



ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

ONN Snapshot

Our 2017-2018 annual report

Network Highlights

The network grew over the year, with increases in the number of organizations and people in our network, as well as our effectiveness at reaching them.

Twitter

We sparked debate, reflection, and inquiry with our large, engaged group of sector leaders, stakeholders, and supporters on Twitter. Follower numbers held steady at about 12,500 while the number of people who saw each tweet jumped 46%.

Top 5 Tweets

Can the year be reflected in just five tweets? Maybe! Tweets about the provincial election, sector supporters, public benefit nonprofits, Nonprofit Driven, and our leadership competencies research reached tens of thousands.

"Follow the rules about what nonprofits can do during elections - but don't be intimidated by them! An election is a great opportunity to advocate for public benefit"
- 14,596 impressions

"We're having great conversations with sector supporters right now regarding trends in the sector. Thanks, ONN Connectors!"
- 12,240 impressions

"Some nonprofits have a mission focused on serving their members, such as trade associations and private clubs. But not public benefit nonprofits. They are focused on serving the public. It's time to distinguish between the two"
- 10,172 impressions

"Just announced! Nov. 9: Truth & Reconciliation and the role of nonprofits with @jessewente @WeyktKris & @MaxFineDay"
- 9,441 impressions

"Our new report on #nonprofit leaders of the future. Check out the exec summary and infographic too! #NFPLeaders"
- 9,219 impressions

46%

year-over-year
increase in how many
people each tweet
reached

Newsletter subscribers

We kept the network engaged, informed, and connected through regular emails. Our subscriber numbers **grew 14%** over the year, to total 7,967 in March 2018.

7,967

Email subscribers

Website

The ONN website – www.theonn.ca – attracted 45,685 web visitors over the year – 3,807 on average each month.

3,807

Visitors to the website
every month

Top 3 downloads

Our leadership competencies work, *Leading our Future*, really struck a chord with people.

1. Leading our Future - executive summary
2. Leading our Future
3. Election Toolkit

Nonprofit Driven 2017

In November, our Nonprofit Driven conference brought about 600 sector leaders – emerging and senior – to the Beanfield Centre in Toronto as well as, for the first time, to their computer screens to join us through livestreaming. The plenary speakers inspired and delighted the audience:

- Towards Reconciliation: What is the Role of the Nonprofit Sector?
- Reflections from our Neighbours: Advocacy in the Trump Era
- 2018 A Year of Elections: Advocacy Stories from the Trenches

Provincial Associations

In January 2018, we met with dozens of representatives of Ontario provincial associations. We convened this first-ever gathering because we know that when we work together, we're all more effective. We spoke about pressing issues, discussed what ONN's working on, and identified some areas where we can work together.

"The energy and discussions and diversity of voices and people was amazing."

- Conference attendee

Policy Highlights

As laid out in our 2017-2020 strategic plan, we aim to influence positive change for the Ontario nonprofit sector by focusing on three key policy areas: Our People, Our Financing, and Our Regulatory Environment.

Our People

In 2017-2018, engagement and discussion with network organizations resulted in a better-supported and strengthened nonprofit sector labour force.

Decent work. In November, Bill 148 received Royal Assent and became law (the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act) and a number of changes to employment standards took effect including a higher minimum wage. ONN is supportive of Bill 148 and engaged the network about it, as part of our efforts to support decent work and to help the sector understand the employment changes.

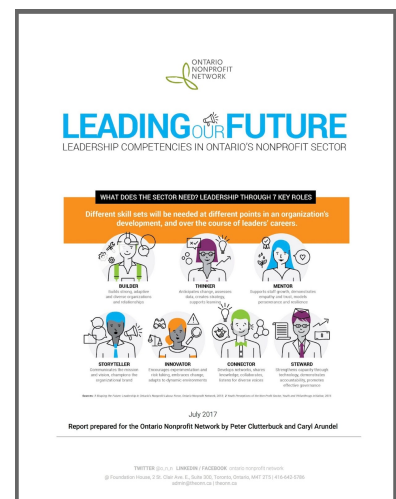
Pension progress. Our pensions task forces continued their research into developing a sector-wide pension plan, helped by network members' responses to surveys and positive responses from pensions providers.

