OCT-NOV / 2023

SECTOR SNAPSHOT

Charity Insights Canada Project [CICP]

Monthly Report

#10 & 11 0F 11

PROJECT YEAR 1

THE CHARITY INSIGHTS CANADA PROJECT − AN OVERVIEW

The Canadian charitable sector employs 10% of the country's full-time workforce and accounts for 8.3% of the country's GDP.[1] However, there is a lack of accurate and up-to-date information about the sector. This knowledge gap became more apparent during the COVID pandemic when quick policy decisions were needed. The CICP aims to support ongoing data efforts across the country, amplify the voices of practitioners, and serve as a valuable resource for researchers, educators, nonprofit advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Through a range of tools, including short weekly surveys, reports, an online data literacy hub, and a yearly data summit (November 9th, 2023), we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the trends, challenges, and opportunities currently facing the sector.

The CICP has three fundamental goals:
- To **inform** sector stakeholders and researchers by regularly surveying a representative sample of registered charities - collecting longitudinal data on critical aspects of the charitable sector;
- To **build** a lasting and flexible infrastructure to promote access to and understanding of the data collected about the sector;
- To **strengthen** relationships between the sector and policymakers in designing evidence-based policies on issues impacting the charitable sector.

We are committed to a systems-oriented and purposeful approach to closing the information gap about registered charities in Canada. We seek to amplify voices from the sector, particularly those from underserved communities throughout the country. We aim to listen, learn, and improve data practices, including our own, while acknowledging our biases and limitations.
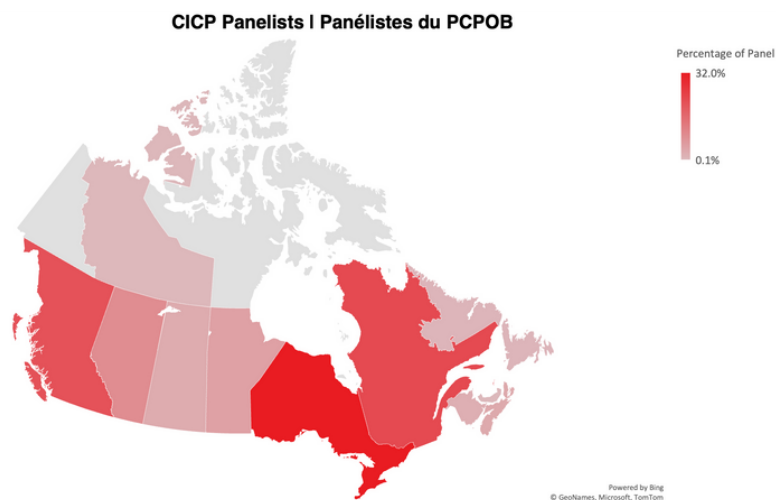
Each week, we send a ~3-minute survey to a panel of more than a thousand registered charities nationwide. Panel participants were randomly selected from the CRA registry and recruited via phone, email, and mail. Panellists from organizations differing in size and scope, sectors of activity, and geographic locations have graciously agreed to remain, anonymously, on the panel for a year.

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1 CanadaHelps. (2022). The Giving Report 2022: Giving at a Crossroads.

Survey results are published 48 hours after their initial distribution. We publish weekly reports on our website (https://carleton.ca/cicp-pcpob) and send a weekly newsletter with the latest survey report. We delve more deeply into our findings when preparing our monthly and annual reports. In addition, we are developing a data literacy course which we hope to launch later this year.

A transformational investment by the Alberta-based Muttart Foundation, the Lawson Foundation and Metcalf Foundation in Ontario, the Vancouver Foundation in British Columbia, an anonymous donor, and Carleton University has made the CICP possible.

CICP Panelists | Panélistes du PCPOB

Percentage of Panel
32.0%
0.1%

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FINANCIAL STABILITY & RESERVES

Early in October, the CICP asked our panellists about their organizations' financial stability and reserve funds. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of respondents indicated that their organization's current financial standing is either stable or very stable and 44% rate their reserve funds as being either adequate or highly adequate. These results indicate a sector where the majority seem to be operating comfortably, but also one where many may not be ready for unexpected emergencies or financial downturns.
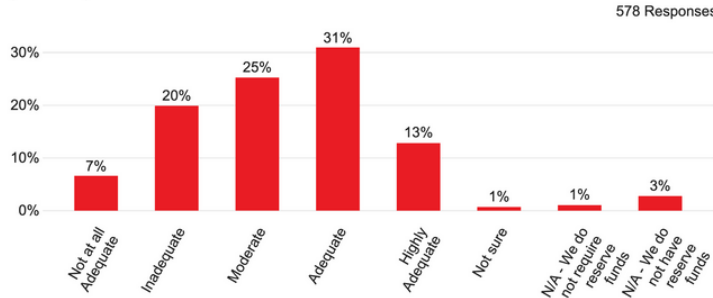
While it is promising to hear that so many organizations assess themselves as being financially stable, there are still 20% of respondents who indicated that their organizations are currently financially unstable (or very unstable). These organizations are also, unsurprisingly, struggling with reserve funds.

**How would you describe your organization's current financial stability?**
578 Responses
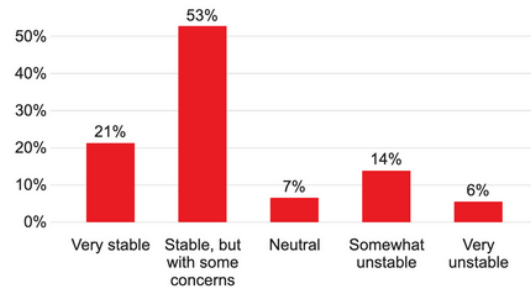
Of the panellists who reported that their organization's current financial standing is unstable, the majority (60%) indicated that their financial reserves are inadequate (or not at all adequate). In September, the CICP asked panellists to identify which factors they think pose the greatest threat to the long-term sustainability of charitable organizations in Canada. Rising operational costs, economic volatility, dependence on government funding, and donor fatigue ranked amongst the highest responses (CICP Year 1, Week 38, Question 2).

