After the Storm

A survey of non-profits and charities in British Columbia

December 2010

vancouver foundation

Contents

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Overview

This report provides a summary of Vancouver Foundation's second BC non-profit survey.

This survey is a follow-up from last year's survey, *Weathering the Storm*, which examined the impact of the economic downtown on the BC non-profit sector in 2009, with input from 470 charities. That survey found a sector in turmoil, scrambling in the face of diminished funding on all fronts. There was less government funding, less investment income, dwindling donations and, consequently, decreased morale. Some organizations, particularly health and social services, reported an increased demand for their services. Others wondered if they would survive. Many cut staff and programs.

Now, over two years have passed since the markets crashed in October 2008. The storm seems to be over, but the recovery continues.

Over the course of 2010, Vancouver Foundation has continued to hear about the struggles faced by hundreds of charities we work with. As one of the largest funders of charities in British Columbia, we have extensive contact with organizations across the province, and almost every day we come across stories about the enormous pressures and challenges they face.

However, we also hear about how organizations are evolving. We see how they are finding new ways to work together, to work more effectively, and to raise funds. We see how resilient BC's non-profit sector is, and how much the people involved believe in the work that they do. Despite everything, they continue to strive towards a vision that goes beyond finances to their real bottom line: improving and enhancing the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in our province.

Details

This year we approached approximately 1,030 non-profits and charities who work throughout BC in a wide variety of fields. We asked them how they are faring in 2010, what they are doing to adapt to the new financial realities and how prepared they are for the future. These are organizations that Vancouver Foundation had either granted to over the last four years, or charities that hold endowment funds with us. Our online survey was conducted over two weeks from October 20 to November 3, 2010 and was completed by 575 charities.

Together their responses paint a picture of a sector that is facing a high level of uncertainty and financial stress, but one that is determined to find ways to continue to do the important work that they do, which is so vital to our communities and our province.

The picture in 2010

Overall, the picture is slightly improved from last year. The economy is faring better, and the initial shock of the market crash has faded. What remains for the non-profit sector are new and somewhat more challenging financial realities, and a determination to cope with these realities.

Non-profits continue to face intense financial pressure

Many of BC's non-profits continue to face serious funding challenges, which are negatively impacting programs, morale and even the very sustainability of some organizations.

The revenue situation has improved little since last year. Half of the organizations surveyed reported their revenue decreased this year, which is a slight improvement from 2009. However, the cumulative effects mean that for two consecutive years, approximately half of the organizations surveyed have been hit by a decrease in revenue.

Some types of organizations are struggling more than others, particularly arts and culture, environmental organizations and small charities with budgets under $250,000.

The need for our work is greater than ever

Coupled with this financial pressure is the increased demand for the services that non-profits provide. Some 65% of organizations reported that demand for their services was up, so organizations are often in a position of having to do more with less resources. This factor is particularly true among social service organizations.

Organizations are taking steps to adapt to new financial realities

The financial situation is exacerbated by the volume and diversity of non-profits competing for limited funds and donors. Searching for new revenue sources and increased fundraising are the most common strategies organizations are using to achieve their goals.

Despite financial uncertainty, there is resilience. Many organizations are using or plan to use new tactics to reach their goals, such as collaborating with other organizations on service delivery, improving efficiencies or processes and revising their strategic plan.

Some non-profits also commented on their plans to diversify income sources, improve operations and find new ways of doing business, such as social enterprise.

Non-profits are feeling better about the future

The bright light in all of this is that organizations are feeling more optimistic than last year. Three quarters (75%) of respondents say they feel prepared or well prepared to meet their mandate in the upcoming fiscal year, which is very positive news. Less than a quarter (24%) said they were only somewhat prepared to meet their mandate. This is a much improved picture from last year, when only half of charities said they were prepared, and 45% felt only somewhat prepared.

This suggests that some of the major changes like restructuring, revised strategies and job or program cuts have already been made, and now organizations are working towards the future on a smaller but perhaps more solid foundation, trying as always to do more with less.

Looking forward

The financial storm may be over, but the damage continues to pose challenges for the non-profit sector in BC. The situation remains fragile despite otherwise positive economic signs in Canada.

A national survey of 1,523 non-profits conducted by Imagine Canada in July 2010 described the financial picture of charities as “generalized stagnation” while their operating expenses were up an average of nearly 4%. It also found more charities were reporting their very existence at risk compared to last year (29% versus 22%). However, in spite of these challenges, the survey said non-profit leaders were remarkably confident about the future.

Indeed, the good news highlighted by Vancouver Foundation’s survey is that BC’s non-profit sector is still evolving. While many organizations are frustrated and struggling with new financial realities, their people remain committed. They believe in the importance of their work, and that is what drives them.

Our survey found evidence that the sector is re-thinking, revising and trying to find new ways to approach their work and strive towards their goals.

