

# **A Profile of the Nonprofit Sector in Saskatchewan:** An Overview

**SASKATCHEWAN  
NONPROFIT  
PARTNERSHIP**

PASSION LED US HERE

## Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership

The Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership is an unincorporated partnership of organizations that collaborate towards the betterment of the nonprofit sector. Senior leaders of the following organizations serve as members of the Partnership:

Boys and Girls Club of Saskatoon  
CFS Saskatoon  
Community Initiatives Fund  
Family Service Regina  
Heritage Saskatchewan  
SARC  
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

The mission of the Partnership is to benefit Saskatchewan's nonprofit sector through research, networking, public awareness, sector strategy development and thought leadership.

## Saskatchewan Nonprofit Sector Research Survey

In 2017 the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership engaged Insightrix Research Inc. to conduct a first ever research survey of the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan to gather baseline data about the sector at a provincial level. Utilizing a list of **6,540** active nonprofit organizations accessed through Information Services Corporation, the survey was conducted between June and October 2017 with **1,643** organizations participating, resulting in a response rate of **31%**.

It should be noted that while the number of active incorporated nonprofit organizations provided by Information Services Corporation is **6,540** it is estimated there are as many as **8,000** incorporated nonprofit organizations in Saskatchewan. As there are multiple levels of incorporation provincially and federally it is difficult to compile a comprehensive listing of all organizations operating within the province. Estimated figures provided in this report are therefore likely to under-estimate the impact of the sector.

© Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership | October 2018

Readers may, without charge or permission, use, share or reproduce all or part of this report however credit must be given to the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership.

# Executive Summary

This report is the first in a series profiling the sector and provides an overview of key characteristics of nonprofit organizations in the province. Additional reports will examine specific characteristics in greater detail.

## The Nonprofit Sector in Saskatchewan

The nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan is comprised of thousands of organizations representing a diverse range of activities, audiences, size, scope and geography.

Saskatchewan is well known for its high rate of volunteerism, with more than 344,000 Saskatchewan individuals contributing an estimated 14 million hours annually, averaging approximately 41 hours per person. An additional 52,000 individuals volunteer on Boards of Directors, providing leadership and governance at an organizational and community level.

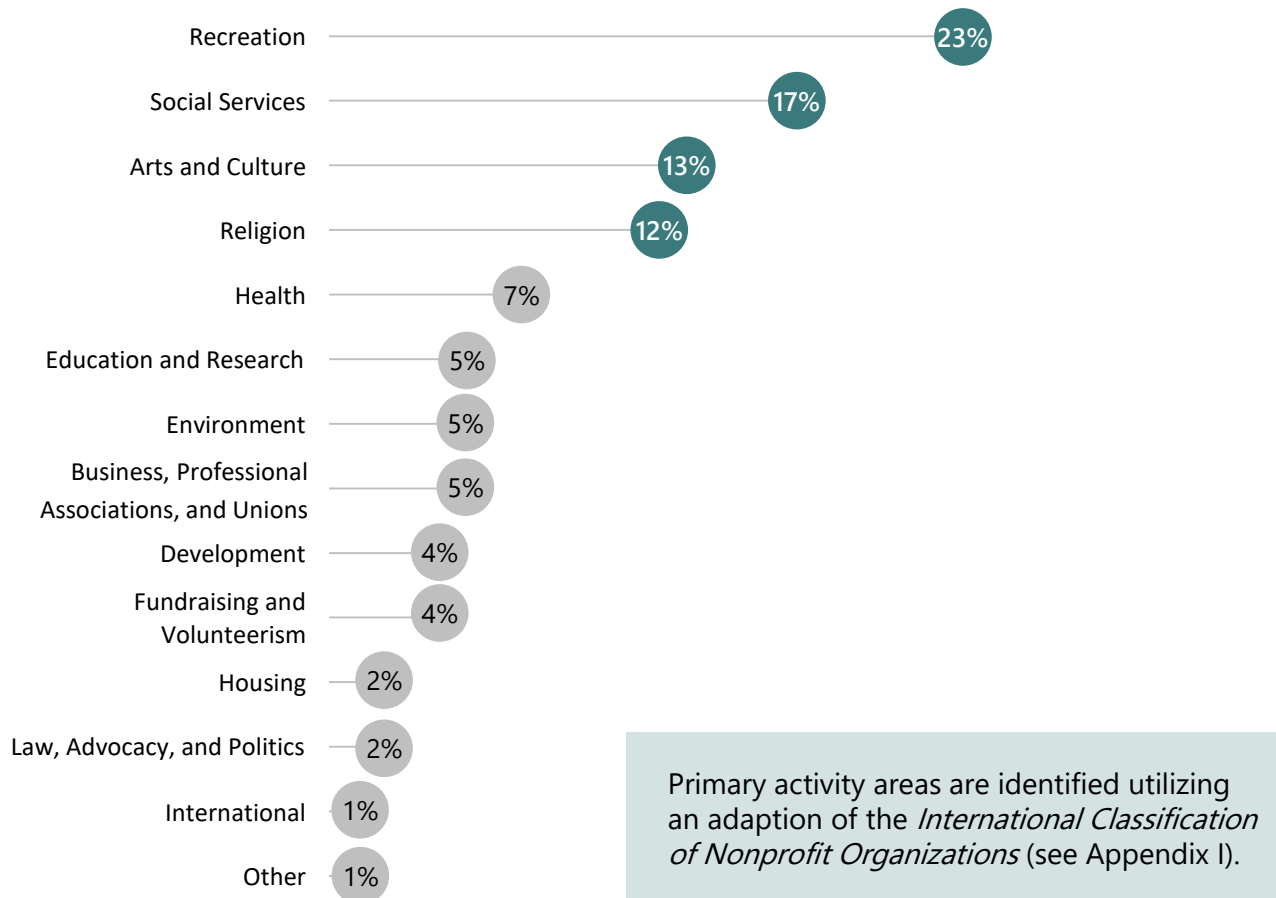
Perhaps less recognized is the scope of paid employment in the sector. With approximately 77,000 individuals working for a nonprofit organization, the sector employs more employees than most sectors in the province, second only to the health and social services sector.