Networked advocacy. In the run-up to the election, ONN supported the network with an election advocacy toolkit and our election advocacy paper outlining our key asks. In addition, we increased the ability of nonprofits to drive public policy forward through a new webinar series co-presented with Maytree, with the Community Foundations of Canada as our learning partner.

Women's experiences. We published a literature review examining women working in Ontario's nonprofit sector. This review – the first of its kind – critically analyzed literature to paint a current and relevant picture of women's employment experiences in the sector, identify any gaps in research and data, and inform future activities of our Decent Work for Women project.

Leadership needs and opportunities. In the summer we launched a leadership competencies report that resonated widely. The report identified major shifts and barriers in the nonprofit environment

1,572
people attended our
Bill 148 education
webinars



affecting future leadership and key recommendations at three levels to address leadership skills and development gaps. The report outlined the seven competencies nonprofit leaders and organizations will need to respond to these shifts and opportunities in the next two decades.

We supported leadership in the sector in many ways over the year, including by helping Connect the Sector, an incubated project of ONN, to launch a series in *The Philanthropist* exploring intergenerational leadership.

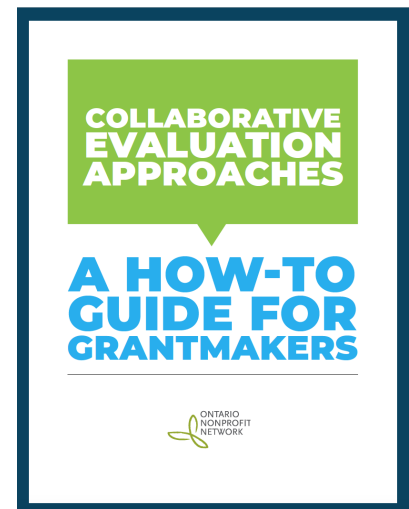
Evolving evaluation. Thousands of organizations learned about evaluation through podcasts, blogs, seminars, and reports we produced. This year we finished our two-year project to kickstart an evaluation ecosystem that enables nonprofits to focus on understanding, discovery, critical reflection, and continuous improvement.

Our Financing

In 2017-2018, thanks to the expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm of many organizations in the sector, we were able to begin to catalyze improvements in the sector's funding environment.

Modernizing transfer payments. As part of our efforts to improve the funding environment for the sector, our Joint Funding Reform Forum worked to influence the government's Transfer Payment Accountability Directive, and the accompanying operational policy which was released in April 2018. The operational policy provides for some standardization, streamlined processes and common registration - which should reduce administrative burdens for the sector. Principles that were co-designed with the sector are front and centre in the policy, such as the principles of mutual respect, simplicity, and flexibility.

Community benefits. As a member of Community Benefits Ontario, (a broad network of nonprofits, foundations, labour groups, community organizations, municipal representatives, and social enterprise leaders), we contributed to a collective submission to the government on its draft long-term infrastructure plan, encouraging it to build broader social value considerations into its infrastructure procurement



"We are advancing community benefits... to support jobs and training opportunities for Ontarians."
- Ontario's Long-Term Infrastructure Plan 2017

processes. When the plan was released in November, we were pleased to see community benefits prominently featured.

Accounting standards. In partnership with Imagine Canada, we wrote to the Accounting Standards Board to explain that consistent accounting standards between the public sector and nonprofit sector may not be possible, nor practical, because of the differing financial reporting needs of nonprofits.