Vancouver Foundation wants to help encourage and share these strategies. One way we do that is by sharing the results of this survey.

Another is our involvement with two organizations aimed at strengthening the non-profit sector in BC.

1. The Government Non-Profit Initiative, where the BC government and the non-profit sector are working together to improve their relationship and address the future needs of the sector.
2. The Labour Market Partnership Strategy, which is working to address human resource issues in the non-profit sector.

Vancouver Foundation recognizes there is much more to be done.

Part of change comes from within, from refining the way we operate and re-working our priorities. More and more charities are pursuing a finite pool of funds. The long-term consequences of this popular strategy for survival are a concern for the sector as a whole.

The other part of change comes from the outside: helping the public appreciate just how vital the work of the non-profit sector is to our province, and the people who live here.

We hope this survey is one step in the right direction.

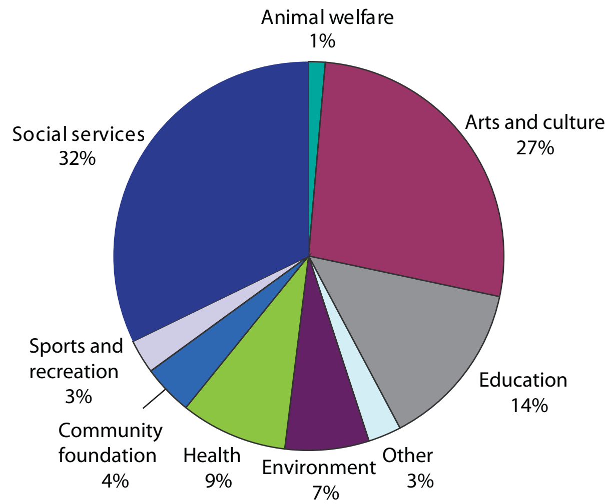
Who participated

1. Type of non-profits

Social service organizations, which includes organizations that serve people with disabilities, made up the largest group of participants in our survey at 32%, followed by arts and culture organizations at 27%.

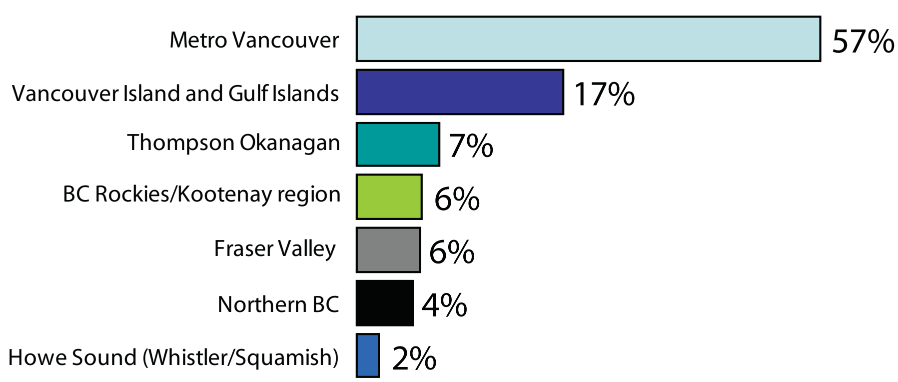
The "other" category (3%) consisted of: libraries, First Nations bands, international development, public policy research, social enterprises and human rights organizations.

Q. Which category best describes your organization? Please check one.



2. Where they work

Q. Where is your organization located or primarily based?



Over half (57%) of the organizations that responded were located in metro Vancouver, or had their primary base of operations there.

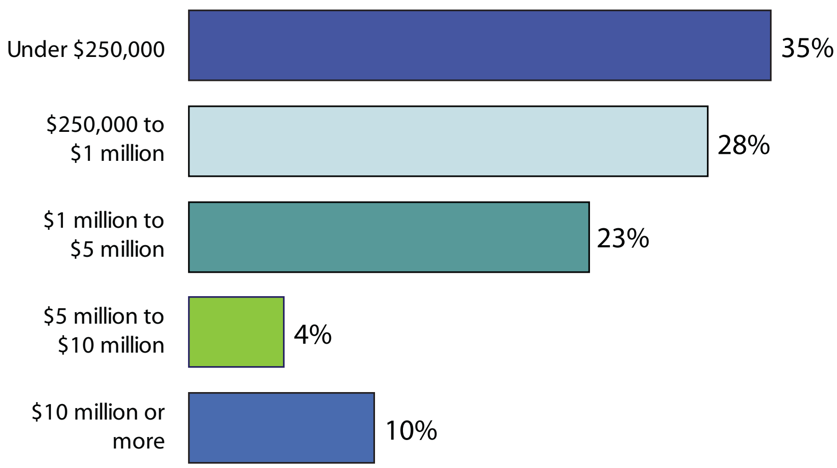
The next largest group of respondents was on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands (17%).

