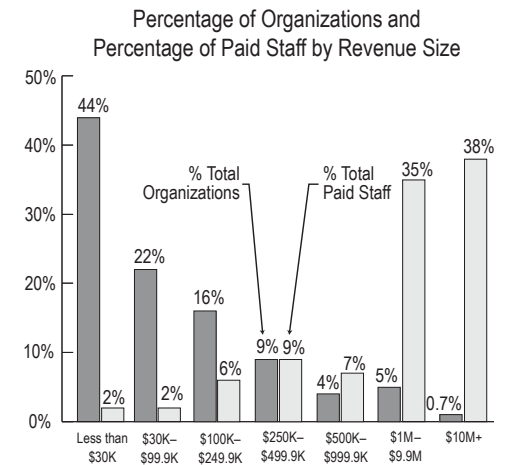


## Employees

Four in ten (40%) nonprofit and voluntary organizations in British Columbia have paid staff. Collectively, these organizations have approximately 147,000 employees (114,000 when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded). Over half (58%, about 86,000 British Columbians) of these

employees work full-time, while 42% (62,000) work part-time (68,000 full-time and 46,000 part-time when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded).

Almost three quarters (74%\*) of paid staff work for large organizations (those with \$1 million or more in annual revenues), even though these organizations account for just 6% of organizations. In contrast, the 44% of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 account for only 2% of total employment. Even though Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent a tiny minority of organizations, they account for over half (56%) of total employment in the \$10 million or more category (22% of total employment for all organizations).



\* Figure differs from sum derived from chart due to rounding of numbers for individual categories.

The National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO) was conducted by a consortium of organizations consisting of Imagine Canada (formerly the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy), l'Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale à l'Université du Québec à Montréal, the Canada West Foundation, the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Capacity Development Network at the University of Victoria, the Community Services Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector Organization of Manitoba, Queen's University School of Policy Studies, and Statistics Canada.

A summary of the survey findings may be found in *Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations*, available at [www.nonprofitscan.ca](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca).



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