And with total annual budgets estimated at \$4.7 billion, the nonprofit sector is a significant contributor to the province's economy, representing approximately 6.2% of the provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Sector leaders are entrepreneurial, with more than half of organizations generating a portion of their revenues through self-generated business activities.

Saskatchewan's nonprofit sector is a vibrant and resilient sector, providing critical services and programs to thousands of individuals, encouraging citizen engagement, responding to emergencies, and ultimately improving the quality of life in communities throughout the province.

# Types of Organizations

Nonprofit organizations are engaged in a broad range of activities. Similar to national findings<sup>1</sup> the **most prevalent types of Saskatchewan nonprofit organizations** by primary activity area are Recreation, Social Services, Arts and Culture, and Religion.



Survey respondents were asked to select only one Primary Activity Area to allow for classification of organizations though it is recognized many organizations undertake activities in multiple areas.

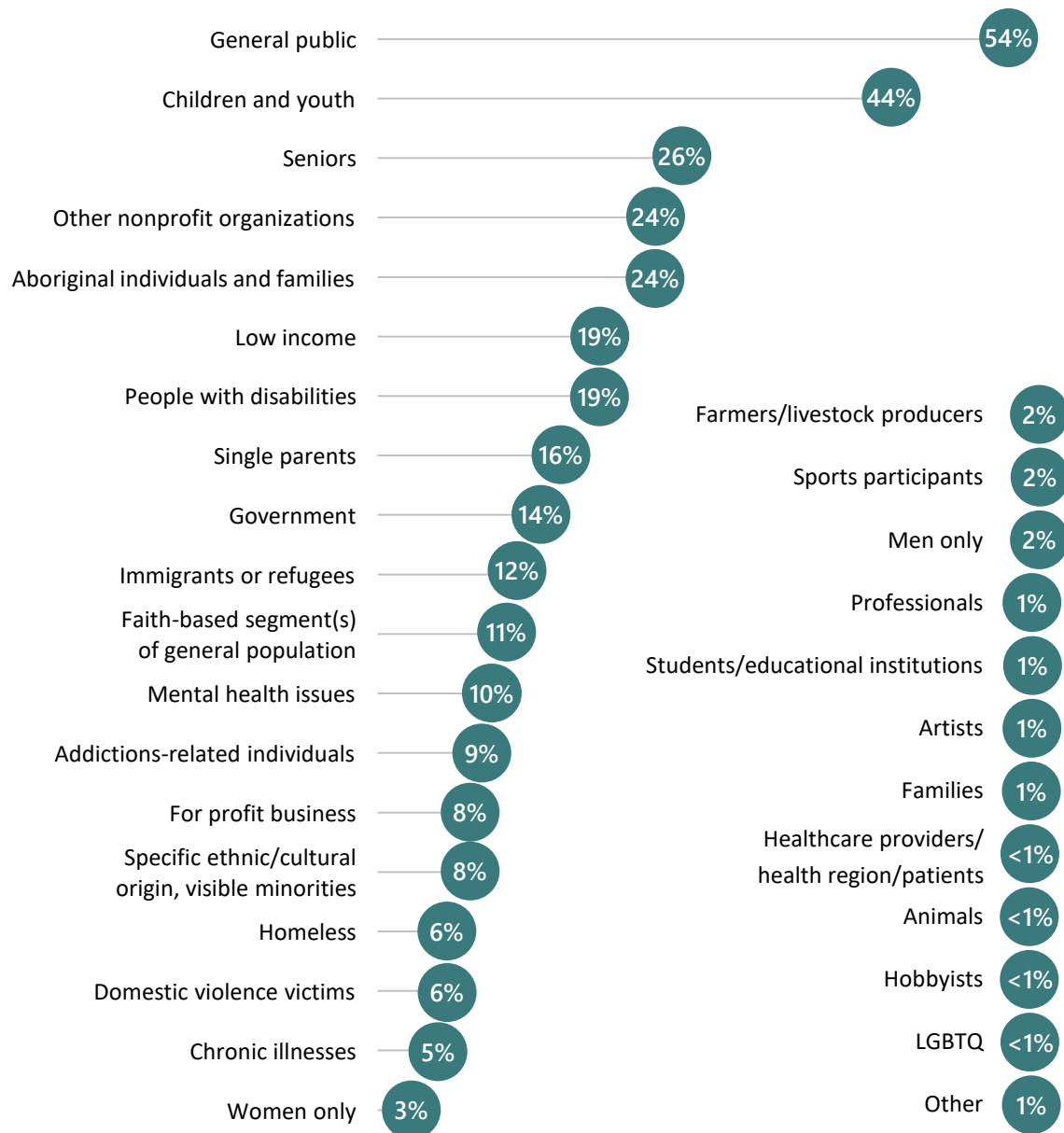
Over half (56%) of nonprofit organizations are also registered charities, ranging from 94% of those in Religion to only 7% of Business, Professional Associations and Unions.

The majority of organizations (83%) have been operating for more than 10 years, with a few providing services for more than 100 years.

<sup>1</sup> Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, Statistics Canada, 2004.

# Service Reach

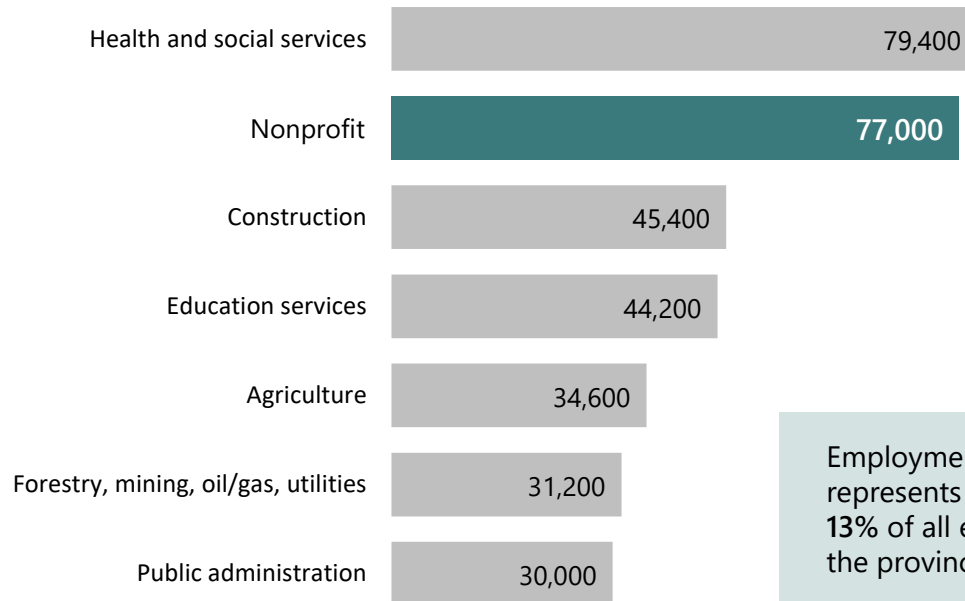
A very wide range of audiences are served by the sector, with many organizations serving multiple audiences. A majority of nonprofit organizations serve the general public, with children and youth being the next most common beneficiaries of nonprofit work.



Organizations are broadly dispersed throughout the province, with 63% of respondents located outside of Saskatoon and Regina. The number of people served by each organization varies widely as well, with 28% serving fewer than 100 people annually, and 13% serving 5,000 or more.