"In a small community, it is difficult to find ongoing sources of revenue for core costs."

– Survey respondent

3. Size of charities

Q. What is the approximate annual operating budget of your organization?



Overall, 63% of the charities and non-profits that participated in this survey had budgets under $1 million.

Sector differences

- Arts and culture organizations made up the largest group with budgets of less than $250,000 – nearly half (48%) had budgets below $250,000 and 82% had budgets below $1 million. A high proportion of environmental organizations also had budgets under $1 million.
- Educational organizations (which includes school districts and universities) made up the largest proportion of organizations with budgets of $10 million or more.
- Social services tended to be the most well-represented in all budget categories, with organizations of all sizes participating.

"Our organization does so much good in the community with only one employee..."

– Survey respondent

Regional differences

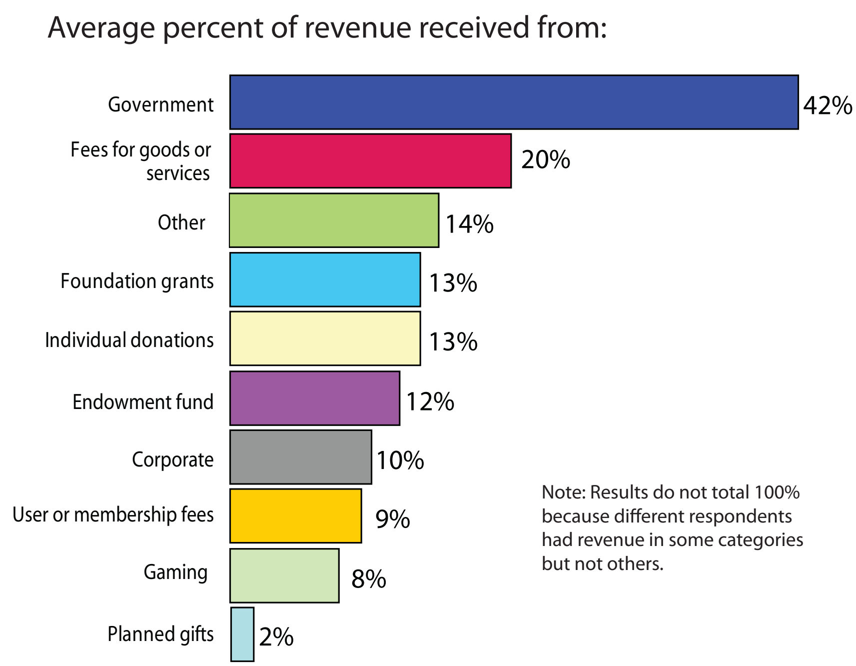
- Not surprisingly, the organizations with the bigger budgets tended to be based in metro Vancouver, and to a lesser degree on Vancouver Island. Of those organizations with budgets over $10 million, 65% were based in metro Vancouver and 13% on Vancouver Island.

"There has to be more work done at reducing the number of independent societies in this province as it is economically disastrous to have multiple small underfunded agencies all competing for the same funds..."

– Survey respondent

4. Where the revenue comes from

Q. Please estimate the percentage of your annual revenue, in your current fiscal year, that came from the following sources.



"Non-profits are increasingly required to do more with less and to raise funds from user fees and sale of services."

– Survey respondent

We wanted to understand where non-profits and charities find the funding to do the work that they do. We asked them to provide a breakdown of their total revenue from various sources.

The results vary little from last year's survey. Government remained the largest revenue source in 2010, accounting for an average 42% of non-profit revenue.

Sector differences

- Social services organizations received the largest proportion of their revenue from government, which made up an average 46% of their total revenue.
- Government was the largest revenue source for four out of five of the top participating sectors in the survey (social service, arts and culture, education and health). The exception was environmental non-profits, who relied most on foundation grants, which accounted for an average 26% of their revenue.

4. Where the revenue comes from – continued

"We want to be the third leg of the stool that supports a vibrant and healthy BC, along with health and education."

– Survey respondent

Size differences

- Large organizations with operating budgets over $10 million were most reliant on government funding, which accounted for an average 67% of their revenue.
- Organizations with budgets under $250,000 relied the least on government revenue, which made up an average 27% of their total. In the categories between the small budget and the large budget organizations, reliance on government revenue steadily increased as the budget grew.
- Smaller organizations were more dependent on individual and corporate donations, foundation grants and endowment or investment income.

Changes from last year

Proportionately, the revenue sources used by non-profits in BC remained relatively the same from last year. There are a few minor variations, which could suggest a trend.

