

## MYTHS AND REALITIES

**Myth:** The government's extensive social service net adequately meets the needs of Canadians.

**Reality:** **There are 161,000 Canadian Charities and nonprofits organizations providing services that address social, cultural, economic and environmental issues**

**Myth:** Charities have become big business wasting the majority of donation dollars on infrastructure

**Reality:** **42% of the 161,000 Charities operate on an annual budget of under \$30K. More than 50% have no paid staff and rely solely on volunteers to fulfill their missions. Less than 1% has annual revenues over \$10 million**

**Myth:** The Voluntary Sector is a drain on Canadian taxpayers

**Reality:** **Government funding accounts for less than half of the overall operating budgets of voluntary sector organizations. In fact, many organizations receive no funding at all and are solely dependent upon donations and earned revenue.**

**Myth:** Although "good work" is done, the voluntary sector does not have economic value

**Reality:** **The voluntary sector annually creates employment for 2 million people and generates \$112 billion towards serving the needs of Canadians. For every paid position, the voluntary sector utilizes the skills of six volunteers, whose annual contribution of 12 million volunteers is valued at \$14.1 billion. The voluntary sector represents a higher GDP than agriculture, mining and oil extraction, retail trade, accommodation and food services, and motor vehicle manufacturing.**

**Myth:** Ontarians have more services available to them compared to Canadians residing in other provinces.

**Reality:** **Ontario has the lowest number of voluntary sector organizations per capita in the country, with 369 per 100,000 compared to as high as 825 in other provinces**