How do you rate the adequacy of your organization's reserve funds in terms of covering unexpected expenses or possible economic downturns?
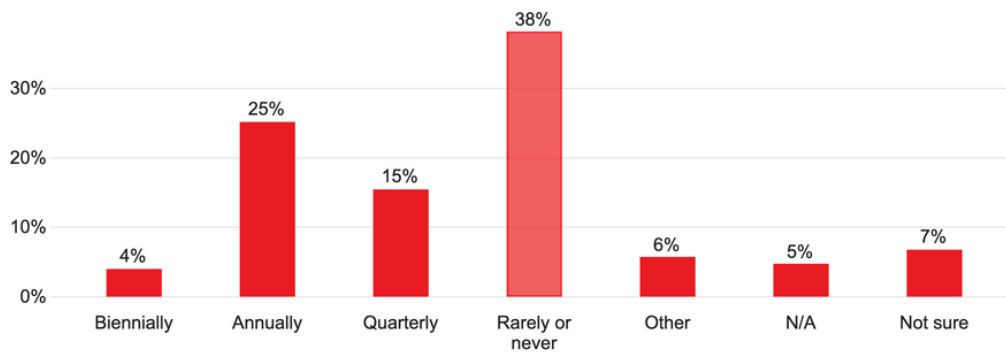578 Responses

(Organization's who indicated they are either 'somewhat' or 'very' unstable)
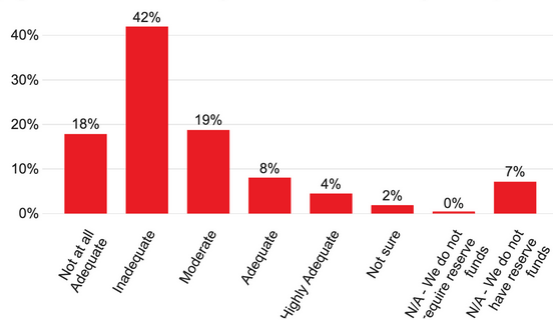
Nearly half of our panellists indicated that their organizations are conducting stress tests or risk assessments to evaluate their financial stability. The frequency with which these tests/assessments are being undertaken varies between monthly, quarterly, annually, biennially, or on a continuous basis. While it is encouraging to hear that so many organizations are employing such tests, 38% of respondents report rarely or never implementing these assessments. This number jumps to 43% when looking at the results of those panellists who indicated that their organizations are currently financially unstable.

How frequently does your organization conduct financial stress tests or risk assessments to evaluate its financial stability and reserves adequacy?

576 Responses

	Biennially	Annually	Quarterly	Rarely or never	Other	N/A	Not sure
	4%	25%	15%	38%	6%	5%	7%

(Organization's who indicated they are either 'somewhat' or 'very' financially unstable)

|	Quarterly	Annually	Biennially	Rarely or never	N/A	Not sure	Other
	14%	17%	4%	43%	5%	8%	9%
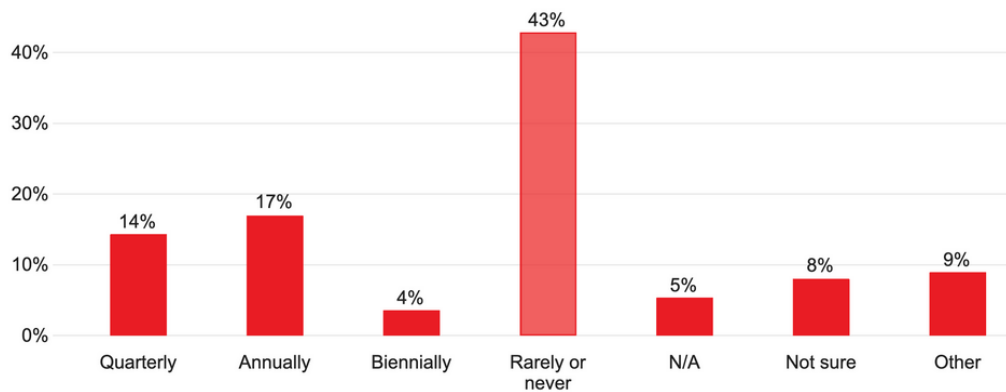
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Engaging younger generations with the charitable sector in Canada is vital to its success. The CICP's second survey in October asked our panellists to highlight the ways in which their organizations are working with young people, and to identify the challenges that they face in engaging with youth. 62% of survey respondents indicated that their organizations have youth engagement strategies. Of those organizations, most (43%) are doing so through volunteering opportunities. When asked to identify the primary challenges panel members face in engaging and empowering youth, many organizations (35%) pointed to funding and resources.

When it comes to decision-making processes, most organizations (65%) are not engaging with younger demographics at all. These results indicate a somewhat extractive approach to youth engagement amongst organizations. While some charities are supporting mentorship programs (27%), youth-led initiatives (20%), and youth advisory boards or councils (7%), the participation of young people in decision-making in the sector is perhaps being overlooked.

Please indicate which of the following youth engagement strategies your organization employs.
537 Responses
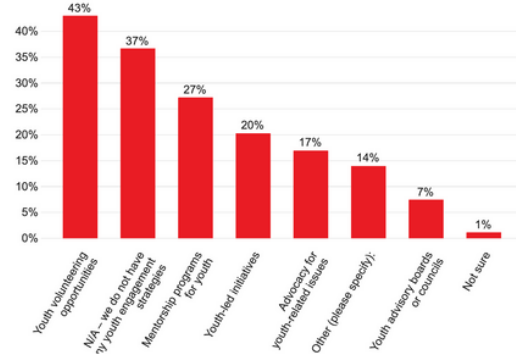
In terms of future planning, 38% of respondents do not have plans to engage further with youth. This number jumps to 53% when looking at those not currently engaged with these groups, meaning that amongst organizations who are already not working with young people, there are a majority who are not planning to change or shift towards working with young people in the future.

What are the main challenges your organization has faced in engaging and empowering youth?
534 Responses
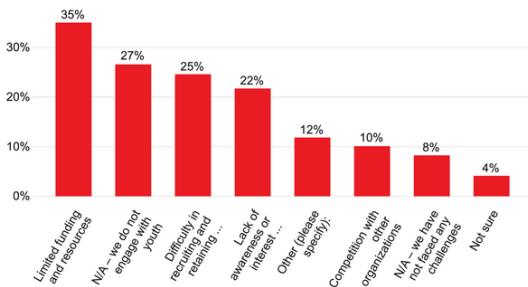
Does your organization actively engage youth in the planning and decision-making processes for your programs and initiatives?

535 Responses

- Not sure
- No, not currently
- Yes, to some extent
- Yes, extensively
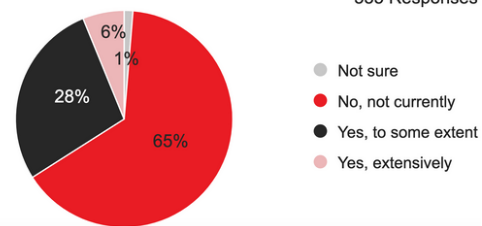
What future initiatives or improvements is your organization planning to further engage and empower youth in Canada?