Decreases

- Organizations seemed to have proportionately less gaming revenue. In 2010, gaming accounted for an average 8% of revenue, down from 11% in last year's survey.
- There also appeared to be a slight dip in the proportion of revenue that came from foundation grants. which accounted for an average 13% of revenue in 2010, compared to 15% in 2009.
- Planned gifts also made up less of the total revenue, decreasing to 2% in 2010, from 5% last year.

Increases

- Slightly more organizations seemed to rely on endowment fund or investment income, which made up an average 12% of revenue in 2010 compared to 9% of revenue in 2009.
- The proportion of revenue from corporations, which includes sponsorship, donations or grants, increased to an average 10% this year from 7% in 2009.

"The arts sector faces an urgent crisis, and artists are leaving in droves."

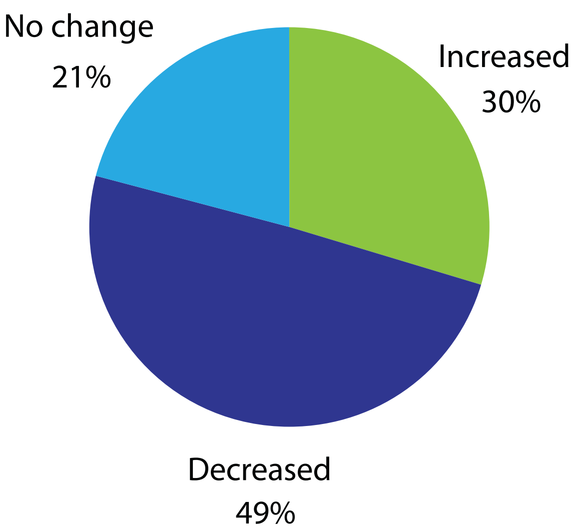
– Survey respondent

What happened in 2010

This following questions focus on how BC charities and non-profit organizations fared in 2010, and how they are handling the new economic realities. Note that we asked about their experiences in the current fiscal year, and that a fiscal year varies from one organization to another.

5. Revenue change (current fiscal year)

Q. Has your revenue increased, decreased or remained the same in your current fiscal year, when compared to last year?



The revenue picture is looking only slightly better than last year.

Fewer charities are reporting decreased revenue (49% this year compared to 53% last year), and slightly more charities reported increased revenue (30% in 2010 compared to 27% in 2009).

But this still means that for two years, nearly half of the organizations in each survey have experienced a decrease in revenue, and the cumulative effects are taking a toll on the entire sector.

Sector differences

- Environmental and arts and culture organizations were hit the hardest, with 63% reporting decreased revenue.
- Health organizations fared the best, with 40% reporting an increase in revenue.

Size differences

- The smallest charities felt the most impact – 58% with budgets under $250,000 reported decreased revenue, compared to just 36% with budgets over $10 million.
- Larger organizations, with budgets of $5 million to $10 million, and above $10 million, were more likely to have reported an increase in revenue rather than a decrease.

"Smaller organizations were hit hard by BC Gaming funding cutbacks and government cuts to programs... we feel that our work is vital to continue to create healthy communities, families and children. Investing in the non-profit sector pays back many fold."

– Survey respondent

6. Revenue increase (current fiscal year)

Q. If your revenue increased, please estimate, in per cent, how much your revenue has increased?

Average increase = +16%

Nearly a third (30%) of non-profits reported increased revenue in our survey, and on average the increase was 16% (last year the average increase was 15%). Educational organizations experienced the highest increase at 29%.

"Our income is up this year because of campaigns for specific projects that the community supports. We are treading water as far as other activities."

– Survey respondent

7. Revenue decrease (current fiscal year)

Q. If your revenue has decreased, please estimate, in per cent, how much your revenue has decreased?

Average decrease = -18%

Half of non-profits surveyed reported a decrease in revenue, and the average decrease was 18% (last year the average decrease was 19%).

Sector differences

- Environmental groups were again hit the hardest, reporting an average 27% decrease in revenue.

Size differences

- Small non-profits with budgets under $250,000 were disproportionately impacted, with an average decrease of 24%, considerably more than large non-profits with budgets over $10 million, who reported an average decrease of only 6%.

"I am looking to move to the corporate sector. I am tired of being a martyr all in the name of art. I would much rather sell my soul during the day and earn enough money to prepare for my retirement and instead volunteer my skills and knowledge."

– Survey respondent

8. a) Impact by revenue source (current fiscal year)

Q. How have the following factors in your organization been affected in your current fiscal year, when compared to last year? Please indicate whether they have increased, decreased or remained the same (if they apply).