# Employees

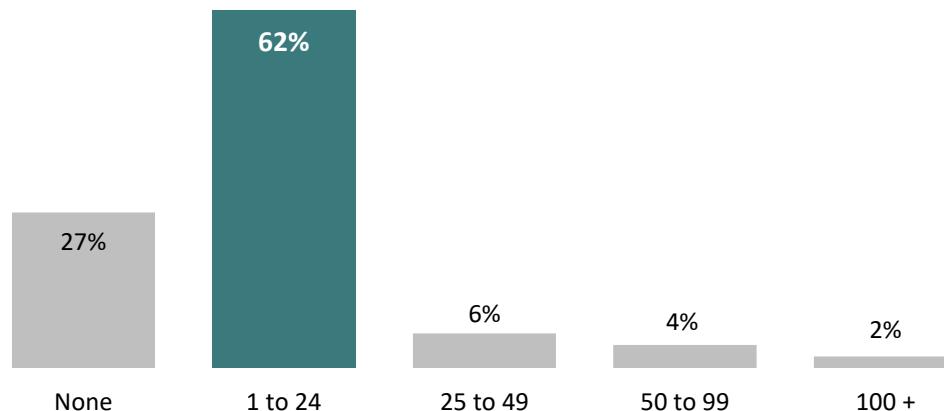
With an estimated total of **more than 77,000 employees**, the nonprofit sector employs more individuals than most other sectors in Saskatchewan<sup>2</sup>.



Employment in the sector represents approximately **13%** of all employees in the province<sup>3</sup>.

Other sector categories may include nonprofit employee numbers due to the way in which employee counts are currently collected.

The majority of organizations in Saskatchewan have between **1 and 24 paid employees**.



<sup>2</sup> SaskTrends Monitor, Volume XXXV, Number 3, March 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

# Volunteers

Saskatchewan has consistently benefited from having the highest rate of volunteerism across Canada for more than a decade<sup>4</sup>. With survey respondents reporting a total of almost 86,000 volunteers it is estimated that more than 344,000 individuals are actively volunteering across the province, contributing more than 14 million hours annually.

The level of engagement of volunteers varies widely across different organizations in the sector, with 69% of organizations relying on 1 to 99 volunteers annually.



Volunteers contribute an average of 40.9 hours per person per year.

# Boards of Directors

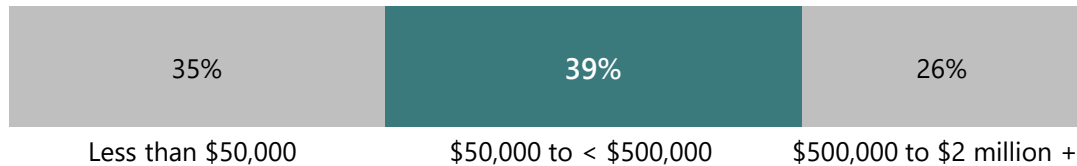
An estimated 52,000 individuals volunteer as members of Boards of Directors in addition to the volunteers discussed above. More than half of organizations report their Boards are comprised of 5 to 9 members, with an average being 8. A few report having as few as 2 and as high as 20 or more.

