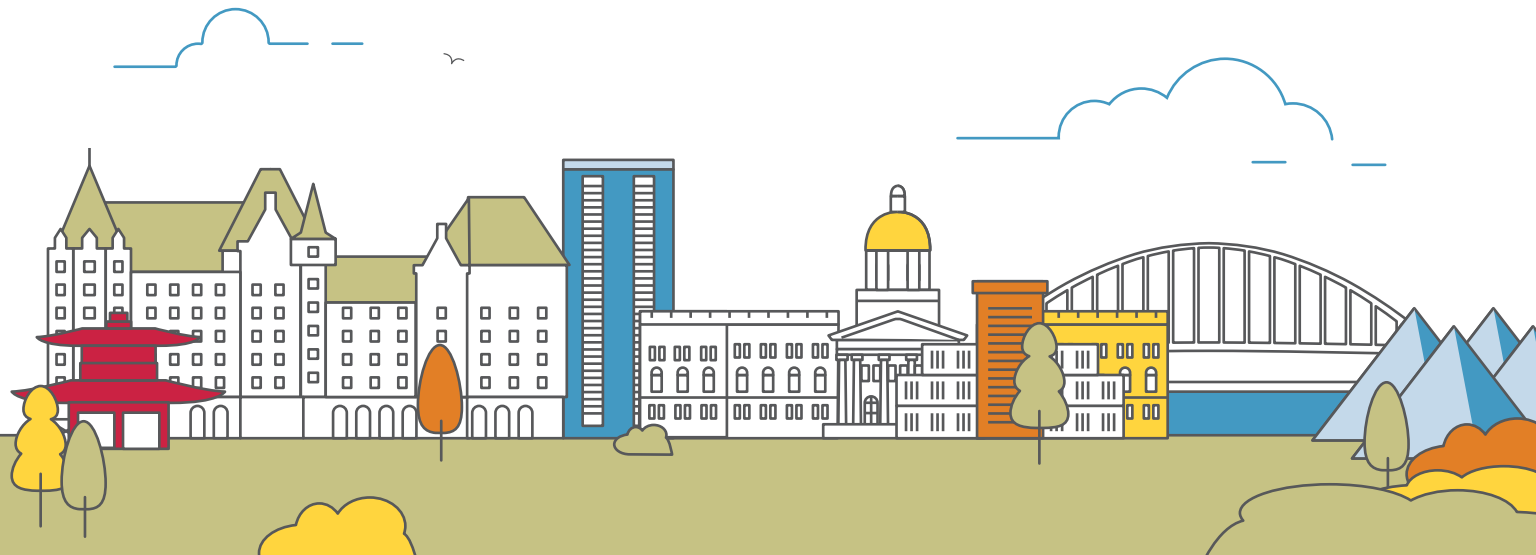




Edmonton Chamber
of Voluntary Organizations

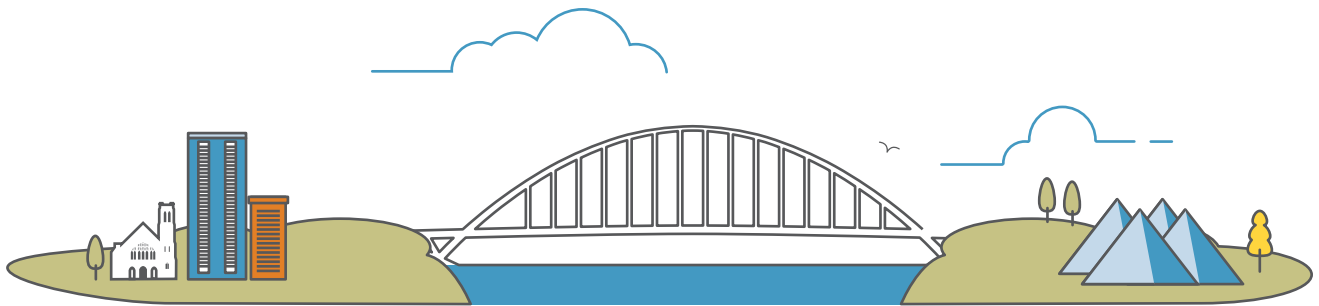
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Working Towards a TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURE



ECVO's VISION & MISSION

ECVO strives for engaged, inclusive, and resilient communities. Working with the non-profit sector, we convene, build capacity, and amplify our common voice to strengthen collaboration, responsiveness, and resilience.

