

## **Sport and Recreation, Keystone of Communities:**

Through analysis of the Statistics Canada report entitled *Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations*, which was released in September 2004, sports and recreation can be identified as the keystone of communities amongst all the sectors that are encompassed by non-profit and voluntary organizations.

The sports and recreation sector included sport and fitness organizations, sport competition services, social clubs, recreation and service organizations, and fitness and recreational facilities. Besides sports and recreation, the other sectors include:

- Arts and culture
- Universities and colleges
- Health
- Hospitals
- Social Services
- Environment
- Development and housing
- Law, advocacy and politics
- Education and research
- Grant-making, fundraising and voluntary promotion
- International
- Religion
- Business and professional associations and unions
- Organizations not elsewhere classified

Specifically, according to the report, **sports and recreation:**

- Is the largest sector of all voluntary organizations in Canada at 21% (33,649 organizations), and in Alberta at 26% (4,973 organizations).
- Accounts for only 5% of all revenues of non-profit and voluntary organizations.
- Accounts for 28% of all volunteers and 23% of total volunteer hours.
- Derives 88% of total revenues from sources other than government (only Religion and Business and professional associations and unions rely less on government funding).
- Accounts for 6% of the total of all paid employees across all sectors.

In addition, the Survey found that:

- 73 % of sports and recreation organizations are not registered charities.
- 74% of sports and recreation organizations have no paid employees.

Despite the enormous difference in the number of Albertan's involved in sports and recreation versus the arts and culture sector (551,845 vs 171,785), governments do not fund sports and recreation at a proportionate level. The Alberta arts and culture sector received some \$90 million in government funding, versus \$87 million for sports and recreation. If funding was proportional to the number of people involved in the sector, sports and recreation should have received almost \$290 million to better support a sector that either directly employs, or utilizes the services of, over 17% of the Alberta population.

The entire report is available at: [www.nonprofitscan.ca/pdf/NSNVO\\_Report\\_English.pdf](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca/pdf/NSNVO_Report_English.pdf)

### Summary of Sport and Recreation Sector Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations

	<b>CANADA</b>	<b>ALBERTA</b>
Number of organizations	33,649	4,973
Total revenue	\$6.1 billion	\$0.94 billion
Average revenue/organization	\$181,000	\$189,000
% of revenue from government	12%	9.2%
% of revenue - earned income	65%	83%
% of revenue – gifts and donations	20%	7.3%
Number of volunteers	5.3 million	532,075