---

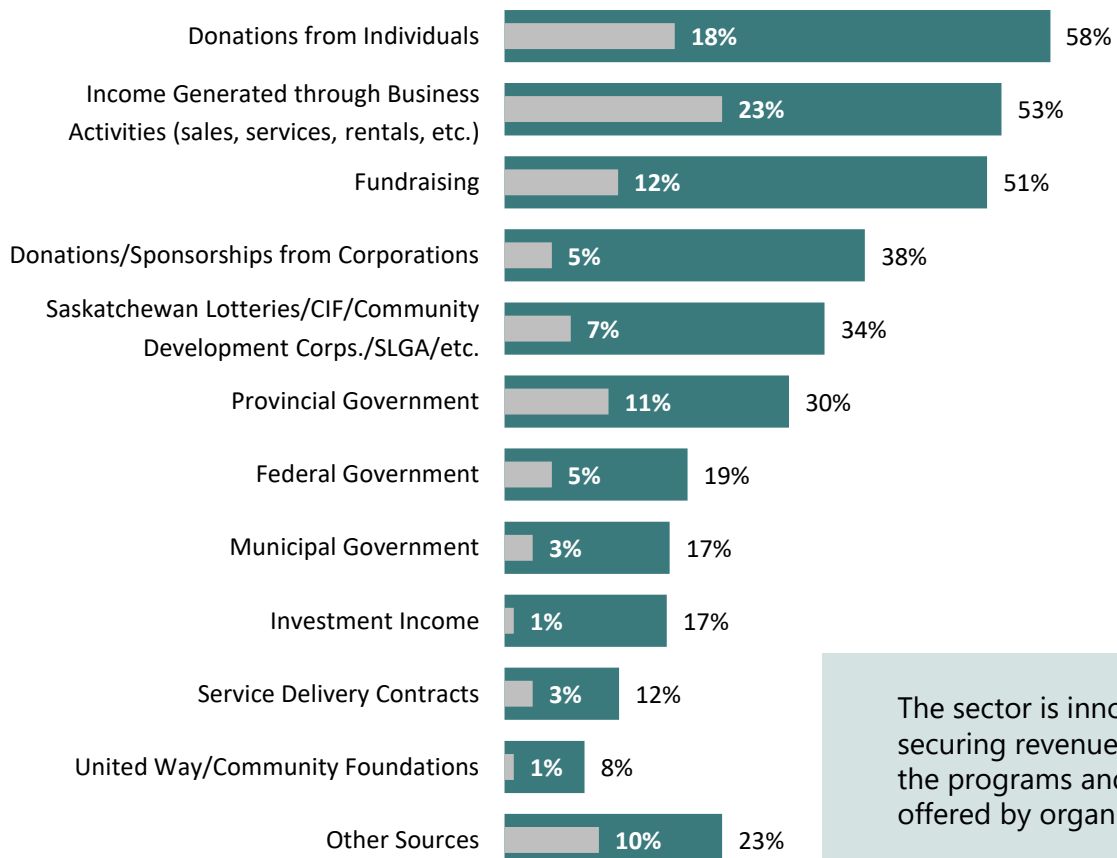
<sup>4</sup> Volunteering and Charitable Giving in Canada, Martin Turcotte, Statistics Canada, January 30, 2015.

# Finances

With an estimated total of \$4.7 billion in annual operating budgets, the sector represents 6.2% of the province's GDP<sup>5</sup>. 39% of responding organizations report an annual operating budget between \$50,000 to just under \$500,000.



- The sector generates revenue through a variety of sources, with more than half reporting revenues from donors, self-generated business activities, and fundraising. The majority of organizations rely on multiple sources of income.
- The proportion of total revenues that nonprofits receive from those sources vary, with income generated through business activities accounting for almost one-quarter of total revenue.



The sector is innovative in securing revenues to fund the programs and activities offered by organizations.

<sup>5</sup> Saskatchewan Provincial Economic Accounts, Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, January 2018 Edition.



# Appendix I

## International Classification of Nonprofit Organizations

The International Classification of Nonprofit Organizations (ICNPO) was introduced by L.M. Salamon and H.K. Anheier in 1997 in *Defining the Nonprofit Sector: A Cross-National Analysis*, developed through the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project. **For the purposes of the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Sector Research Survey a slightly adapted version of the ICNPO was utilized:**

**Arts and Culture** (e.g., visual or performing arts, historical or literary societies, zoos)

**Business, Professional Associations and Unions**

**Development** (e.g., community and neighborhood organizations, economic development, job training and vocational counselling)

**Education and Research** (e.g., universities and colleges, medical research, science and technology, social sciences research and analysis, policy studies)

**Fundraising and Volunteerism** (e.g., grant making foundations, recruitment, training and placement of volunteers, fundraising organizations)

**Recreation** (e.g., amateur sport clubs, recreation and social clubs, service clubs)

**Religion** (e.g., congregations, promoting religious beliefs)

**Health** (e.g., hospitals, long-term care facilities, mental health treatment, wellness education, rehabilitative medical services)

**Housing** (e.g., development, construction, management and financing of housing, housing search)

**International** (e.g., exchange/cultural programs, international development, international disaster relief, human rights, peace)

**Law, Advocacy and Politics** (e.g., advocacy, civil rights, legal services, victim support, political parties, rehabilitation of offenders)

**Environment** (e.g., natural resource conservation, environmental beautification, animal/wildlife protection and welfare)

**Social Services** (e.g., child & family services, services for persons with disabilities, senior's services, basic needs, refugee assistance)

SASKATCHEWAN  
NONPROFIT  
PARTNERSHIP

**[www.sasknonprofit.ca](http://www.sasknonprofit.ca)**

[info@sasknonprofit.ca](mailto:info@sasknonprofit.ca)

