

The Critical Importance of a Secretariat for the Charitable Sector in Canada

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Canada is calling on the federal government to create a permanent, adequately funded, dedicated secretariat for the charitable sector in Canada.

The time to act is now. Canadians need the government to create a secretariat.

- There is no single place in government tasked with increasing the sector's vibrancy, its growth and its ability to deliver critical services in communities across the country.
- A secretariat would work with public servants in different departments and agencies to help them consider the potential impacts of policies, programs and laws on the sector.
- It would result in greater collaborative policy development and an understanding of the importance of the sector.
- It would improve the use of government and charitable sector resources enabling both to better meet the wide-ranging needs of Canadians now and in the future.
- Charities and nonprofits supplement government by focusing on some of the biggest problems our country faces today (e.g., poverty, hunger, healthcare, disasters, inequalities).
- Charities and nonprofits provide support to those affected by important challenges that the government aims to tackle such as climate change, cost of living, affordability and jobs.
- With more than 9.6 million Canadians relying on the sector to help meet their basic needs, the demand for services is growing. The sector must have government policies that strengthen its ability to be there for the people it serves.
- In its written response to the special senate committee report on the sector in 2021, the government expressed support for the creation of a single window into government. This would be accomplished through a secretariat.



170,000

nonprofits and
charities in
Canada



24%

of Canadians
rely on services
from the sector



\$216

billion (8%)
contributed
to GDP



\$11

billion in
donations
annually

About AFP

[AFP Canada](#) is a leading national voice for fundraising professionals who are vital in advancing charitable work. The 3,000 AFP members in Canada play a critical role helping to shape Canadian policy and raising funds that change lives. They fundraise for organizations large and small, in rural and remote communities as well as towns and major cities across the country. Fundraisers support the arts, culture, shelters, emergency services, healthcare, education, reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and social justice, all while contributing over 8% to GDP annually.

AFP members in Canada are part of the larger [AFP Global network](#)—the largest community of professional fundraisers in the world. The approximately 26,000 members worldwide raise over \$100 billion annually to support thousands of philanthropic causes and organizations across the globe in accordance with [AFP's Code of Ethical Standards](#).



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