

VIBRANT DEMOCRACY. THRIVING COMMUNITIES. ENGAGED NONPROFITS.

Working together for the future of communities.

WHEN DEMOCRACY DOESN'T WORK

The Downward Spiral To Broken Communities

WHEN COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT BECOME LESS CONNECTED...

Communities

Government

... DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT DECREASES AND...



People don't think politics affect their lives.



People lose trust in institutions.



People are not involved in the political process.



Fewer people vote.

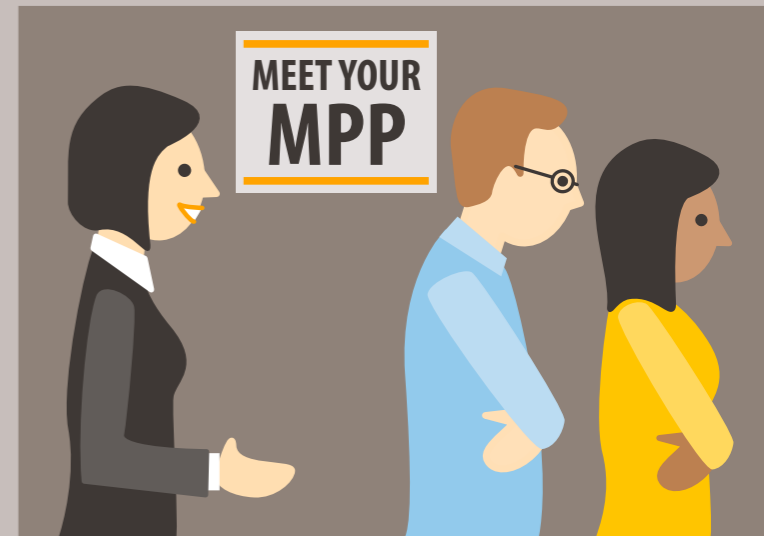
... COMMUNITIES SUFFER.



Policy doesn't reflect the needs of the community.



People see they aren't heard and that government doesn't want to hear from them.



People lose interest in the policy process.

NONPROFITS STEP UP!

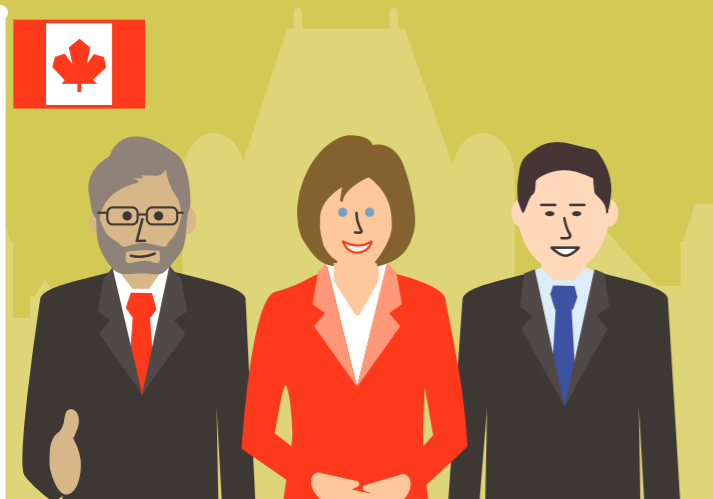
Nonprofits Make Democracy Stronger

NONPROFITS BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT.

Communities

Government

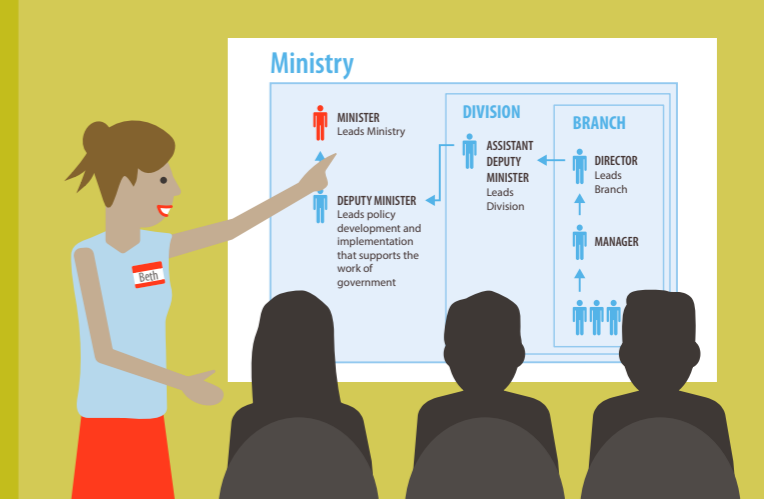
WHEN NONPROFITS ARE ACTIVE IN THREE AREAS...



Government Engagement



Community Involvement



Public Policy Insight

... EVERYONE BENEFITS.

Thriving Nonprofits

Build smart, sustainable programs and policies that support communities.

Engaged Communities

People share concerns, offer solutions and build answers.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

=

ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

Effective Government

Strong democratic engagement builds community support.

Nonprofits Have a Unique Role

Nonprofit advocacy and policy work is rooted in community experience.



Increase Awareness

Increase awareness and understanding of community challenges and opportunities and government actions.



Listen to Patterns

Identify issues and opportunities across communities and regions.



Convene

Connect people and groups to create opportunities in communities.



Build Capacity

Share the knowledge and research nonprofits already have.



Demand Accountability

Hold government and decision makers accountable.



Strengthen Voices

Build confidence to speak up and say what communities care about.

LET'S DO THIS!

It's Your Turn: Play a Role in Strengthening Communities

Nonprofits have the power to build healthy, thriving communities that play a key role in shaping their vitality, sustainability and development.



Work with communities AND government



Open up the democratic process



Be a stronger advocate and create stronger advocates in the community

Take Action

Reach out to organizations and leaders in your communities to get started:



- 1 Your local government
- 2 Volunteer centres, volunteer.ca
- 3 Social planning councils, ccsd.ca/index.php/social-planning-councils
- 4 Nonprofit connectors: networks, associations and more
- 5 Democracy champions: Everyday Political Citizens in your community, #EPCitizens

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



theonnc.ca



samaracanada.com