Percentage of organizations that receive revenue from the following sources and who reported an increase, decrease or no change in the current fiscal year:

	Increased	Decreased	No change
Government	19%	**38%**	43%
Gaming	4%	**36%**	**61%**
Endowment fund income	19%	**31%**	51%
Foundation grants	22%	**38%**	40%
User/membership fees	21%	19%	59%
Corporation	22%	27%	51%
Individual donations	31%	**33%**	36%
Planned gifts	8%	10%	82%

"We have relied on gaming and project funding and community donations to keep our doors open. We are busier than we have ever been, sometimes seeing 30 women a day. "

– Survey respondent

Aside from overall changes in revenue, we wanted to know if the sources of revenue used by non-profits had changed significantly in the current fiscal year.

The results reflect a little more stability in terms of revenue sources, when compared to last year. The dominant answer was no change in all of the revenue sources listed.

In terms of revenue sources, organizations were more likely to report decreased revenue from government and foundations (38% of organizations reported a decrease in these sources) than from other sources. This marks the second consecutive year of decreases in these funding sources. Last year, the percentage of charities reporting a decrease in revenue from government was slightly more at 43%, while for grants from foundations it was much more at 63%.

8. a) Impact by revenue source – continued

Last year, many organizations mentioned they had yet to feel the full impact of gaming cuts. This year, the impact of gaming funding cuts spread to more organizations. More than a third (36%) of organizations that receive gaming revenue reported a decrease, while last year 29% did, though it is also important to note that 61% reported no change to this funding source.

Sector differences

- Arts and culture organizations felt the impact of a one-two punch this fiscal year. Half of those who received revenue from government reported it declined this year (compared to 38% of all organizations) and 54% reported their revenue from gaming declined (compared to 36% overall).
- Grants from foundations also decreased across the board – environmental organizations who rely on this source were the hardest hit with 57% reporting a decrease in foundation grants.

"The excessive fundraising by all charities is a challenge to compete with..."

– Survey respondent

Size differences

- Smaller organizations reported considerably fewer revenue increases from governments versus larger ones – 7% of organizations with budgets under $250,000 reported increased revenue from government versus 33% of organizations with budgets over $10 million.

"The survey doesn't address the increase in expenditures, which in my opinion, are significant for this current fiscal year. May it be the result of HST impact, weakened economy and/or the for-profit sector's sole drive to grab money, we find overhead expenses are increasing every day..."

– Survey respondent

"We are modernizing our processes and infrastructure in order to improve our efficiency and efficacy, and to take advantage of the power of social media and networking to build community, increase engagement and enhance fundraising and advocacy."

– Survey respondent

8. b) Impact on other factors (current fiscal year)

Q. How have the following factors in your organization been affected in your current fiscal year, when compared to last year? Please indicate whether they have increased, decreased or remained the same (if they apply).

	Increased	Decreased	No change
Demand for services	**65%**	11%	24%
Staff morale	24%	33%	43%
Volunteer pool	**35%**	18%	47%
Other	27%	24%	49%

We also wanted to know about other changes that go beyond the financial picture.

For example, almost two-thirds (65%) of organizations who provide services are experiencing increased demand for the work that they do. Organizations also reported a similar increase last year, so non-profits are feeling the cumulative effects of two years of increased demands.

Increased demand was most notable in the social service sector, where 82% of those who provide services reported growing demand, and in the health sector where 72% reported an increase.

Also notable is 35% of organizations that rely on volunteers reported an increase in their volunteer pool, much higher than the 26% increase reported last year. This suggests organizations are using more volunteers to assist them.

Morale has not rebounded after the decline reported last year, but there is some improvement. Fewer organizations reported decreased morale this year than last (33% this year versus 40% last year). Arts and culture organizations (41%) were the most likely to report staff morale had dropped.

"The demand for social services work is increasing and the state of children, youth, families, and communities is becoming more challenging..."