536 Responses

(Organizations currently not engaging with youth)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE − REVISITED

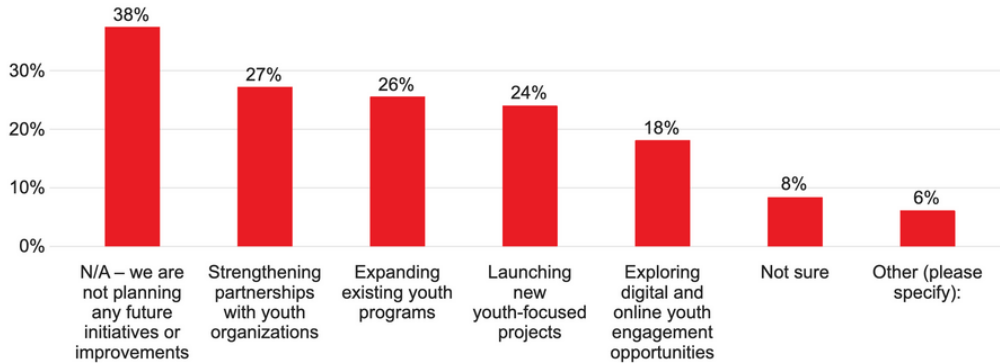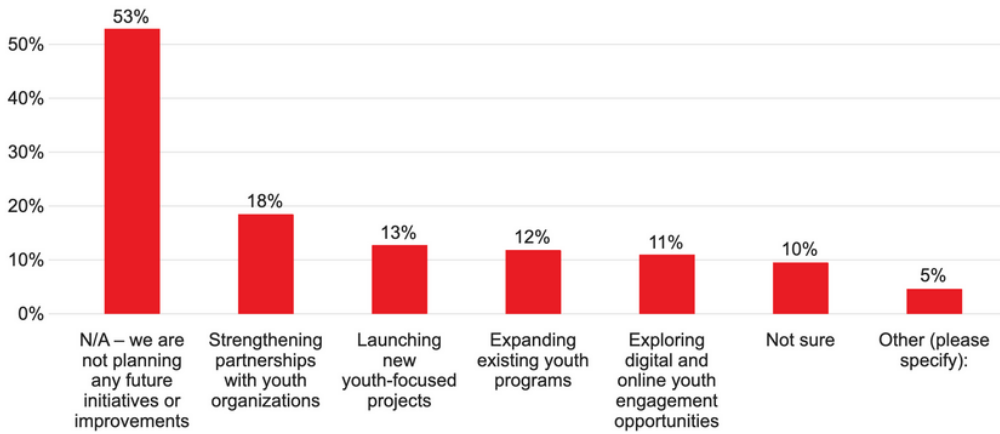Back in March, the CICP surveyed panellists on Artificial Intelligence (AI). With the rising use of platforms like ChatGPT, questions about how organizations are currently using or thinking of using AI to improve or streamline their work are becoming more prominent. It seemed clear from our March survey results that most respondents were either skeptical or indifferent towards the use of AI in their organizations, and in the sector as a whole. In October, we revisited this subject to see if opinions had changed.
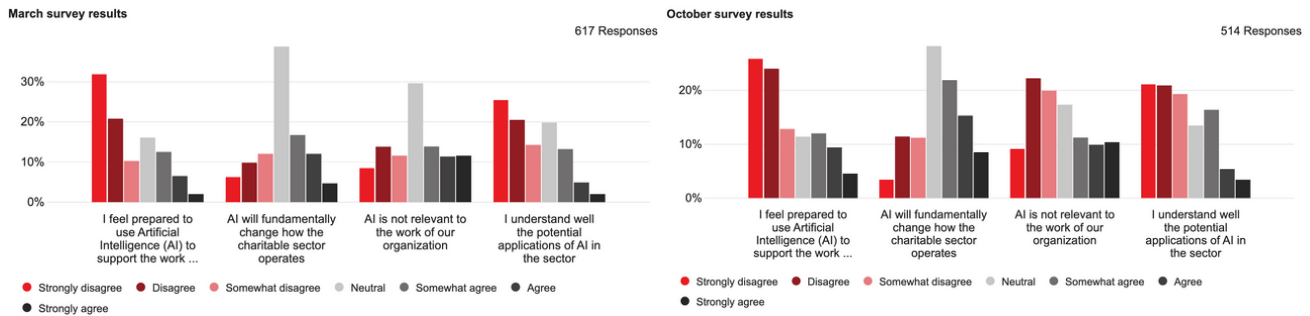
For the most part, organizations still appear unprepared to use AI to support their work with 63% of respondents indicating so in both March and October. This may be due in large part to technological constraints within organizations, or lack of resources to promote education/training in these areas. When provided with the statement "AI could be too complex or difficult to use for smaller or less technologically advanced organizations," 76% of respondents agreed with the statement in March and 79% agreed with it in October. Additionally, when asked to provide further comment/insights on the use of AI within non-profits and charities, the need for education and support relating to the use of these technologies was mentioned by a number of participants.

In March, only 34% of respondents agreed that AI may fundamentally change how the charitable sector operates. In October, this number increased to 46%. These results may indicate that more organizations are becoming aware of the uses and/or benefits of these emerging technologies for the sector. For example, in March only 20% of respondents indicated that they understand the potential applications of AI in the sector, while that number increased to 24% in October. Additionally, only 34% of resp-

-ondents indicated that they understand the potential applications of AI in the sector, while that number increased to 24% in October. Additionally, only 34% of respondents indicated that they thought AI was relevant to the work of their organization in March, while 51% felt it was relevant to their organization's work in October.

The data collected from these two points in time indicate a sector that is slowly beginning to embrace, explore, or think about these technologies in new ways. Our team plans to explore this subject in greater detail in the coming years and hopes to offer support to charities struggling with these technologies through the CICP's Community Education Centre (CEC) soon.

To note, the options of 'N/A' and 'Not sure' were offered to panellists in our October AI survey questions but were not offered in the March version of our AI survey questions. These answers made up roughly 1-2% of each response and were excluded from the final data.

"It's like the Wild West right now so education and ongoing training necessary".

"Je crois qu'elle n'est pas approprié pour notre secteur (en défense de droit)."

"We already use AI minimally (DeepL or Google Translate, for example) so we know it can be helpful. We are far more concerned about the lack of consent and compensation that our members will experience when/if their intellectual property is infringed by AI."

"Personnel spécialisé".

"Time to learn, then time to implement any changes. That is a luxury we do not have as most of our staff are already doing multiple jobs for the price of one."