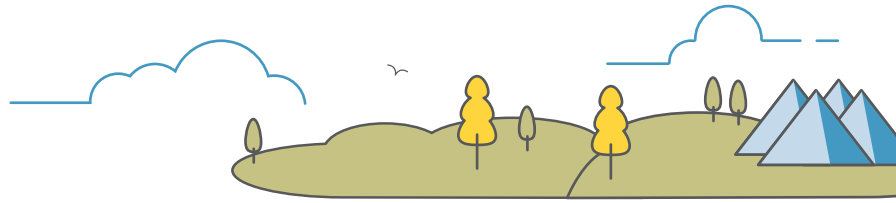


ECVO would like to formally recognize that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Métis Nation of Alberta North Saskatchewan River Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and traveling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

This land has been a gathering place for many millennia. It has a long history as a place of learning and exchange. As an organization, ECVO is grateful to have a public platform through which we can continue promoting learning, collaboration, and the exchange of information for the betterment of our communities here on this land.



VALUES



COLLABORATION: We believe collaboration, not competition, strengthens our communities and sector partnerships. We support sector organizations to find common ground and discover ways they can share resources and ideas. Internally, we encourage our team to work without silos and find interdisciplinary solutions to common challenges.



BOLDNESS: We seek to be bold in our ideas and in the way we communicate our work because the issues our sector face require honesty and approaches beyond the status quo. We push into uncomfortable places in order to achieve new learnings and opportunities for growth and necessary change.



ADAPTABILITY: The sector and society are shifting, and our work at ECVO must respond appropriately. We seek sector transformation that will enhance sector agility and resilience so organizations and their personnel may adapt to the social, environmental, and economic changes of the 21st Century.



CREDIBILITY: We conduct our work and relationships in ways that build trust. We aim to fairly, transparently, and accurately represent our members and community so they can rely on our strong voice and reputable programs to achieve their goals.



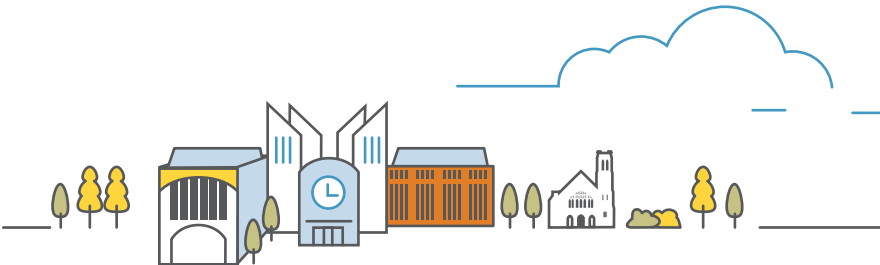
JUST RELATIONSHIPS: Relationship is at the core of everything we do, whether through supporting the development of interpersonal relationships—member to member, mentor to mentee, volunteer to staff—or more macro sector partner relationships. We understand that the way we relate to each other can be marked by inequality and injustice that is structural in nature. In all of our relationships we strive for equality, justice, and reconciliation.

Strategic Priority:



BUILD CAPACITY

- Convened the sector to create policy priorities that align with our new strategic vision.
- Explored what sector transformation means within the social service sector by bringing sector leaders together throughout 2023.
- Shared knowledge and learnings to improve the day-to-day work of organizations by facilitating six Communities of Practice in the areas of advocacy and government relations, HR, volunteerism, governance, and capacity building.
- Facilitated meaningful cross-sector conversations throughout the year by bringing organizations, leaders, and board members together.
- Examined and developed new and innovative models of governance within the social service sector.
- ECVO formed an ongoing partnership with the Africa Centre's Ujima Fellowship Program to deliver the Alberta Board Members Essentials (ABME) program.

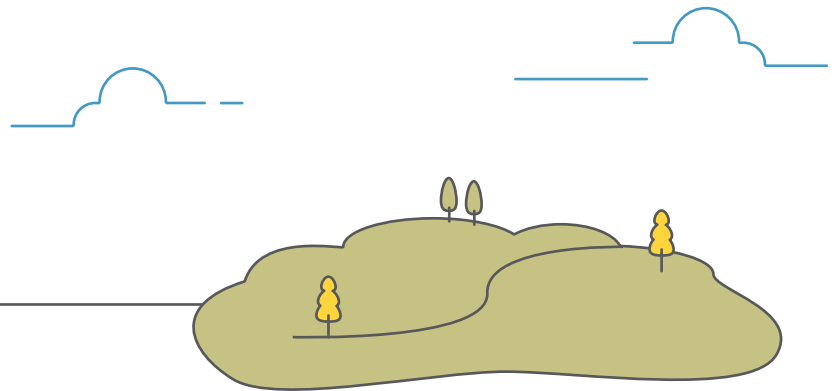


Strategic Priority:



CONVENE

- Offered 35+ events and courses to help build capacity to effectively respond to ongoing changes in organizational and political leadership, technological capabilities, societal values, and demographics.
- Facilitated the Executive Director Mentorship Program aimed at fostering solutions that strengthen leadership capacity across the non-profit sector.
- Welcomed non-profit leaders from across Alberta for Non-Profit Day 2023, in partnership with Alberta Counsel, aimed at informing and inspiring sector and organizational transformation. The conference provided insightful sessions on governance, resilience and transformation, and advocacy and politics.
- Launched the Advancing Organizational Resilience course in collaboration with PolicyWise to support and strengthen non-profit organizations through six capacity building workshops.