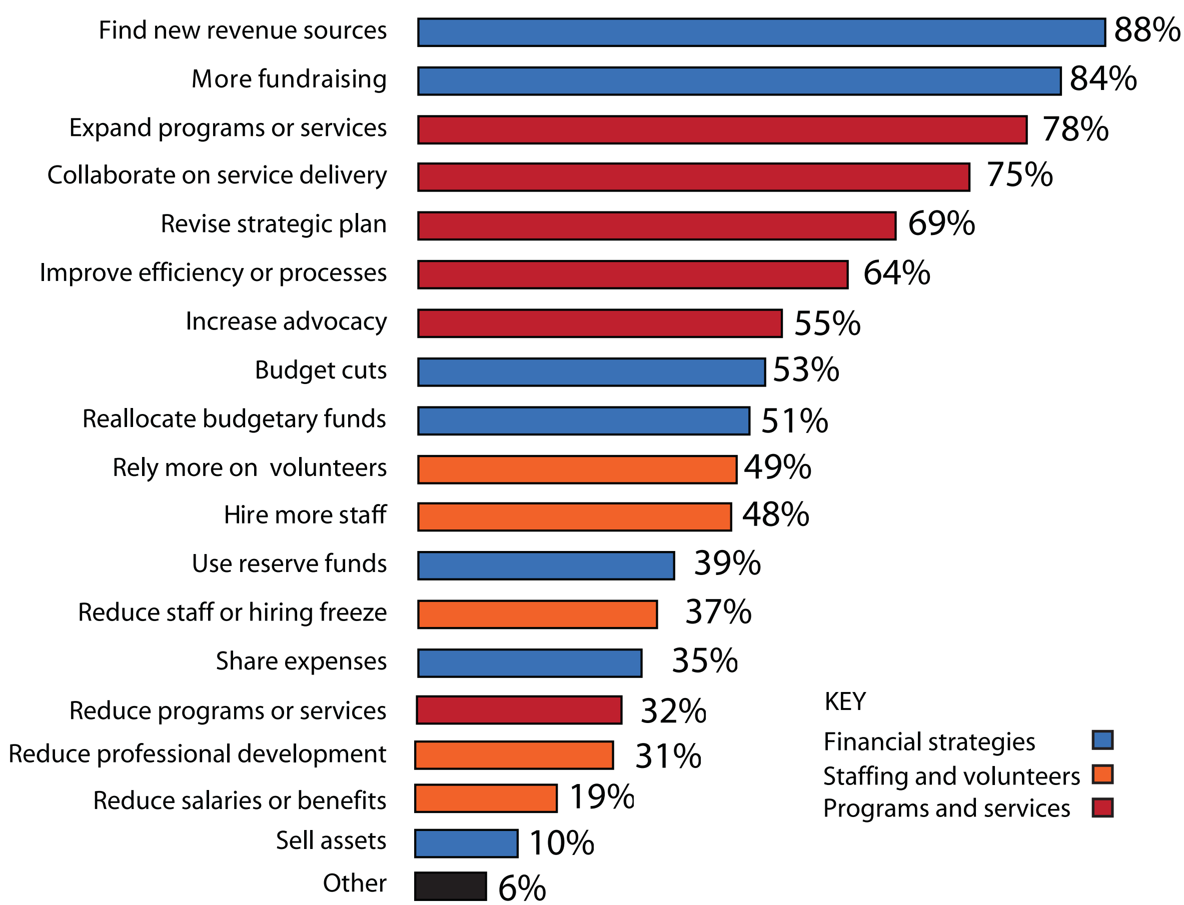
– Survey respondent

Looking to the future

9. Strategies

Q. Which strategies has your organization used, or plans to use in the future, as you work towards your organization's goals?

This chart represents the total percentage of organizations surveyed that are using these strategies now or plan to use them in the future.



How are non-profits in BC adapting to the new economy? What are they doing to ensure their survival?

The perpetual hunt for funding continues to dominate the day-to-day work of the non-profit sector in BC. The top two strategies non-profits are using involve seeking out more funds. Looking for new revenue sources, cited by 88% of charities, topped the list. Second was more fundraising at 84%.

In contrast, the third most common strategy was expanding programs or services at 78%. This suggests some organizations aren't just seeking funding to maintain the status quo; some seek more revenue because they want or need to do more to meet their mandate.

9. Strategies – continued

Beyond the financial, a secondary theme emerged. There is resilience in the face of uncertainty, and a determination to find new ways of doing business.

The next most popular strategies show many organizations are evolving by:

1. collaborating with other organizations on service delivery
2. revising their strategic plan
3. improving efficiencies or processes
4. increasing advocacy.

Organizations were more likely to plan on using strategies that incur expenses in the future, rather than this year. For example, 41% of organizations surveyed are expanding programs or services this year, while 60% plan to in the future. Likewise, 20% of organizations are hiring this year, compared to 36% who plan to hire in the future.

Sector differences

- Organizations in arts and culture were the most likely to say they are reducing programs and services, with 36% of them doing so this year. They also led the way among sectors when it came to reducing staff or implementing a hiring freeze (41%). At the same time, 43% of arts and culture organizations also reported an increased reliance on volunteers.
- Environmental organizations were the most likely to report they were collaborating with other organizations to deliver programs (74%). They were also most likely compared to other sectors to be on the hunt for new revenue sources (81%), to improve efficiencies or processes (69%), to revise strategic plans or priorities (69%) and to share expenses like office space or equipment with other organizations. These efforts may be forced by necessity – questions five and seven of this survey shows environmental groups were hardest hit this year in terms of revenue.

"Planning ahead is difficult, even if we get temporary project funding... there is a constant need to do the administrative work of seeking new funds."