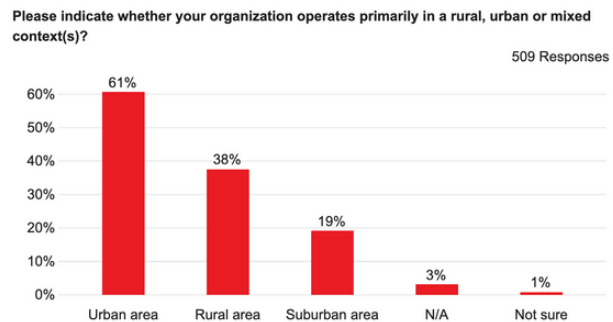*"Je ne m'y connais pas du tout. Je ne saurais pas par où commencer."*

"Examples of effective prompts for specific applications or a list of charity specific applications."

RURAL, URBAN & SUBURBAN ORGANIZATIONS

As with many other sectors, there are operational differences that exist between charities working in urban, rural, and suburban settings. Some of the more common differences we think of may include population density, community infrastructure, service focus, economic challenges, or transportation issues. Late in October, we asked our panel to help paint an updated, more in depth picture of what some of these differences and similarities currently look like. We attempted to compare and contrast the challenges and opportunities faced by rural, urban, and suburban charities in Canada, including when it comes to access to resources. We sought to understand how these geographic differences impact organizational operations and goals.

The majority of our respondents (61%) operate in urban areas, with approximately 15% of these organizations working in a mixed context (meaning also working in other areas such as rural and/or suburban settings). 37% of respondents indicated that they operate in rural areas, with 12

Please indicate whether your organization operates primarily in a rural, urban or mixed context(s)?

509 Responses

percent of these organizations reporting that they also work in urban and/or suburban areas. 19% of respondents work in suburban areas, with 10% of these organizations also working in urban and/or rural contexts. In total, 20% of respondents indicated that they work in a mixed context.

As a whole, most respondents feel as though geographic differences impact the operations and goals of their organization. This sentiment is most strongly felt by those operating in rural contexts where 90% of respondents indicated that location has a significant impact (54%) or some impact (36%) on the operations and goals of their organization. When we honed in on the topic of access to resources, the survey found that across almost all resource areas, organizations who report that they are located in urban areas note having a higher abundance of resources within their area of operation in comparison to those who identify as being primarily located in rural or suburban areas. The only resource that appears to be in slightly higher or more comparable in abundance in rural and suburban settings is community support.

Rural organizations appear to be experiencing the greatest deficit of resources compared to their urban and suburban counterparts. The table below highlights some of the differences between urban, rural, and suburban organizations when it comes to the perceived availability of a range of resources in their respective contexts (note that the below table is inclusive of those organizations working in mixed contexts):

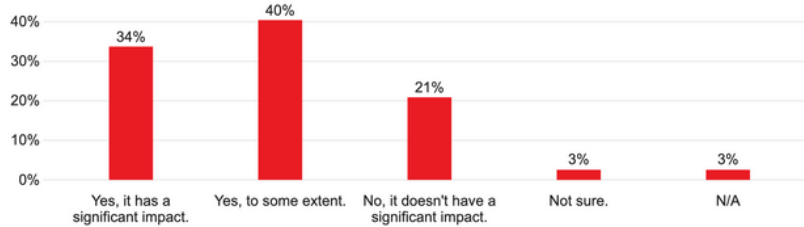|	Sufficient or Abundant	Limited or Scarce	Not sure or N/A
Financial Support			
Urban	45%	52%	3%
Rural	25%	74%	1%
Suburban	34%	63%	3%
Skilled Workforce			
Urban	49%	47%	5%
Rural	27%	68%	5%
Suburban	32%	59%	9%
Infrastructure			
Urban	68%	28%	4%
Rural	27%	67%	6%
Suburban	56%	37%	7%
Access to technology			
Urban	85%	14%	2%
Rural	56%	42%	2%
Suburban	82%	15%	3%
Collaborative Partnerships			
Urban	78%	19%	3%
Rural	63%	31%	6%
Suburban	75%	22%	3%
Volunteers			
Urban	51%	40%	9%
Rural	38%	55%	7%
Suburban	50%	41%	9%
Community Support			
Urban	67%	31%	2%
Rural	63%	36%	1%
Suburban	68%	31%	1%
Grant Opportunities (non-government)			
Urban	33%	61%	6%
Rural	19%	74%	7%
Suburban	24%	71%	5%
Government grants & support			
Urban	39%	54%	7%
Rural	22%	71%	7%
Suburban	29%	63%	8%
Educational Resources			
Urban	67%	23%	10%
Rural	42%	47%	11%
Suburban	61%	23%	16%

While many rural, urban and suburban operating charities appear to be experiencing scarcity when it comes to grant opportunities (both government and non-government opportunities) and other financial support, rural organizations appear to be facing limited or scarce resources in several other resource categories, including educational resources, volunteers, access to technology, and infrastructure.

The CICP plans to explore regional differences more in the future in order to better understand the specific challenges being faced across areas of operation.

In your experience, do you believe that geographic differences significantly impact the operations and goals of your organization?

Organizations that primarily operate in <u>urban</u> areas | Organisations qui opèrent principalement dans les zones <u>urbaines</u> :

235 Responses

Yes, it has a significant impact.	34%
Yes, to some extent.	40%
No, it doesn't have a significant impact.	21%
Not sure.	3%
N/A	3%

Organizations that primarily operate in <u>rural</u> areas | *Organisations qui opèrent principalement dans les zones <u>rurales</u> :*

127 Responses

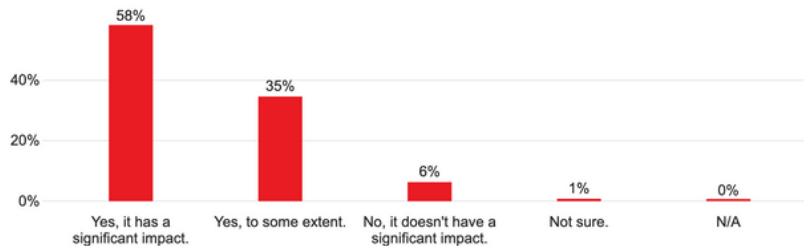|	
Yes, it has a significant impact.	58%
Yes, to some extent.	35%
No, it doesn't have a significant impact.	6%
Not sure.	1%
N/A	0%

Organizations that primarily operate in <u>suburban</u> areas | *Organisations qui opèrent principalement dans les zones suburbaines :*
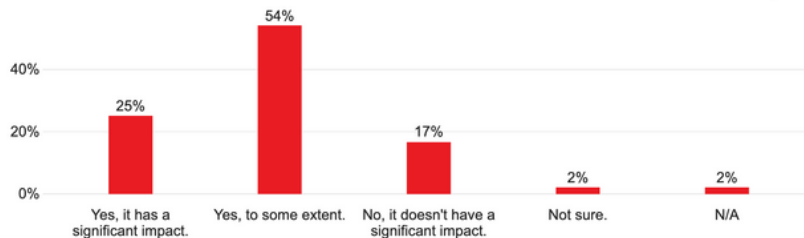
48 Responses

|	
Yes, it has a significant impact.	25%
Yes, to some extent.	54%
No, it doesn't have a significant impact.	17%
Not sure.	2%
N/A	2%

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices are essential for charities to fulfill their missions, maximize the impact of their programs, and maintain public trust. It is a proactive approach that helps organizations adapt to changing circumstances, learn from experiences, and continuously improve their performance.

