



About Canada's Non-Profit Sector

- Including hospitals, universities and colleges, Canada's non-profit sector contributes about \$61.8 billion, or 6.8 percent of the nation's GDP, when the value of volunteer work is incorporated.
- Statistics Canada estimates that the value of volunteer labour adds about \$14.1 billion to the sector's total contribution to the Canadian economy. Volunteer time is more than double the value in-kind donations.
- Not including hospitals, universities and colleges, Canada's non-profit sector contributes goods and services valued at \$34.7 billion, or 4 percent of the nation's GDP, when the value of volunteer work is incorporated.
- The field of social services is the second largest in the sector (21 percent of non-profit economic activity), after hospitals, universities and colleges (which account for 61.3 percent of non-profit economic activity).
- The value of volunteer work in the area of social services is estimated to be about \$3B, approximately half the value of total labour in the area of social services.
- Philanthropy (private giving by individuals, foundations or corporations) represents the smallest source of revenue for the non-profit sector: just 12 percent across the sector (again, excluding hospitals, universities and colleges).

Canadian attitudes about the Non-profit sector

- According to a 2004 Ipsos Reid poll, more than 3/4 of Canadians (79 percent) think charities understand the needs of Canadians better than government; 72 percent think charities do a better job at meeting the needs of Canadians than does government.
- Almost all Canadians (95 percent) think more attention should be paid to the way charities spend their money, and more than half of Canadians say they'd like more information about the work charities do.
- Almost 2/3 of business leaders polled by COMPAS in September 2003 said they'd be more likely to donate if charities were more accountable.

References:

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