

**MOVING
FORWARD WITH
PURPOSE AND
COLLABORATION**

Evo





ECVO's **VISION & MISSION**

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Braided together, these five values guide our work, shaping how we engage with our community, support our members, and pursue our shared mission with integrity and purpose.

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**

36

Programs

895

Participants

5818

Learning Hours

- Expanded sector program offerings by introducing new capacity building opportunities including media training, human resources online learning series, and revenue diversification series. All shaped by emerging sector trends, issues, and member feedback.
- The Ethno-Cultural Capacity-Building Collaborative grew to over 100 grassroots organizations and capacity builders, engaging in workshops, networking events, and strengthening inter-organizational relationships.
- Launched the Liz O’Neill Leadership Bursary, investing in the growth of emerging leaders from small to medium-sized nonprofits to pursue educational and professional development that strengthen their leadership skills and builds sector capacity.
- Volunteerism was top of mind for Edmontonians in 2025, with over 110 in-person Volunteer Centre appointments, approximately 7,000 volunteer applications submitted through Volunteer Connector, and 45 nonprofits participating in the Edmonton Volunteer Fair - making it the city’s largest volunteer recruitment event.



Nonprofit Week

First Annual Nonprofit Week

ECVO's new Training Room buzzed with excitement in February as we hosted our first Nonprofit Week. Over five theme-filled days, 160 leaders from 90 nonprofit organizations came together for a weeklong celebration of learning and connection.

The week opened with Communications Day's Pitch Perfect: How to Successfully Pitch Your Story to the Media, where local media experts shared insider insights into standing out in today's media landscape. Beyond Wages: Innovative Total Rewards Strategies on Human Resources Day featured a dynamic CPHR panel that challenged participants to rethink how nonprofits support and retain staff beyond compensation. ACSN volunteers also provided one-to-one HR support sessions.

Governance Day shifted the focus to leadership and structure through Your Organization, Your Governance, an online panel encouraging organizations to rethink their governance systems, and Reimagining Your AGM, an interactive drop-in session that sparked creativity around meaningful engagement. The week also included a mixer hosted at Alberta Counsel, creating space for connection with peers and elected officials.

Nonprofit Week concluded with Risk Mitigation, Cybersecurity, and Insurance: What You Should Know, this panel offered participants valuable insights into organizational risk. More than a series of events, Nonprofit Week demonstrated what's possible when nonprofits learn, share, and grow together.

Strategic Priority: **CONVENE**

14

Programs

941

Participants

5008

Networking Hours

- Convened 500 nonprofit leaders at the Beyond the Status Quo Summit, laying the foundation for a new way of collaboratively working together with nine human services and capacity-building organizations dedicated to driving systems change in Metro Edmonton.
- The Beyond the Status Quo collaborative formally announced the creation of Human Services Council at the Summit, where ECVO serves as convening and backbone support, participating in strategic planning and development of its governance structure to advance systems change in Metro Edmonton's human services ecosystem.
- Shared knowledge and learnings to strengthen the day-to-day work of organizations by facilitating Communities of Practice in the areas of advocacy and government relations, human resources, systems transformation, and volunteerism.
- Hosted quarterly executive director networking events, welcome lunches, and leadership discussions, creating dedicated spaces for nonprofit leaders to connect, share wisdom, and collaborate.



New Partners

Connecting Voices, Shaping Systems

Real change happens when the right people come together. In 2025, ECVO ensured nonprofit voices were heard, shaping the path forward and advocating for an ecosystem where nonprofits lead, not just participate.

Municipally, ECVO engaged members, hosting roundtables to develop our first municipal plan, offering city council a clear pathway for meaningful engagement, decision-making, and strategic investment in community building, recognizing the nonprofit sector as a key partner in building a vibrant city. Over 2025, the Human Services Council, backed by ECVO, brought sector leaders together aligning priorities, sharing insights, and coordinating action on key community issues.

Across sectors, ECVO participated in the We Are YEG partnership, bringing the nonprofit perspective together with municipal, post-secondary, and business leaders to advance Edmonton's prosperity.

Provincially, ECVO served as a network steward with the Alberta Nonprofit Network, supporting collaboration and knowledge-sharing across nonprofits in Alberta. Ensuring the voices of all nonprofits are heard and supported through network initiatives.

Meaningful dialogue, shared learning, and collaborative action are at the heart of ECVO's Convening Strategic Pillar. These aren't just partnerships, they are the roots of a stronger, more connected nonprofit sector. Looking ahead, ECVO will deepen these relationships, ensuring nonprofit voices don't just inform decisions, but help shape the systems behind them.