– Survey Respondent

Size differences

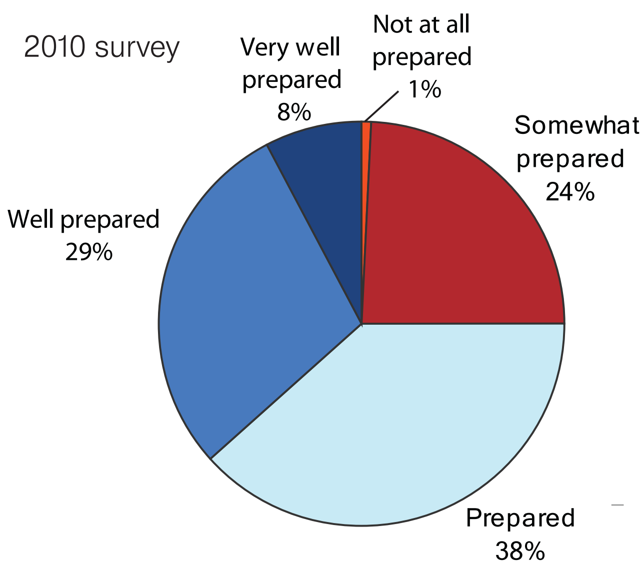
- Large organizations were more likely to reduce programs or services, make staffing changes, reduce their budget, and improve efficiencies or processes. Some 14% of them also reported selling assets during their current fiscal year.

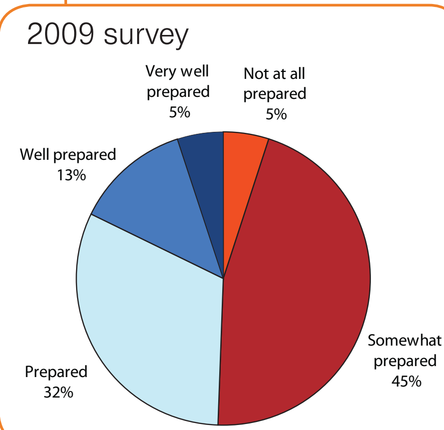
"There needs to be recognition of the need for competitive compensation for skilled managers and executives working in non-profits... these are the people who are your core 'leadership' and 'visionaries' and must be compensated for the innovative leadership they provide. Otherwise, many will continue to turn to the more lucrative private sector..."

– Survey respondent

10. Prepared for 2011

Q. In general, how well-prepared do you feel your organization is to meet its mandate in the upcoming fiscal year?





"As a low-budget society with no paid staff, loyal members, and some reserves, we're in good shape."

– Survey respondent

How are charities feeling about the future? Are they ready to meet their mandate in 2011?

The results to this question are very positive. Three quarters (75%) of the organizations feel prepared or well prepared to meet their mandate. Only 24% said they were only somewhat prepared.

This paints a much different picture than last year, when only 50% of organizations said they were prepared, and 45% felt only somewhat prepared.

Sector differences

- This sentiment of being ready is relatively consistent across all sectors.
- In particular, the health sector is looking very strong with 50% of charities either very well or well prepared for 2011.
- On the flip side, environmental non-profits had the least positive outlook with 3% being not at all prepared and 28% only somewhat prepared.
- Arts and culture and social services were close behind, with 28% of arts and culture organizations feeling somewhat prepared and only 1% feeling not at all prepared and 27% of social service organizations in the same boat. Only 1% of social service organizations felt not at all prepared.

Size differences

- Large organizations remain much better prepared than small ones – 35% of the smallest organizations are only somewhat prepared compared to only 2% of the largest organizations. Similarly, around 60% of the largest organizations are either well prepared or very well prepared compared to only 24% of the smallest organizations.

11. What Vancouver Foundation can do

Q. In addition to financial support, how could Vancouver Foundation use its resources, knowledge and connections to help your organization and other charities meet their mandate?

"I appreciate your willingness to provide funding into the whole province. It helps greatly with projects that might be of broader scope than just our local community."

– Survey respondent

Vancouver Foundation wanted to know what kind of support we could provide, other than financial, that would be most helpful to charities and non-profits.

Survey participants were given a list, and asked to identify their top two choices. This graph shows their choice for the top priority, which closely mirrors the overall response.

Their responses show that BC non-profits are most interested in receiving Vancouver Foundation's support for publicity and fundraising, both for the individual charity and also for the sector as a whole.

Participants also had an opportunity to select "other" and give their suggestions. A handful of respondents suggested that Vancouver Foundation support operational or capital funding. Another small group suggested that the Foundation do more to support capacity building and innovation in the sector, such as research in the areas of poverty reduction and micro-loans.

"Art is important. Advocate the value of art, without apology. Art is difficult. Art is humanity."

– Survey respondent

12. a) Comments on the financial challenges

Q. Lastly, is there anything else you would like to share with us?

This question gave non-profits a chance to say whatever was on their mind. Over a third of respondents provided comments, and these comments were dominated by financial issues.

Many non-profits continue to be seriously challenged by the cuts or shortfalls in funding (especially government grants) and other sources of revenue. Financial challenges are negatively affecting program delivery, morale and even the viability of many organizations.