Early in November 2023 we asked our panel to identify why exactly their organizations engage in M&E activities. Tracking service delivery, identifying beneficiary needs, shaping future programs, and tracking overall outcomes were all selected by at least 50% of respondents as reasons why their organizations engage in such activities. These results offer us a general appreciation for why organizations are conducting M&E practices. Our survey also found that only 5% of organizations engage in M&E strategies to carry out Gender-based Analysis+ (GBA+), and that 13% are not engaging in M&E activities at all.

When asked who are involved with M&E activities, somewhat unsurprisingly, organization leadership were selected most frequently across the board, and primarily when it comes to activities that involve providing

Does your organization have a program logic model or theory of change (a description of why you think your program will work) ?

540 Responses
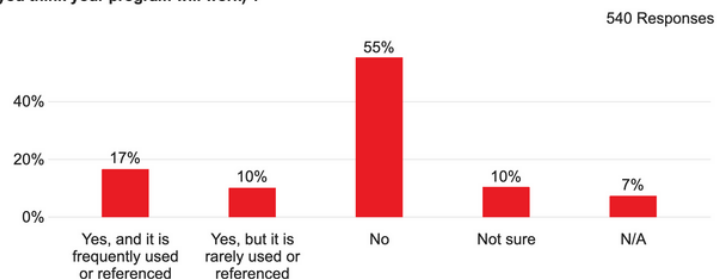
input on matters like how these activities should be executed and how their results should be used. Program staff were the next most frequently selected group reported to be involved in M&E activities, followed by funders and then beneficiaries. Academic partners and external evaluators were selected as being 'N/A' by a large number of participants (49% and 45% respectively), indicating that many organizations are conducting M&E activities strictly with stakeholders within or directly associated with their own organization.
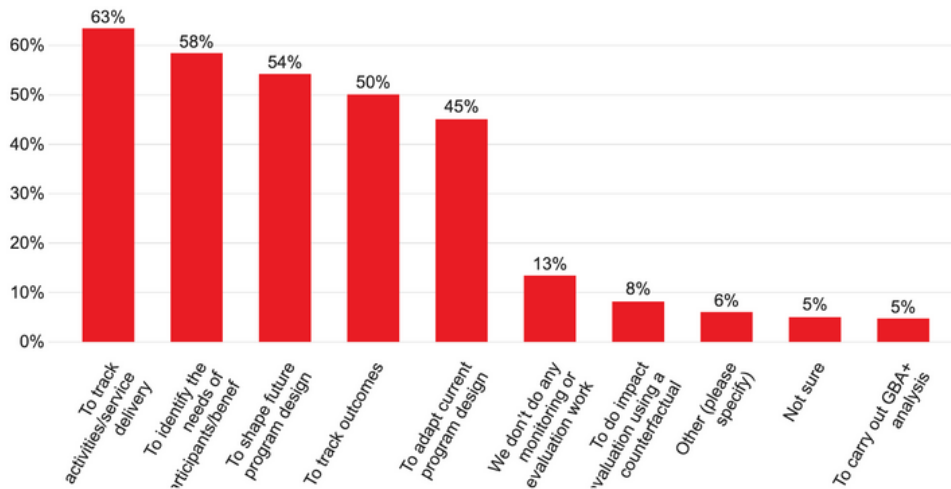
We also asked our panel whether or not their organizations have a program logic model or theory of change (i.e. a description of how and why they think their program(s) will work). We found that 55% of responding organizations do not have a program logic model or theory of change, and that of the 27% who do, only 17% indi-

-icate that it is frequently referenced or used. Having a program logic model or theory of change can be essential for charities to effectively plan, communicate and evaluate their programs, contributing to their overall impact and success in achieving their mission. Given that more than half of our respondents have indicated that they do not have such a model or theory in place, it could be valuable for these organizations to consider implementing or exploring these methodologies in the future.

Why does your organization engage in monitoring and evaluation activities?

539 Responses

	To track activities/service delivery	To identify the needs of participants/benef	To shape future program design	To track outcomes	To adapt current program design	We don't do any monitoring or evaluation work	To do impact evaluation using a counterfactual	Other (please specify)	Not sure	To carry out GBA+ analysis
	63%	58%	54%	50%	45%	13%	8%	6%	5%	5%

Which stakeholders are involved with your organization's monitoring and evaluation activities?

441 Responses

| Field	Provide input on what should be evaluated	Provide input on how evaluation activities should be carried out	Support data collection	Support analysis and/or interpretation of monitoring and evaluation data	Use the findings of monitoring and evaluation activities	Not involved in any monitoring and evaluation activities	Not Sure	N/A
Beneficiaries	21%	14%	31%	9%	10%	24%	6%	13%
Program staff	58%	56%	67%	49%	56%	2%	3%	6%
Organization leadership	72%	65%	52%	57%	67%	2%	3%	3%
Funders	30%	16%	18%	11%	33%	23%	6%	11%
Academic partners	11%	9%	10%	11%	10%	23%	6%	49%
External evaluators	15%	12%	11%	13%	10%	21%	8%	45%
Other (please describe)	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%	12%	11%	62%

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Engagement strategies play an important role for charities in contributing to relationship building, financial sustainability, community support, and the overall effectiveness and impact of their organization. These strategies can help to better connect charities with their stakeholders, leading to positive outcomes for both the organization and the communities they serve.

The questions we asked our panel collectively explore how organizations engage and interact with their target population(s). Our survey aimed to understand the nature of the engagement activities being undertaken, organizational approaches to involving lived experiences, the methods being employed to engage with target population(s), and the underlying reasons or rationale for chosen engagement strategies.

How would you characterise your organization's activities?
521 Responses
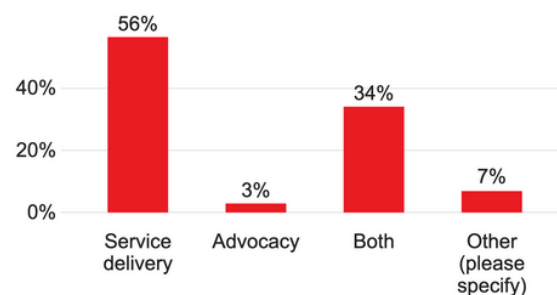
"Interacting with our target population is the cornerstone of our success"

"We believe that designing programs needs input for those who use the programs. It makes for more successful and impactful results."