Strategic Priority: **AMPLIFY**

5

Programs

272

Participants

744

Collective Hours

- Strengthened sector-government connections by creating opportunities for nonprofits to engage directly with municipal and provincial elected officials at events like Nonprofit Week mixer, Mayoral Candidates Forum and Lunch the Leader of the Opposition Naheed Nenshi.
- Through the We are YEG partnership, a cross-industry initiative aimed at ensuring the nonprofit sector is an equal voice and representation in Edmonton, we sponsored the Calgary Stampede, KDays, and Rodeo events.
- Backboned the Social Policy Collaborative – Edmonton, a coalition of 20 human services organizations, refining its strategic focus to issues around affordability, beyond a roof, and strong sector.
- Delivered sector focused political and policy insight sessions featuring Pollster Janet Brown, The Discourse podcast hosts Erika Barootes and Cheryl Oates (The Discourse), and Graham Thomson, helping nonprofits to better understand the political landscape in Alberta.



Municipal Plan

Vision for Edmonton 2050

As Edmonton prepares for a population of two million by 2050, the nonprofit sector will play a vital role as both a community builder and economic driver influencing Edmonton's local economy and community well-being. Alongside the public and private sectors, nonprofits form one of the three essential pillars of a strong urban ecosystem.

Guided by this belief, ECVO developed its first Municipal Plan through two sector-wide town halls, where nonprofit leaders shared their priorities and vision for Edmonton's future. These conversations shaped a plan grounded in sector insight and lived experience, focused on social prosperity and economic development, sector workforce advancement, advancing issues, and community development and volunteerism.

These key themes informed ECVO's Mayoral Debate, where the top five candidates engaged in a focused debate at the Westin Hotel before a room of 150 sector leaders on issues directly impacting the nonprofit sector. Each candidate agreed that the nonprofit sector should meaningfully be included in decision-making at the City of Edmonton.

As ECVO plans for 2026, the Municipal Plan will guide our work under the Amplify Strategic Pillar.

Strategic Priority: **ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

2

Programs

21

Participants

22

Collective Hours

- After over a decade at Bonnie Doon Mall, ECVO relocated to a new office at Elm Business Park in south Edmonton. The new space includes upgraded offices and a newly renovated, rentable training room providing a bright, modern environment for members, community, and events.
- ECVO unveiled a refreshed brand and redesigned website. The new site was intentionally shaped by member needs, creating a more welcoming, functional, and inclusive digital experience.
- The Shared Services team expanded our offerings to now include volunteer management, administrative, and bookkeeping support, providing enhanced resources and support to the nonprofit sector.
- As part of ongoing team development, ECVO participated in two retreats focused on strengthening group dynamics, exploring communication styles, navigating difficult conversations, and challenging assumptions, while cultivating a culture of curiosity and trust-based relationships.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

25

Individual Members

294

Organizational Members

25

Sustaining Members

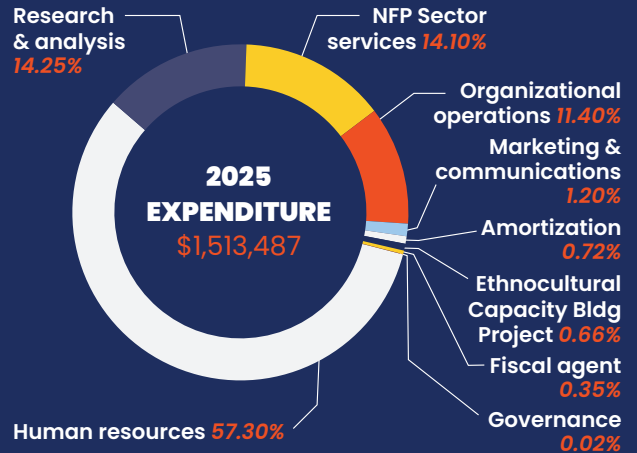
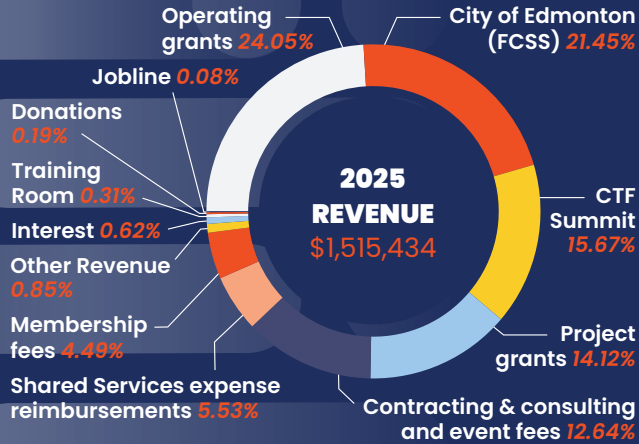
Thank you to our Sustaining Members who directly impact ECVO's sector-level initiatives that amplify the collective voice of the sector and boost awareness of important issues at the regional, provincial, and national levels.



The George Spady Society



FINANCIAL OUTLOOK



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

