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Charting the world of the Voluntary Sector

Ottawa – The voluntary sector plays a vital role in Canadian life and is an important source of employment for Canadians. Yet we know little about the people who run it and work in it, the types of jobs they do, their wages and benefits, how their work and workplace differs from those of other sectors.

A study prepared for Human Resources Development Canada by Canadian Policy Research Networks and the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy lays the foundation for an understanding of human resource and training issues faced by the voluntary sector.

The Voluntary Sector in Canada: Literature Review and Strategic Considerations for a Human Resource Sector Study:

- Devises a classification system that examines the members of the sector according to type of organization, type of action and domain of action.
- Provides an analytical overview of existing literature.
- Highlights gaps in our knowledge.
- Assesses the feasibility of a national Human Resources study.
- Explores the issues that may emerge through a sector study.

According to the report, there are some 175,000 Canadian non-profit organizations that contribute between 4% and 12% of the Gross Domestic Product. Registered charities alone—some 75,000 organizations—employ an estimated 9% of the labor force, two-thirds full time.

Before we can begin to answer the questions about the future of this large and growing sector, and deal with the issues it faces, we must first identify those questions and issues. *The Voluntary Sector in Canada: Literature Review and Strategic Considerations for a Human Resource Sector Study* does important groundwork in this area.

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For more information on the publication, please contact:

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