New economy. We continued our efforts to have the sector recognized as a pillar of the economy, including by co-leading a session to consider the sector's role as champions for a new economy. In Canada and globally, innovations and new economic models are taking a foothold, moving from experimentation into practice to challenge the mainstream narrative. In Ontario, the nonprofit sector is already helping to fuel this movement. A steering group is continuing to take this work forward to see how we can work together to build up a new economy in Ontario that puts people and communities first.

Our Regulatory Environment

Networked advocacy and research paid off in 2017-2018 with some great progress towards ensuring that the sector's policy, legislation, and regulation frameworks support and empower the sector's work.

Charitable political activity. The federal consultation panel on political activity released its report on the regulation of political activity by charities. The panel called for changes in the way charities are regulated to allow charities to undertake the activities necessary to accomplish their mission, which would include political activities if necessary. These recommendations are in line with changes the sector was advocating for.

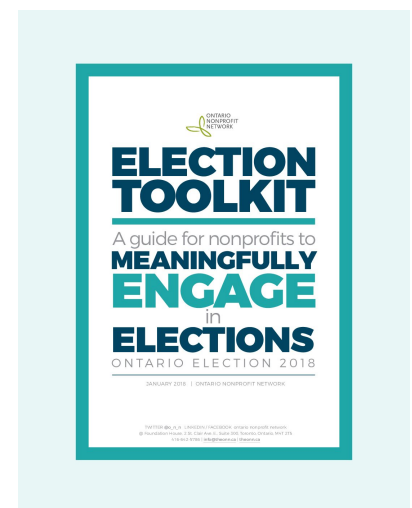
Taking a public benefit lens. We worked this year to publicize why, and how, a distinction should be made between nonprofits with a mission focused on public benefit rather than one on member benefit. We published a paper explaining that the distinction could be created by making a few changes to the federal Income Tax Act. These changes would enable public benefit nonprofits to be treated differently from member-benefit nonprofits, enabling public benefit nonprofits to more effectively pursue their objectives.

Public benefit nonprofits — charities, nonprofit organizations and non-profit co-ops — have a mission to serve the public. They operate for the good of the public, they reinvest excess revenue back into meeting their mission, and they retain their assets in the public domain for the public good.

Progress on ONCA. Bill 154, the enabling legislation for ONCA, the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, passed so the government can move forward to proclaim it. The legislation includes a few changes to the ONCA that ONN has been asking for which will give sector organizations more flexibility and choice. In addition, the legislation made key amendments to the current corporate legislation, the Ontario Corporations Act, to help the sector in the interim, such as now allowing electronic communications and meetings.

Stopping 'private right of action'. Working with Imagine Canada, we were successful in getting the Private Right of Action provisions in Canada's Anti-Spam Law (CASL) indefinitely suspended. The provisions would have put at risk the organizational assets of charities and nonprofits as well as the personal assets of board members if someone sued due to a breach of CASL's regulations.

Progress on shared platforms. In 2017-2018 we continued our work to make it easier for organizations to overcome the regulatory barriers that make it difficult to set up shared platforms. In a shared platform a more established organization "adopts" a new project, leveraging its existing governance and administrative infrastructure and freeing up the project leaders to concentrate on developing the initiative. In November, we released two reports that build on our Shared Platforms Guidebook: a case for support for shared platforms and a policy paper containing recommendations for creating a more enabling regulatory environment for shared platforms.



Organizational Highlights

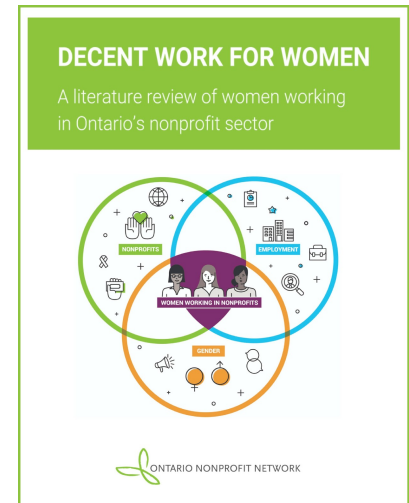
Stronger and better placed for future effectiveness

