

2016 Needs Assessment

Executive Summary

Based on 90 completed online surveys, representing 4.6% return rate.



What is contributing to the success of the non-profit sector?

“Incredible persistence and determination by an outstanding group of passionate, dedicated people who care!”

1. Human capital, dedicated, talented volunteers, staff, local leadership and community supporters.
2. Partnerships in community, collaborations and public trust. A culture of giving and volunteering.
3. Government funding
4. Ability to advocate for change and to serve needs as they arise in the community.
5. The spinoff that (the sector) provides to the economy

For Mission success, organizations need:

1. More Community Engagement, relationships with community and other NGO's
2. More Funding, longer, multi-year funding commitments
3. Stronger voice to government – meaningful collaborations
4. More training for volunteers/Boards/staff, attraction and retention of talented people
5. Evaluation Capacity

“We are working at full capacity – to do more we would need more resources, especially human resources with specific expertise and funding to hire.”

What are the main issues faced by Nova Scotia's non-profit sector?

1. **Lack of consistent and/or multi-year funding commitments and a culture of financial scarcity.**
2. The need for greater recognition of the value of nonprofits, by public and private sectors.
3. To work more in collaboration, less in Isolation with government, funders, businesses and citizens
4. Population demographics and trends
5. Attraction and retention of volunteers and staff

Is it important for CSC-NS to have regional staff across the Province to work with the non-profit sector?

YES

85.4%

Sector training priorities

1. Community Engagement & Partnerships
2. Leadership Development
3. Financial Sustainability, fund development
4. Evaluation methods

“The training needs to be accompanied by the ability to network with others doing the same work.”

TRAINING PREFERENCES:

In person training sessions (84.3%), during weekdays (64%) with access to Webinars (51.7%)

Annual TRAINING BUDGETS

Less than \$500.00	42.7%
\$500-\$3000	42.7%
More than \$3000	14.6%

“No money for training”

Value of CSC-NS Membership

Adding our organization’s voice to issues impacting the sector
Discounts on CSCNS Training, other events

CSC-NS Website

- Please keep updated with events, training, resources, jobs in the sector
- Add educational Tip Sheets, Webinars, Reports and resources useful to agencies.

“The online presence of CSCNS needs to be kept up to date in order to give it some credibility, to make it a go-to resource for Nova Scotia’s non-profit and volunteer sector.”

How can CSCNS best provide leadership and support to the nonprofit sector?

1. Support sector interests to government
2. Improve access to training opportunities in the sector
3. Facilitate sharing of information and resources within the sector
4. Convene sector organizations regionally or provincially to address sector issues

We would like to see active and vigorous representation of the nonprofit sector to government and business.