



# CELEBRATING PEI'S NON-PROFIT SECTOR

Our Stories, Our Legacy

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## INTRODUCTION

The contributions of the non-profit sector are critical in developing diverse, resilient and self-reliant communities that are better prepared to adapt to ever changing economic and social challenges. The strength, depth and recognition of the non-profit sector as PEI's third largest sector deserves celebration.

There is great history from the contributions and visions of individuals, groups and organizations engaged in the sector across PEI. The sector has helped to shape our communities and our province.

Many lives have been changed thanks to the individuals and organizations that form the non-profit sector. One of the best ways to recognize the value of this work is to share some of these stories.



## THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

A non-profit organization is a club, society or association that is organized or operated solely for: social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure or recreation, and any other purpose except profit.<sup>1</sup>

Also referred to as the community, voluntary and civic sectors, the “third sector” includes organizations that are non-profit, non-governmental, with activities that have the components of volunteering and giving.<sup>2</sup>

There is great diversity within the non-profit sector. While it is true many offer social services to individuals and families, the sector also supports broader community needs such as protected nature reserves, churches, sport and recreation, arts and culture and more.





## THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

# 1100

There are more than 1100 non-profit organizations on PEI<sup>3</sup>

There is one registered charity for every 248 people on PEI; by contrast, the national average is one registered charity for every 424 people.<sup>4</sup>

On PEI, the non-profit sector is recognized as the third largest economic sector, with more than 6,000 employees and 50,000 volunteers. The non-profit sector on PEI has more employees than the aerospace, bioscience and IT sectors combined.<sup>5</sup>



## PEI'S NON-PROFIT HISTORY

Registered non-profit organizations have existed on PEI for centuries. They can be traced back to the early 1800s with many churches registering as non-profit organizations. In 1825 the Benevolent Irish Society of Prince Edward Island, was established to provide aid to Irish immigrants and others regardless of their denomination.<sup>6</sup>

One of the oldest French organizations still in existence on PEI today, is the Association de l'Exposition agricole et du Festival acadien de la région Évangéline established in 1904.<sup>7</sup>

The first Indigenous non-profit organization on PEI was established in 1973 operating as PEI Local #17 of New Brunswick and PEI Association of Metis and Non-status Indians until becoming the Native Council of PEI in 1975.<sup>8</sup>



## PEI IS A GIVING COMMUNITY

**// The difference about PEI is that we have a very engaged community. //**

*David, Community Legal Information Association*

# 50%

In 2013, 50% of Islanders volunteered. This is above the national average of 44%.<sup>10</sup>

# 22.9%

In 2015, 20% of Canadians donated to charity; 22.9% of Islanders donated to charity, making them the 2nd most charitable province in Canada.<sup>9</sup>





## OUR STORIES

**“ I wanted Handibear Hills to be a place of learning. The *(children living with autism)* and the adults that come here always go home with a big smile on their faces. It just makes such a difference in their life, and it really is wonderful to see what happens from the moment they arrive to the moment they leave. Every horse teaches them something new and different. It makes me feel good that the horses can do this for the kids. It’s so very special. ”**

*Yogi, Handibear Hills Horse Rescue*



**“ I am HIV positive. Most peoples’ reactions are fear and to run away. The executive director came in to see me, held my hand, and that really gave AIDS PEI a place in my heart. I have always tried to give back to that organization, and I’ve been involved now for going on 25 years. ”**

*Troy, PEERS Alliance (formerly AIDS PEI)*





**“ I remember the first time that we called to make an appointment. It was extremely personal and you knew right away that your fears, your concerns were going to be confidential. I really didn’t understand the scope of services that were available. ”**

*Jacinta and Bill, The Alzheimer Society*

**“Hep’d Up On Life helps a lot of young people because it makes them aware of different issues in the world and how to navigate them safely, and it doesn’t try to scare them away. It informs them – if you’re going to make those decisions, these are the consequences. Hep’d Up On Life has helped shape me to the person I am today, and it is information I will have. ”**

*Keifer, Hep’d Up On Life, PEI Native Council*







It really creates a family type atmosphere!

**“ C’est incroyable à quel point j’ai rencontré des gens, des familles; je me suis faite des nouveaux amis juste en travaillant ici, parce que je (n’)avais aucune idée qu’il (y) avait tant de francophones sur l’île. Maintenant partout (où) je vais j’entends du français donc c’est vraiment super. Je pense que le Carrefour de l’Isle Saint-Jean fait ... vraiment un bon travail pour aider les Français à mieux vivre ... les Français, pardon ... les francophones à mieux vivre en français.. ”**

*Deb, Carrefour de L’Isle-Saint-Jean*

**“ I come to Stars For Life at least two days a week. Sometimes I like to hang out with others and join group. Group is basically like school, where we learn proper health and dieting skills and job skills. I have found a couple jobs I can work through, and I volunteer. I think I will eventually be able to live without Stars’ help. ”**

*Heather, Stars For Life Foundation*





**// The staff at Fitzroy Centre gave me their advice, their understanding and their support – they believed in me. They helped me get back on my feet, get out of my house, get my business restarted. I am no longer on income support, and I’m getting married – all these great things are happening. //**

*Amalia, Fitzroy Centre, Canadian Mental Health*



**“ As a kid I was involved with 4H. When I was finished as a youth, I became a 4H leader. Beyond life skills, things you learn at 4H are leadership skills and how to be a good role model. We learned things like how to make a plan, set a goal and how to execute. You also get a really good sense about your community, what community means, and a good sense of giving back to your community. ”**

*Jennifer, 4H*





## OUR LEGACY

**“ I think the non-profits encourage people to become active citizens that contribute to society and contribute in different ways, and not only to non-profits. The non-profits help develop that quality in everyone. ”**

*Katlyn, Acadien Legacy*



**“ One thing I would like to say about the non-profit sector is they pick up the pieces of the pie after all the budgets have been spent by the government and after all your personal budgets have been spent. They raise our society to a whole different level in Canada. It becomes a very important part of who we are as Islanders to sustain their volunteerism. ”**

*Helen, Camp Gencheff*







## LOOKING AHEAD

**“ Looking forward, the community or non-profit sector is really looking at ways to collaborate to address complex issues. So we need to work collectively within the sector, but also with government and with the private sector, to really address the needs of the community. ”**

*Andrea, United Way of PEI*

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