Stronger

- Membership numbers **grew 13%** over 2016-2017
- Our staff team expanded to grow our Decent Work project and offer dedicated support for membership services
- **New funders** joined us for the first time, including as Connectors and conference sponsors
- We launched **two new** cost-saving services to ONN members: a wireless services program and a print program

Better placed for future effectiveness

Over the past year, with generous support from Innoweave and coaching from GrantBook, our team developed a digital transformation strategy and technology blueprint. Through this process, we've learned that people, systems, and technology must align to form the infrastructure of resilient organizations; having a solid plan for each will help us work more strategically, grow and deepen our network, and better support the sector.



13%
membership growth

Staff

Cathy Taylor, Executive Director

Operations

Kate Browning, Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Business Development

Kim Gignac, Operations and Membership Services Manager (until December 2017)

Jacquelin Heichert, Operations Lead (from August 2017)

Amisha Shah, Administrative Coordinator (until August 2017)

Jay Singh, Membership Engagement Coordinator (from March 2018)

Policy

Lynn Eakin, Policy Advisor

Monina Febria, Project Lead, Decent Work

Ben Liadsky, Evaluation Program Associate (until July 2017)

Liz Sutherland, Policy Advisor

Pamela Uppal, Project Lead, Decent Work for Women (from June 2017)

Communications

Sarah Matsushita, Communications and Network Engagement Manager (maternity leave from December 2017)

Estelle Taylor, Communications and Network Engagement Manager (maternity cover from December 2017)



Thank you so much

2017-2018 Connectors

Alterna Savings
Atkinson Foundation
CanadaHelps
Community Foundations of Canada
The Counselling Foundation of Canada
Ignite NPS
Imagine Canada
Inspirit Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation
Lawson Foundation

Lyle S. Hallman Foundation
Mastercard Foundation
Metcalf Foundation
Miller Thomson LLP
Ontario Trillium Foundation
RBC
SickKids Foundation
The Philanthropist
Toronto Foundation
United Way Greater Toronto

2017 Nonprofit Driven Sponsors

Cowan Insurance Group
CPA Canada
Government of Ontario
HUB International
Lawson Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Public Services Health & Safety Association
Round Table Procurement Services (RTPS)
Saint Elizabeth Shared Services
Seneca College

Sparkrock
Staples
Suncor
Taylor Newberry Consulting
TD
The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing
Education, Ryerson University
United Way Greater Toronto
Vistaprint

2017-2018 Major Funders

Atkinson Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation
Lawson Foundation
Government of Ontario
United Way Greater Toronto

Our 2017-2018 audited financial statements are available on our website.

Volunteers

Board of Directors

L. Robin Cardozo, Chair
Michelle Baldwin, Vice-Chair
Timothy Nash, Treasurer
Maureen Fair, Secretary
Mark Frimpong
Peter Honeywell
Marg Stanowski
Gina Uppal

Policy Committee

Pat Bradley, Ontario Arts Council
Peter Cameron, The Ontario Co-operative Association
Robin Cardozo (ex-officio, ONN Board Chair)
Margie Carlson, Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association
Diane Davy, WorkInCulture
Peter Frampton, Learning Enrichment Foundation
Margaret Hancock, Family Service Toronto
Carla Leon, United Church of Canada EDGE Network
Rob Howarth, Toronto Neighbourhood Centres
Sean Meagher, Social Planning Toronto
Sudip Minhas, Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women
Ryan Noble, North York Harvest Food Bank
Brad Saunders, Community Living Toronto
Deborah Simon, Ontario Community Support Association
Bill Sinclair, St. Stephen's Community House
Jini Stolk, Toronto Arts Council

And thank you to the many other people who volunteer for ONN - in working groups, at our conference and other events, and as researchers and advisors. Your efforts are helping to create a resilient sector and thriving communities.