



Edmonton Chamber
of Voluntary Organizations

TOWARDS A NEW VISION

For Edmonton's Non-profit Sector

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

2019 marked a time of transition for ECVO. Changing leadership, an energized membership and a fresh outlook on our programming helped us direct our sights on a new vision for Edmonton's non-profit sector.

We reached out to our members for their perspectives on everything ECVO—our approach to delivering programs, how we communicate with our communities, where we should be directing our efforts in the coming years.

Based on what we heard, our team spent 2019 piloting new programs and experimenting with new formats, while honing our ongoing offerings to ensure they reflect evolving trends in the sector and remain firmly focused on creating sustainable futures for organizations and the broader sector.

In 2019, we also had a chance to reflect back on great leadership from our longstanding and retiring Executive Director Russ Dahms, who passed the baton to a new leader. In 2020 and beyond, we're feeling inspired by new leadership and new strategic priorities that will thrust ECVO towards achieving our **vision of a strong, vibrant community strengthened by an effective voluntary sector working in tandem with governments and business.**

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM 2019

Boosting capacity across the non-profit community.

Building capacity is at the heart of ECVO's work. In 2019, we stepped back to look a little deeper at how best to serve our members and thousands of organizations that comprise Edmonton's diverse non-profit community.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR NON-PROFITS:

ECVO partnered with the Government of Alberta to work with local non-profits who owned property to undertake energy efficiency audits of their buildings.



SUPPORTING EVALUATIVE THINKING IN EVERYDAY PRACTICE:

9 organizations rethought evaluation from the ground up in the Eval Lab, a creative co-learning environment for non-profits to explore how to boost their impact. www.evallab.ca

211 non-profit leaders



attended the 2019 Board Leadership Conference. www.boardleadership.ca

RETIRED PROFESSIONALS PAYING IT FORWARD:

19 volunteer consultants make up the Alberta Community Support Network (ACSN), a group of retired volunteer consultants who are offering their expertise to the non-profit community.



TAILORED SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZATIONS:

Not all non-profits face the same challenges. On average, ECVO received 4 inquiries per week from non-profits seeking tailored support for their unique challenges. In supporting roughly 200 organizations, we found new focus areas for programming and set the foundations for ongoing direct support in 2020 and beyond.



SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S BOARD LEADERS:

55 board leaders participated in Alberta Board Member Essentials in 2019. The five-part blended learning program dives into the essentials of proactive board governance.

BUILDING THE BACKBONE WITH BYLAWS AND POLICIES:

In 2019, Bylaws Refresher saw 49 participants blow the dust off their bylaws in our one-night refresher workshop in partnership with the Government of Alberta and Alberta Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis. 44 more attended Appreciative Policy Making workshops.



9 mentors + 9 mentees

participated in the Executive Director Mentorship program in 2019.

Working together for greater collective impact.

A networked non-profit is a resilient non-profit. A collaborative sector is a sustainable sector. ECVO works with organizations to maximize opportunities for connection and collective action. In 2019, we supported Edmonton's non-profits to become more informed, more connected, and more unified in their efforts to create positive impacts in their communities.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF COLLABORATIVE ARCHITECTURE:

18 participants representing non-profits from across Alberta joined experts from San Francisco's Community at Work for five days of multi-stakeholder collaboration training. Multi-stakeholder Initiatives: The Building Blocks of Collaborative Architecture brought fresh ideas on building collective capacity and driving systems change.



STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS, GREATER IMPACT:

We hosted Partnership Brokers Training in Edmonton for another edition of the highly sought-after global training program. 20 participants spent a week honing their partnership skills.



116 non-profit Executive Directors and CEOs

attended 4 Wine & Wisdom Networking Nights in 2019. Themes throughout 2019 centred on building bridges between today's leaders and emerging leaders.



EMERGING SECTOR LEADERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:

In 2019, we supported a core team of sector leaders to form the LEAD Network (Leadership Exploration and Development in Non-Profits), focused on connecting emerging leaders in the sector for peer support and career development.



ADVANCING A COHESIVE AND RESILIENT NON-PROFIT SECTOR IN ALBERTA:

ECVO plays a leadership role in the burgeoning Alberta Nonprofit Network (ABNN), an independent network of organizations working together to leverage learning and resources and take collective action in response to strategic issues impacting Alberta's non-profits. www.albertanonprofits.ca

Building community through volunteerism.

Volunteering is crucial to creating cohesive communities, and Edmonton's volunteer spirit is second-to-none. In 2019, we saw a new web platform blossom into a powerful bridge between volunteers and non-profits, while we worked with volunteer managers locally and across Canada to set a path ahead for more inclusive and accessible volunteer communities.

