

Our Story - 2013

ANNUAL REPORT



Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

Building strength in Edmonton's
nonprofit and voluntary sector.

www.ecvo.ca

We gratefully acknowledge our funders.



United Way
Alberta Capital Region
Change starts here.

Government of Alberta ■



Edmonton
Community
Foundation



Your actions speak loudly!

Thank you

for venturing past the cover of our Annual Report.
We are honoured you have chosen to spend
some time with us.



ECVO's VISION

The Edmonton Region public service voluntary sector, working together with business and government to build a strong, vibrant community.

MISSION

Provide leadership on public policy matters.

Provide leadership and mobilize resources to enhance capacity and capability of the sector.

Promote the value of volunteerism and the important contribution made by the sector.

PRIORITIES

Promote the value of the nonprofit /voluntary sector.

Build the capacity of the nonprofit and voluntary sector.



“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Source: Henry Ford

ECVO is proud to offer a professional hub for Edmonton’s nonprofit sector. In our community, rich with courage, innovation, leadership and a passion for learning, it is not hard to bring people together. Sometimes our greatest challenge is finding enough chairs in the room. By creating and supporting opportunities for collaboration, capacity building and networking, we help the sector to grow stronger and bring their united voice to public policy development.



MESSAGE FROM ECVO's ACTING BOARD CHAIR

“We tell stories we hope will make our lives, our communities, and our world, better.”

*Areni Kelleppan
Acting Chair*



Years ago, I remember being told a story about a child just like me but in another country, living in poverty and wanting a better life. That story galvanized a class of 3rd graders to make a difference in the life of a child we didn't know and likely never would. And it was the first story that I can remember that engaged my little community of peers, inspired me to action, and made me realize that together, we could actually do *something* to make a difference.

I hope that the nonprofit sector sees the value in the stories that ECVO tries to tell; the importance of taking on the mantle of leadership, in building capacity, engaging our fellow citizens, and acting as stewards in our



ECVO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Areni Kelleppan – Sustainable Food Edmonton

Carol Watson – Edmonton Community Foundation

Cliff Higuchi – Shaw Conference Centre

Karen Mottershead – Terra Centre

Keri Mitchell – Theatre Alberta

Mark Holmgren – Bissell Centre

Michael Farris – Edmontonian

Susan Logan – Mediation and Restorative Justice

Tesfay Ayalew – Africa Centre

communities. Working together and being connected makes our sector stronger, better, and more resilient, so that all of us can continue to tell great stories that inspire, engage, and call us all to action.

After all, aren't nonprofits storytellers of the richest and most rewarding stories of all? We tell the stories we hope will make our lives, our communities, and our world, better.



MESSAGE FROM ECVO's EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Never underestimate the power of suggestion.”

Russ Dahms

In January 2013 I was sharing a friendly lunch with a colleague. We talked about our plans for the year ahead and I innocently speculated 2013 would be a busy year at ECVO. And so it was ...

- Malambo Moonga left ECVO in July to pursue further education.
- Mandie Abrams took on a new challenge as Director of Community Engagement at ECVO leading the Moving to Action project.
- Gemma Dunn joined us in September as our Capacity Building Specialist.
- Katie Monilaws came to our shared service environment as Office Manager in September.
- Thelma Ketler arrived in November as our in-house Communications Director.
- Personally, I spent six months navigating Edmonton's ice and snow on crutches.



I strongly believe **our 109 members are our most important assets**. I thank them for their continued support and active participation in ECVO events. I am especially grateful that you consistently let us know what we're doing well and where we can improve.

Thank you also to our Board of Directors for their stellar contributions over the past year. They have strengthened our organization and introduced innovations that will serve us well into the future.

Speaking for all of us at ECVO, we are ready for another action-packed year; extending our services to nonprofits and charities in the Alberta Capital Region.

Russ Dahms
Executive Director



ECVO HELPED NONPROFITS BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

196

**Organizations
Participated**

335

**Individuals
Attended**

- Board Leadership – Focused on the theme of Lead- Create-Innovate-Collaborate
- Generative Governance – 12 hour course encouraging board directors to explore the concept of generative thinking
- Engaging with the City – An opportunity for Ethno Cultural leaders to engage with City of Edmonton Administration
- Financial Management – Comprehensive financial training for boards and Executive Directors
- An Introduction to Social Enterprise – A partnership presentation with the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Social Enterprise Fund to help organizations assess viability of this model for their organization.



“Simply put, nonprofit capacity building refers to activities that improve the nonprofit’s ability to achieve its mission and sustain itself over time.”

National Council of NONPROFITS

Capacity building is not just about the capacity of a nonprofit today – it’s about the future. This makes it difficult to measure the impact of capacity building activities – especially in the short term. One fact we have learned for certain, is that if you offer opportunities for local nonprofits and charities to participate in capacity building activities ... they will come!

Board leadership and financial management were two key skill areas Edmonton area nonprofits and charities chose to develop. Another key area of capacity building support was in the Ethno Cultural community. By bringing Ethno Cultural leaders together with City administration leaders increased their understanding of how to approach and interact with city decision makers.



ECVO ENCOURAGED INFORMATION SHARING IN THE SECTOR

28

E-Bulletins We
Sent

31

News Items We
Posted on our
Website

75

Items We
Posted on
Facebook

474

Job Ads Posted
on our Website

786

Twitter
Followers

14,570

Individuals Used our Website



“Communication is simply the act of transferring information from one place to another.”

