

## Volunteerism-Specific Highlights from the new National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO)

### **Prepared by Reva Cooper for PAVR-O, Ontario CVI Network, P-VWG**

The National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO), conducted in 2003, is the first comprehensive study of nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Canada. It reinforces the importance of volunteerism through organized activity:

“Nonprofit and voluntary organizations are an integral part of Canadian life, serving as vehicles to involve millions of Canadians in efforts to address needs in their communities.”

### **National Highlights include:**

- Canada's voluntary and non-profit organizations employ roughly two million people whose paid efforts are supplemented by volunteers doing the work of an additional one million staff members
- A total of 19 million volunteers (including one person giving time to several causes concurrently) donated two billion hours of volunteer time in 2003
- Just over half of the 161,000 non-profit and voluntary organizations operating nationwide were run entirely by volunteers.

Ontario organizations account for a substantial percentage of revenues (43% of all revenues), volunteers (40%), and employees (47%).

Organizations report substantial problems relating to their capacity to engage volunteers and obtain funding, which may limit their ability to contribute to their communities. In Ontario, stressors on organizational capacity that relate to volunteerism include: difficulty recruiting the types of volunteers the organization needs (57% of organizations), difficulty obtaining board members (49%), difficulty retaining volunteers (48%) difficulty providing training for volunteers (41%) and for board members specifically (34%), as well as a lack of paid staff to recruit or manage volunteers (34%).

Executive summary of report (6 pages) is available at

[http://www.nonprofitscan.ca/pdf/NSNVO\\_Summary\\_English.pdf](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca/pdf/NSNVO_Summary_English.pdf)

The full report, Cornerstones of Community: Highlights from the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, (81 pages) is available at

[http://www.nonprofitscan.ca/pdf/NSNVO\\_Report\\_English.pdf](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca/pdf/NSNVO_Report_English.pdf)

Information on a second document, **The Satellite Account report, Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering**, identifying the economic value of the voluntary sector and volunteerism is available in Statistics Canada's Web site at <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=13-015-X>