CONNECTING CANADA'S VOLUNTEER NETWORKS

ECVO maintained its positions as an active voice in volunteer networks at the local, provincial, and national levels.

- Capital Region Volunteer Centre Network (CRVCN)
- Volunteer Canada's Centreville Network
- Volunteer Management Group
- Wellness Network



More than 100,000 visits to volunteerconnector.ca, where hundreds of organizations across Alberta post new volunteer opportunities daily.

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, we supported Edmonton's Volunteer Engagement Specialists—those who manage or coordinate volunteers—by convening conversations to lay the groundwork for inVEST, a collaborative Community of Practice that supports managers in building inclusive, accessible, and engaging volunteer programs.

2,900+ Connections Made

at the 2019 Edmonton Volunteer Fair between 66 organizations and hundreds of volunteer hopefuls looking to embark on their next volunteer adventure.



20 inspiring #YEGvolunteers stories

shared on social media to celebrate National Volunteer Week 2019. You can find them on ECVO's Instagram at @EdmCVO.



Snapshot of our membership

as of December 31, 2019



46 INDIVIDUAL Members



199 ORGANIZATIONAL Members



4 SUSTAINING Members

Looking Ahead: 2020-2022

This year, we find ourselves part of a non-profit community in a peculiar time. While this report reflects on 2019's work, its release well into 2020 is in tandem with a delayed Annual General Meeting and reflects what has been a challenging year for our organization and for the non-profit sector as a whole.

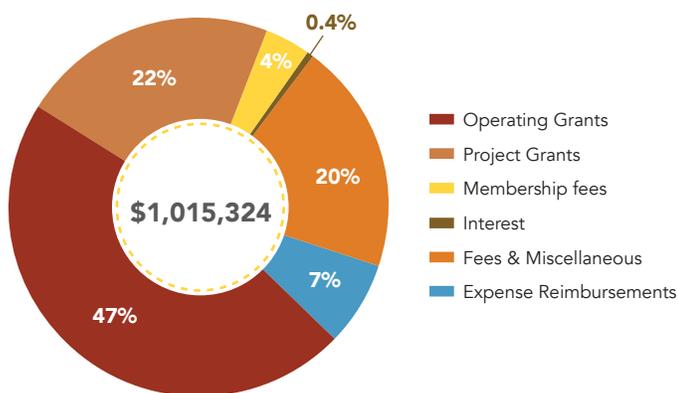
This year began with a leadership transition, as Gemma Dunn succeeded retiring Executive Director Russ Dahms. With renewed directives from our Board of Directors and fresh Strategic Priorities in hand to guide the organization from 2020-22, Gemma has been leading the organization through a period of focus and reorganization, with new priorities that we are excited to belatedly put into action in late 2020 and early 2021.

Like our non-profit peers, much of our momentum was put on hold when the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the world. Events were postponed, meetings were canceled, and offices closed their doors. As the sector sought support and solutions from funders and governments, we witnessed collective action unfolding in real time. Organizations shared resources and capacity. Relationships formed around mutual interests and concerns. Most importantly, the non-profit community worked collaboratively to ensure that organizations had the information and support they needed to navigate the challenged of the pandemic. We witnessed a charitable sector at its most creative and resilient.

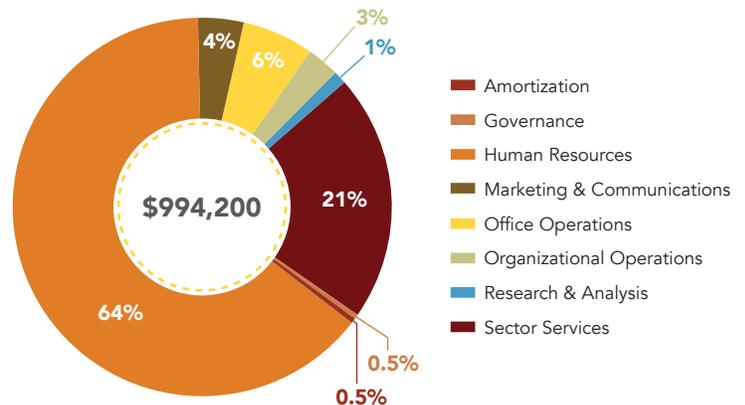
The ECVO of 2020-22 is shaping up to be significantly different from 2019. Our leadership, our staff, and our Board of Directors are motivated to maintain the momentum behind this sense of collaboration and collectivity and we are energized to support organizations eager to propel themselves into a stronger, more sustainable future.

Financial Outlook

2019 REVENUE



2019 EXPENDITURES



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR FUNDERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF ECVO AND EDMONTON'S NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY.