"Afin de rester collé aux besions de nos members. Notre organism existe par et pour eux."

"We choose to engage with our target population in the manner we do because lived experience drives our work. The hope is we can increase capacity and create further opportunities for interaction."
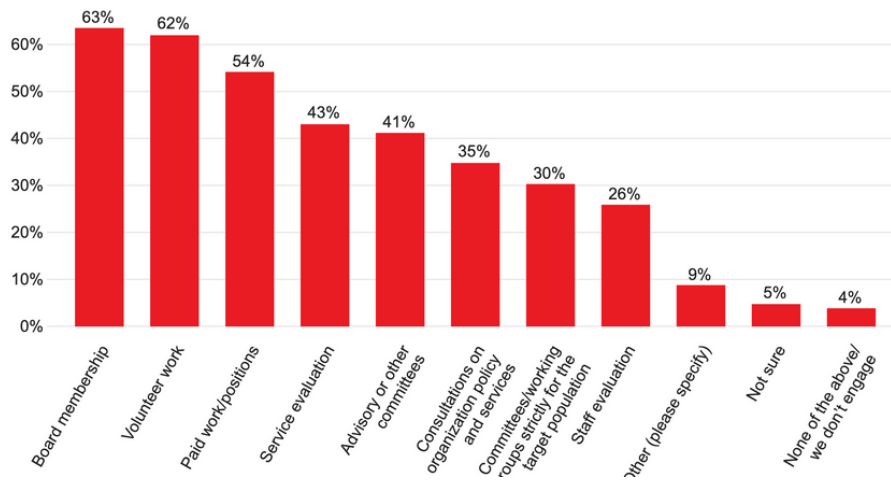
Our survey found that 70% of respondents leverage lived experience in their work and only 7% do not. In terms of engagement with target populations, we found that most engagement comes in the form of board membership (63%), volunteer work (62%), and paid work/positions (54%).

Does your organization leverage lived experience?

520 Responses

- N/A [5%]
- I don't know [18%]
- No [7%]
- Yes [70%]
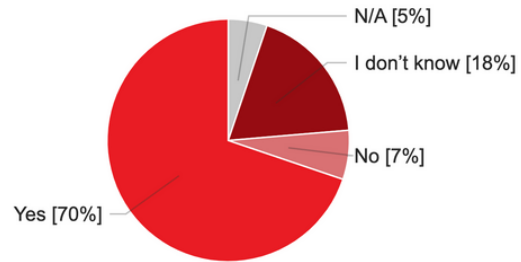
When asked why organizations are engaging with their target populations in the way(s) that they do, mission alignment and ensuring that they are meeting the needs of their respective communities are reasons that came to the forefront. Additional rationales shared include donor-driven and collaboration-driven reasons, staffing constraints, and even legislative requirements to do so.

In what ways does your organization engage with your target population?

523 Responses

| Category	Percentage
Board membership	63%
Volunteer work	62%
Paid work/positions	54%
Service evaluation	43%
Advisory or other committees	41%
Consultations on organization policy and services	35%
Committees/working groups strictly for the target population	30%
Staff evaluation	26%
Other (please specify)	9%
Not sure	5%
None of the above/ we don't engage	4%

GRANT APPLICATIONS & REPORTING

As most charitable organizations rely on grants for at least part of their funding, our team decided to dedicate two weeks in November to the topic in order to better understand how organizations are approaching grant applications and reporting to donors.

Overall, most respondents (52%) rate the 'ease' of grant applications for their organizations to be either somewhat or very difficult. Only 2% of respondents find these processes to be "very easy."These results signal a need for change within the sector. With almost 80% of responding organizations applying for grants at least once per year and 50% applying for grants every three months or less, this is clearly an area that demands significant attention from organization personnel. If the majority of respondents are finding these vital tasks to be difficult to complete, attention should also be paid to these concerns by those stakeholders involved in providing and managing grants.

Our survey results indicate that organizations are applying most for government grants (81%), followed by foundation grants (67%) and community grants (61%). Unease about such a high reliance on government funding has been expressed in findings from one of our earlier surveys (CICP Year 1, Week 38, Question 2), yet organizations have also previously highlighted their belief that government funding and grants have had a positive impact on their organization's overall financial sustainability and ability to achieve their mission (CICP Year 1, Week 28, Question 3).

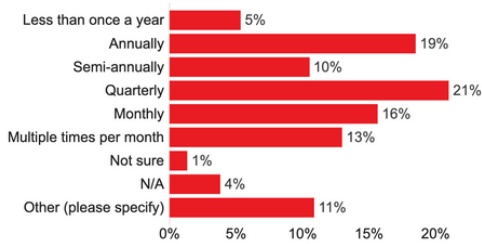**How would you rate the overall ease of the grant application process for your organization?**

523 Responses
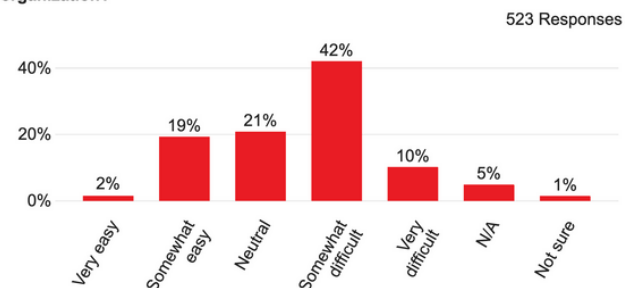
What types of grants does your organization primarily apply for?
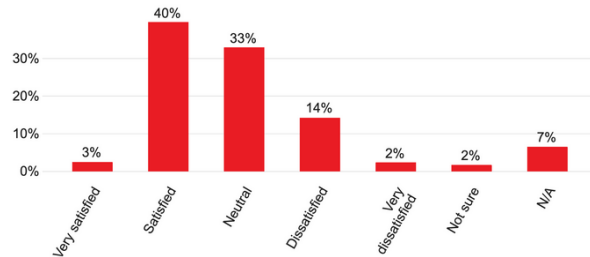
524 Responses
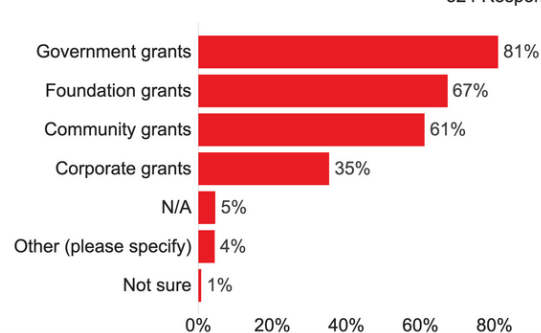
When asked what improvements organizations would like to see in the grant application process to make it more efficient for their organizations, recommendations included more simplified and user-friendly application systems, standardization and centralization of grant application processes, multi-year and operational funding, greater clarity and transparency, and overall more straight forward processes.