"The cancellation of gaming funds for adult non-profits is devastating socially and economically."

"What non-profit sector? It is being gutted by business-driven ideologues in BC."

But many people surveyed believe in the importance of their work, and remain committed.

"Our program can mean the difference of achieving participation in society, or the difference in living at all, so we cannot give up."

"It's about a focus on assets and new ways of working – not doom and gloom."

However, they are deeply concerned and frustrated by reductions in financial support and changes in government policy/direction. Many believe more can and should be done to influence government and build public awareness and support for the sector.

"We as a sector suffer from a very low public profile, and fragmented professional associations. Our sector has low sex appeal from lack of focus."

"The non-profit sector is the backbone of society, but it is not recognized as such."

There is a growing need and desire for multi-year operational and core program funding in addition to one-time or annual funding for new projects or programs.

"We need funders to realize we are being 'project-ed' to death. We urgently need core support for the programs that have proven themselves."

"As a small organization, we suffer grant fatigue when we chase relatively small amounts of money for considerable amounts of time."

Organizations are struggling to find alternative sources of funding or revenue, although many recognize the need to diversify income sources, improve operations and pursue new ways of doing business such as social enterprise.

"We are modernizing our processes and infrastructure in order to improve our efficiency..."

"We are very interested in establishing social enterprises and have had some small successes."

The financial situation is exacerbated by the volume and diversity of non-profits competing for limited funding, donors and support. Many recognize the benefits of collaboration, they also recognize it has its limitations.

"Partnerships are fine but demand more time than doing things alone so they cost more – and where does that funding come from?"

"Collaborating with other arts organizations can be of enormous benefit in the long run."

12. b) New strategies

There is a growing shift towards trying new strategies that are either focused on reducing costs or raising more revenue.

Sharing space and programs

Some agencies were looking to team up in order to avoid duplication of effort. One said, "Our agency is presently involved in an exciting project to co-locate with two other complementary agencies to share space, functions and programming." Another says: "Our agency feels that creating shared locations, owned assets and developing social enterprise that allows us to leverage dollars raised multiple times is the future."

Business models

Social enterprise and other business models were mentioned by a handful of survey participants. One said, "We are attempting to acquire rental real estate assets to provide housing for our clients and build a revenue stream for the future to become less dependent on government funding. We need access to mortgage funds at low interest rates i.e. 2% to 3%."

Another was creating a community campaign that allows for direct individual sponsorship of programs.

Others noted the limitations of business models in a sector that is not-for-profit. "Non-profits are increasingly required to do more with less and to raise funds from user fees and sale of services. This is workable in some instances but in the realm of public education, fee-for-service and accessibility must be balanced. The business models that non-profits must increasingly adopt to survive create some ethical issues..."

Connections

Some organizations thought it would be helpful if Vancouver Foundation would create "angel investor" forums that pair social entrepreneurs with investors, and anything else that leads to more match-making with non-profits and possible funding agencies. Another suggested the idea of creating a non-profit managers network, or other events like workshops or case study presentations that encourage communication within the non-profit sector.

A campaign for giving

One participant suggested a campaign to encourage people to give. They said: "People of BC need to know that $20 a month donated to their charity of choice will change our society. Philanthropy does not require thousand of dollars. Create a public awareness program – and challenge every household in BC to donate $20 a month to the local charity of their choice."

"There are huge shifts within government that are going to dramatically change service delivery (cuts to gaming, changes to employment service funding, etc). We need to be prepared and also prepare our communities. Non-profits will have to limit and/or adapt services."

– Survey respondent

About Vancouver Foundation

Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation, and one of the oldest in North America (there are almost 170 community foundations in Canada).

Vancouver Foundation's mission is to create positive and lasting impacts in communities.

We do this by helping people set aside money for philanthropy by establishing an endowment fund, and then help them to give, through one place, to hundreds of charities and projects that address community needs.

Established in 1943 with a single gift of $1,000, Vancouver Foundation today manages more than 1,300 endowments funds totalling more than $720 million. These funds have been established by individuals, families, non-profit organizations, and businesses both large and small.

Despite its name, Vancouver Foundation's mandate is to fund province-wide. In fact, we are one of the largest funders of non-profits and charities in BC. Since we were founded 67 years ago, Vancouver Foundation, in partnership with our donors, has distributed more than $786 million to communities and innovative projects across British Columbia.

Some foundations/charities specialize in one particular area. At Vancouver Foundation, we know there are many factors that help create a healthy, vibrant, livable and equitable community. We recognize the complexity of communities. That's one of the reasons why we distribute funds in several areas of interest.

- animal welfare
- arts and culture
- children, youth and families
- disabilities
- education
- environment
- health and medical education/research
- health and social development
- youth homelessness
- youth philanthropy.

After the Storm

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