Skills You Need

Reading the definition of communication makes you think ... that’s easy! But day-to-day communication activities at ECVO are more complex than the definition implies. We receive a constant stream of information every day from all over the globe. We do our best to pan for the golden nuggets and transfer them quickly to our members and key stakeholders. Thelma Ketler, our new Communications Director came on staff in November and is developing new tools to increase our ability to interact exchange, and dialogue.

ECVO appreciated the 1,000+ monthly visitors to our website, www.ecvo.ca in 2013. To improve the web experience at ECVO we are refreshing our site for 2014.



ECVO ENCOURAGED NONPROFITS TO CONVENE IN 2013

- Advancing the Foundational Narrative – Imagine Canada’s VP Strategic Communications and Business Development , Stephen Faul.
- ECVO Next 10 – Annual General Meeting.
- Moving to Action – Mayor’s Dialogue with the Human Services Sector.
- ECVO’s Mayoral Candidate Forum for the Nonprofit Sector.
- Brian Emmett – Imagine Canada’s Chief Economist.

5

Opportunities to Meet

423

People Convened



“A convener is an individual or group responsible for bringing people together to address an issue, problem or opportunity.

Source: Collaborative Leaders Network

ECVO takes pride in knowing when and how to bring people together. In 2013 we brought together 423 individuals from the nonprofit sector in and around Edmonton.

The convening events were diverse in topic and distinct from ECVO’s capacity building events. Edmonton’s nonprofit sector clearly values the opportunity to meet with colleagues, politicians, and out-of-province guests.



ECVO SUPPORTED NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Lunch With Series for Executive Directors
 - Liz O'Neill
 - Bev Parks
- Speed Dating ... Executive Director Mentoring
- Accelerating Impact Community Conversations – A Community of Practice to improve knowledge of Collective Impact.
- Inspiring Conversations – David Whyte – a partnership of nonprofit and public sector leaders interested in supporting leadership development.
- SpareSmarts – a collective of organizations dedicated to professional development in the sector.
- Leadership Coaching Bursary – a pilot project, with a cohort of emerging leaders to test the benefits of leadership coaching.

230

People Engaged



“To network is to form relationships with others, in like or related fields that help to expand ones’ effectiveness in an organization or industry.”

Source: Patricia Lotich

ECVO supported individuals from the Edmonton nonprofit sector to come together in 2013 for purposes of mutual benefit. The types of networks and partnerships they engaged in were quite diverse, offering opportunities for Executive Directors, emerging leaders, program staff and those dedicated to professional development.

ECVO even ventured into the world of speed dating in 2013. While we don’t believe any participants found a life partner, we received extremely positive responses from the mentors who increased their professional networks and the mentees who benefited from the knowledge gained during speed meetings with different mentors.



ECVO ADVOCATES FOR EDMONTON'S NONPROFIT SECTOR

Challenging GOA

When the GOA canceled its Summer Temporary Employment Program in 2013, the nonprofit sector responded with disbelief and anger. ECVO listened then took action by writing to, and meeting with Minister Hancock to discuss options for the future. The door remains open to hope for a new program in 2015.

Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks

ECVO participates in this national network which most recently welcomed Volunteer Canada and Imagine Canada to its membership. Being associated with these umbrella organizations allows ECVO to bring home a national perspective on issues and to profile Edmonton's great accomplishments.

Alberta Nonprofit Summit

ECVO was at the table when 35 key stakeholder groups met in September 2013 to share views about strengthening Alberta's nonprofit sector. Strong leadership, systems change, advocacy, telling our story and communication were the major themes ECVO brought back to its membership.



“Leadership ... is about creating change you believe in.”

Source: Seth Godin

ECVO is often invited to provide input on issues of public policy or to participate in discussions with provincial and national colleagues. Sometimes, we don't wait for an invitation we just leap in because we think we should.

We are proud to advocate for our membership, and grateful that our organization has earned the necessary respect to be heard by our provincial and municipal governments as well as the larger nonprofit network in Canada.



ECVO IS COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENT STEWARDSHIP

Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

Statement of Operations

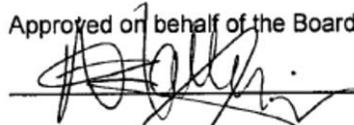
For the year ending December 31,	2013	2012
Revenues		
Operating grants	\$ 266,200	\$ 231,200
Project grants	133,065	149,407
Membership fees	20,033	20,270
Interest	1,470	1,067
Fees and miscellaneous	29,686	74,877
	\$ 450,454	\$ 476,821
Expenditures		
Human resources	\$ 250,524	\$ 228,595
Sector services	71,099	112,460
Office operations	49,904	22,585
Marketing and communications	42,687	33,116
Organizational operations	17,766	22,497
Governance	2,727	3,784
	\$ 434,707	\$ 423,037
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 15,747	\$ 53,784

Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

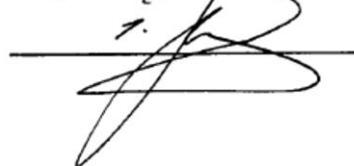
Statement of Financial Position

December 31,	2013	2012
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 254,159	\$ 93,426
Accounts receivable	15,237	34,148
	\$ 269,396	\$ 127,574
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 6,590	\$ 18,243
Deferred contributions (note 3)	216,161	78,433
	\$ 222,751	\$ 96,676
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	46,645	30,898
	\$ 269,396	\$ 127,574

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director

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