How frequently does your organization apply for grants?
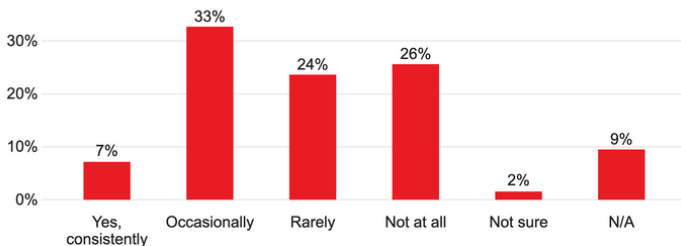
524 Responses

Category	Percentage
Less than once a year	5%
Annually	19%
Semi-annually	10%
Quarterly	21%
Monthly	16%
Multiple times per month	13%
Not sure	1%
N/A	4%
Other (please specify)	11%

How satisfied are you with the clarity and specificity of reporting requirements from grantors?

519 Responses

Category	Percentage
Very satisfied	3%
Satisfied	40%
Neutral	33%
Dissatisfied	14%
Very dissatisfied	2%
Not sure	2%
N/A	7%

In terms of reporting, despite challenges in securing grants, once they are received, 43% of respondents indicate being satisfied with the clarity and specificity of reporting requirements from grantors and 33% indicate feeling neutral. Though instructions may be clear for many, questions around having sufficient resources to comply with requirements still remain, with 40% of respondents indicating that they have faced challenges in meeting grant reporting deadlines in the past year. When asked what could help charities with successfully securing and reporting on grants, respondents most frequently cited resources, specifically in the form of personnel and funds.

In the past year, has your organization faced challenges in meeting grant reporting deadlines?

517 Responses

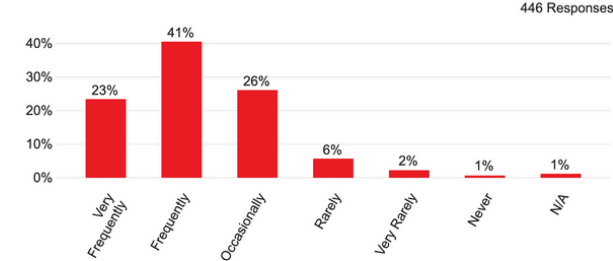| Category	Percentage
Yes, consistently	7%
Occasionally	33%
Rarely	24%
Not at all	26%
Not sure	2%
N/A	9%

GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

At the end of November, we returned to previously visited themes to more fully explore some areas we thought required further insight. The first topic we delved into was Governance Practices, specifically looking more closely at Boards of Directors. We found that 64% of respondents' boards are frequently involved as active participants in organizational decision-making. We also found that board members are highly committed to board meetings, with 89% attending board meetings either frequently or very frequently. In terms of diversity, 43% of respondents feel as though their boards are only slightly or not at all diverse, while only 29% deem their boards to be diverse or extremely diverse. Though these discrepancies could be due to a range of factors, one reason may be a lack of available personnel. We asked panellists to rate the ease or difficulty they face in recruiting board members to join their organizations and 49% rated these processes as being difficult or somewhat difficult.

How often do board members attend board meetings?
443 Responses
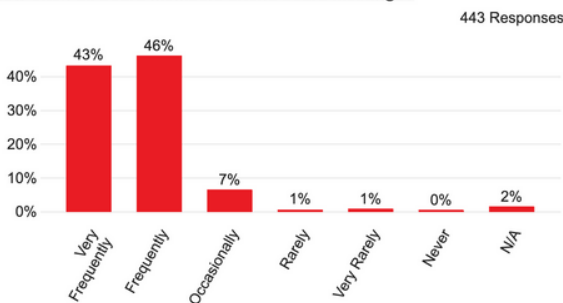
How would you rate the level of communication and collaboration with your board of director?
446 Responses

As we have seen through some of our other surveys exploring this topic, levels of communication and collaboration between organizations and their boards seem to be fairly positive, with 86% rating these levels to be either good or very good and only 5% rating communication and collaboration with their boards as being poor or very poor.

How diverse is your board in terms of gender, ethnicity, and age?
446 Responses
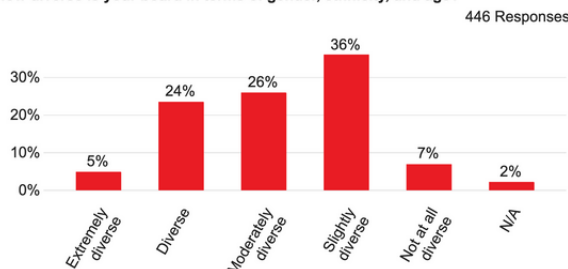
How would you rate the level of communication and collaboration with your board of director?
447 Responses
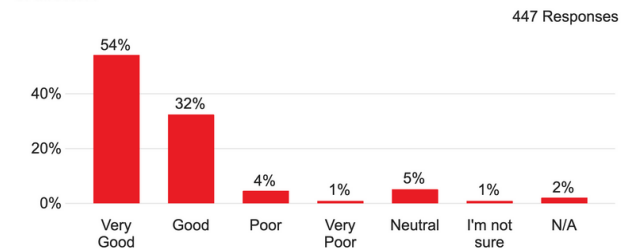
CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

Our final survey topic for the year asked panellists about their level of preparedness for various types of crises. As a whole, most organizations appear relatively prepared for potential future crises. The majority of respondents rated themselves as being either prepared or completely prepared to handle financial crises (72%), public relations crises (56%), legal or compliance crises (67%), and public health crises (77%). Areas where organizations appear to be slightly less prepared include leadership succession crises (48%), cybersecurity crises (44%), and environmental crises (43%). Most of these findings align with related CICP survey results we have seen over the past year, and all highlight a sector that is still not completely ready for challenges that may lie ahead. Though crisis preparedness is certainly on the minds of many, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it remains an area that requires attention as we go forward into increasingly uncertain times. Allocating sufficient resources and providing education on many of the topics addressed above and others addressed over the course of the first year of our surveys, may help charitable organizations across the country to sustain their work and prosper in the years ahead.