Strategic Priority:



AMPLIFY

- Hosted town halls with non-profit leaders and four key sector priorities emerged: a stable home in government, workforce strategy, equitable funding, and investment in volunteers and community development.
- Provided election platform priorities for the spring provincial election and continues to provide feedback to elected officials about issues that impact the sector.
- Brought key sector priorities to federal policy makers, legislators, and government representatives as part of Imagine Canada Hill Day on Parliament Hill.
- Convened the sector around the future of the City of Edmonton's Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG). In a collective advocacy effort, ECVO submitted 320+ sector letters and met with city councillors and the Mayor's office to voice concerns on funding cuts. Council decided to maintain the budget for 2024.

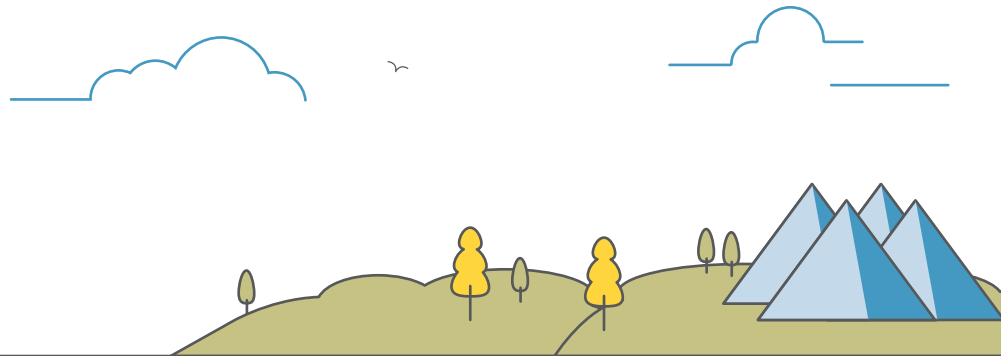


Strategic Priority:



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Led an internal process to reexamine and rebuild our Articles of Association to better reflect the values, membership, and organization's desired future.
- Implemented policies that ensure the health and well-being of our staff, such as open vacation policy, option of a hybrid workplace, and additional wellness days.
- Increased resources to support professional development opportunities for staff.
- Continued our EDI learning journey guided by our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan.





2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Launched HR Shared Services in addition to the Governance Shared Services, offering additional resources to the non-profit sector.



Thousands of new volunteer journeys were launched through our online volunteer matching platform Volunteer Connector. In 2023 we helped to connect 17,460 potential volunteers to non-profits.



ECVO brought a diverse cross-section of leaders together to talk about issues that affect all areas of the non-profit sector. Participants shared ideas and developed creative partnerships through our 2023 Executive Director mixers.



Amplified the shared voice of the non-profit sector by discussing key sector priorities in over 25 meetings with decision-makers and elected officials from across Alberta's political spectrum in 2023.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



As part of our sector transformation work, we developed Community Led Governance Models that puts lived experience at the centre of decision making.



The Ethno-Cultural Capacity-Building Collaborative has now engaged with 60+ grassroots organizations and capacity-builders, strengthening Edmonton's grassroots ethno-cultural organizations by nurturing a collaborative ecosystem and through delivering workshops and courses in partnership with ECVO.



After the pandemic forced Edmonton Volunteer Fair online, the city's largest volunteer recruitment event was back in person in 2023. More than 5,000 Edmontonians and 50 non-profits participated in the Edmonton Volunteer Fair.



Advancing Organizational Resilience was launched in 2023 in collaboration with PolicyWise to support and strengthen non-profit organizations.