Field	Completely unprepared	Unprepared	Prepared	Completely prepared	I'm not sure.	Not Applicable/Not Relevant to Our Organization
Financial Crises	3%	19%	60%	12%	2%	3%
Public Relations Crises	5%	28%	47%	9%	6%	5%
Leadership Succession Crises	9%	40%	40%	8%	2%	2%
Legal or Compliance Crises	4%	22%	54%	13%	4%	4%
Cybersecurity Crises	10%	36%	37%	7%	5%	6%
Public Health Crises	2%	9%	54%	23%	3%	8%
Environmental Crises	5%	30%	36%	7%	9%	14%

LOOKING AHEAD

Year 1 of the CICP has officially concluded. We would like to thank all of our dedicated panellists for their time, commitment, and inputs over the past year. We are very happy to report that over the course of 48 weekly surveys, we have maintained an average response rate of roughly 66%.

As the project continues to grow, we will be updating our website frequently to include more detailed analyses of the data we collect, finalize the white papers related to the study's methodology, and upload working drafts of research papers our team is working on as well as the study's data.

Year 2 of the CICP will begin in January 2024.If you have received an invitation to participate, we ask that you please fill in the new panellist form sent to you, as soon as possible.

If there are questions you would like us to ask, please email them to us at cicp.pcpob@carleton.ca. We cannot guarantee their inclusion, but they will be given our full attention. Contact us at the following email address and follow us on our socials for more information:

Email: cicp.pcpob@carleton.ca
Website: https://carleton.ca/cicp-pcpob/
Newsletter sign up: http://tinyurl.com/cicp-pcpob
Twitter: @CICP_PCPOB
Facebook: @CICP.PCPOB

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APPENDIX - METHODOLOGY

The participants in this study were recruited using randomized lists created with publicly available T3010 data (2019), administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html. T3010 data was downloaded and sorted into sample lists. No data was altered from its original state. Our lists were produced as copies of an official work published by the Government of Canada and were not endorsed by, or produced in affiliation with, the Government of Canada.

This year, we partnered with the Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research (CHASR) at the University of Saskatchewan to create our initial sample lists. As a team, we felt it was good practice to have a third party draw our randomized samples. From the initial population of 83,991 Canadian registered charities in 2019, we decided to exclude some organizations from the study in the first year. As we continue to study the whole population of registered charities, we hope that subsequent years will include more organizations.

The principal exclusions we discussed as a team from the T3010 dataset included: religious organizations associated with a specific denomination or place of worship (with some exceptions), hospitals, and schools. While the entire panel includes 1003 registered charities across the country, we also were mindful of creating seven subsamples to help us study specific groups with our final population of organizations. We opted for this strategy after our pilot study in June and July 2022 revealed the important challenges in recruiting some strata of the population of registered charities after our initial exclusions. The methodological details will be discussed in the white paper for this study (currently in preparation). In addition to excluding religious organizations, hospitals, and schools, we decided to constitute our panel as follows:

The final sampling frame for this year's study included the whole population of registered charities that –

   a. Were designated as charities (type C in the T3010 form, thus excluding public and private foundations (type A and B).
   b. Had at least 1 full time employee (FTE) based on their T3010 form data.
   c. Had expenditures greater than $1 on their 2019 T3010 to make sure we focus on active charities.

Based on these criteria, the sampling frame was 32,384. We drew a randomized list of all the organizations left and recruited a total of 1003 participants. We refer to that first sample as the "main sample." However, given our interest in specific subgroups of Canadian registered charities and in consultation with the sampling experts at CHASR, we created a series of sub-samples that would allow us to study some groups that proved problematic to recruit in our pilot phase.

The following sub-sample categories were created to include some of these hard-to-reach populations. In future years of the project, we will investigate further some of these subgroups and develop strategies to improve our recruitment efforts. These subsamples (SS) are as follows:

- **General Sample (GS):** Includes only designated charities type C in the T3010 form that had at least 1 full time employee (FTE) and expenditures greater than $1 on their 2019 T3010 to make sure we focus on active charities.
- **Subsample 1 (SS1):** Includes only charities with designation A and B (public and private foundations) that had expenditures of at least $1 in 2019.
- **Subsample 2 (SS2):** Includes only charities with the designation C (charities) that have no full-time employee (FTE) or that left the field blank and that had expenditures of at least $1 in 2019. Those are what we think of as volunteer run organizations.
- **Subsample 3 (SS3):** Includes all charities designated as C (charities) with at least one full time employee in the province of British Columbia and that had expenditures of at least $1 in 2019.
- **Subsample 4 (SS4):** Includes designation C charities with at least 1 FTE, $1 in expenditures in 2019 ensuring representation from all geographical regions of the country.
- **Subsample 5 (SS5):** Includes designation C charities with at least 1 FTE, $1 in expenditures in 2019 ensuring representation from the province of Québec.
- **Subsample 6 (SS6):** Includes designation C charities with at least 1 FTE, $1 in expenditures in 2019 that have spent at least $1 internationally (information found in Schedule 4).

Table 1 presents an overview of our study samples.

List	Population N (32,384)	Number of participants recruited
Main Sample	14,267	704
SS1 (Foundations)	936	65
SS2 (Volunteer-run charities)	16,575	124
SS3 (Charities in BC)	1,926	157
SS4 (Geographic regions)	14,266	732
SS5 (Charities in QC)	4,992	189
SS6 (International charities)	606	70

Table 1

As of November 29th, we had a panel of 851 subscribed panellists. Participant recruitment was conducted via mail, e-mail, and phone calling. All panellists have filled in a panellist information form. The data collected through these forms is then collated with existing CRA T3010 data to provide a more robust overall picture of panellist/organizational information. In addition to confirming their contact information, we ask them to give us greater details on their organization's human resources.

Questions are currently being developed by the CICP core team (Raggo, Phillips, and Mathieson). We are in the process of establishing an advisory board to help us respond to the needs of the communities and make sure the project captures emerging trends. Advisory board members will be recruited from various organizations representing the charitable sector in Canada.

Project surveys are distributed weekly on Wednesday mornings (6am Eastern Time). Panellists are given an initial response period of 24 hours. Reminder emails are sent 24 hours after the initial survey has been distributed (Thursday morning), providing panellists with an additional 24 hours to respond. Weekly reports are published on the CICP website every Friday morning, providing initial graphs and descriptive findings for the week's questions. The monthly reports and research papers will provide more details on the trends observed and deeper analyses of the data collected.

More technical information will soon be available on our website, including the full downloadable data tables for December 2022 – December 2023. We will share programing codes used to create our samples, analyses (when available), and research papers as we continue to develop the project. We are committed to collaborative, transparent, and accessible research. We welcome researchers interested in collaborating with our team.