REIMAGING ECVO'S GOVERNANCE

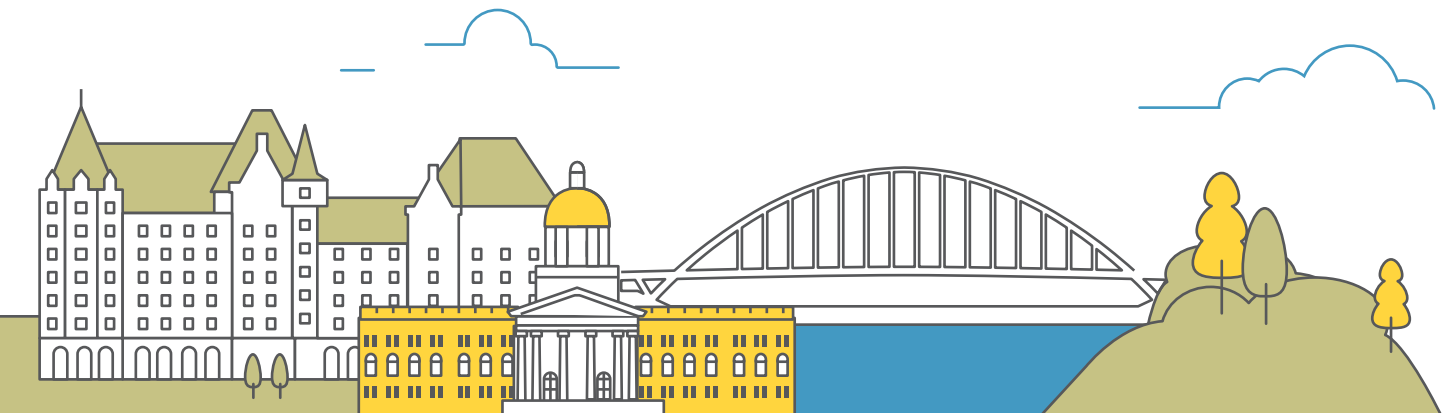
In 2023, ECVO reimagined our vision, mission, values, and governance model. We reflected on how we could better serve the non-profit community, encourage innovative thinking, and govern our organization equitably.

Our reimagining was based on findings within a white paper we produced on transforming the city's non-profit sector. The white paper highlighted the need for the sector to work towards equitable and just systems while existing in the context of capitalism.

Through our reimagining process, we worked to deconstruct what we thought we knew about governance as an organization by asking ourselves big, and sometimes uncomfortable, questions. These questions helped us redefine governance, what is Board work and what is governance, how decisions are made within ECVO, and who is included in governance.

These reflective questions also guided us as we reworked our bylaws. Changes were made to now include two annual member meetings to connect with and remain accountable to the community and ensure our ECVO Board representation links into our ongoing EDI work.

As our organization continues to be open to new ways of doing things and allowing for power to be distributed to those who are most impacted by decision, our governance conversations will remain ongoing.



OUR MEMBERSHIP

24

Individual Members

259

Organizational Members

12

Sustaining Members



Boys & Girls Clubs



Big Brothers Big Sisters



Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area



The Muttart Foundation

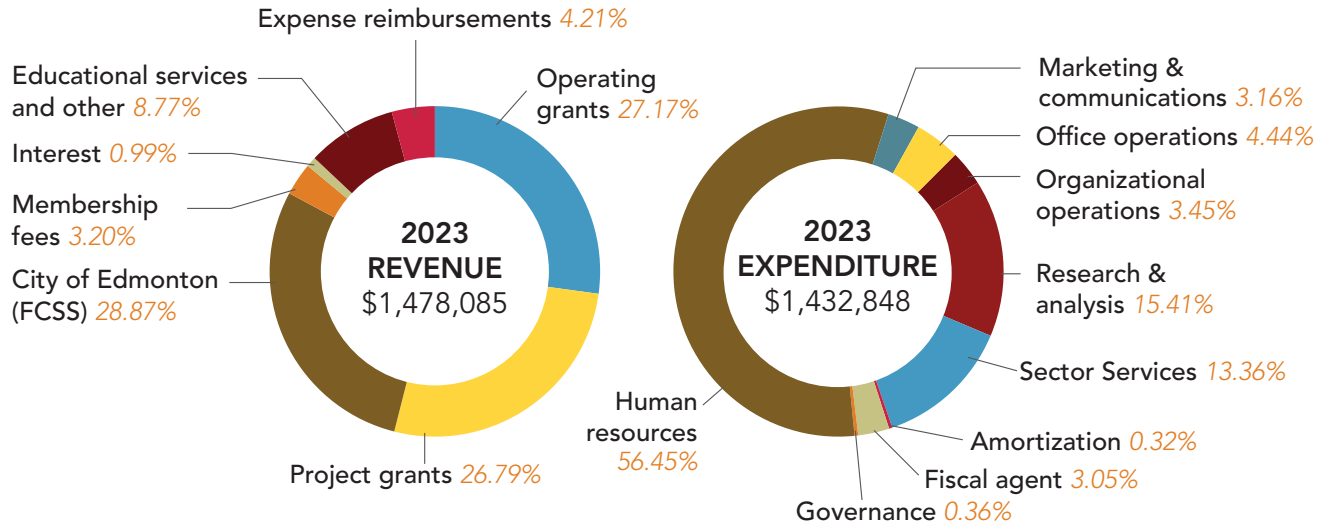


WINhouse
i can act



Thank you to our Sustaining Members who directly impact ECVO's sector-level initiatives that amplify the collective voice of the sector and boost awareness of important issues at the regional, provincial, and national levels.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK



We gratefully acknowledge our funders for their support of ECVO and Edmonton's non-profit community.

