



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ENGOS

*A followup sector survey by Sustainability
Network and Environment Funders Canada*

Introduction

In May 2020, Sustainability Network and Environment Funders Canada collaborated on a survey to gather information about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environmental nonprofit sector. Now, just over a year later, we felt there was merit in circling back with you to gain your current perspectives. We gathered information specifically from the environmental sector to inform our strategizing about impacts and supports, and also to feedback trends and observations to survey respondents.

The survey was open to nonprofits and charities who considered themselves to be part of the “Environmental Sector” in Canada, and we asked for one response per organization. The survey was conducted between June 1 and June 18, 2021 and consisted of 24 questions.

177 organizations from across the country responded to the survey and we thank each and every one of them for their time and willingness to share during this challenging time.

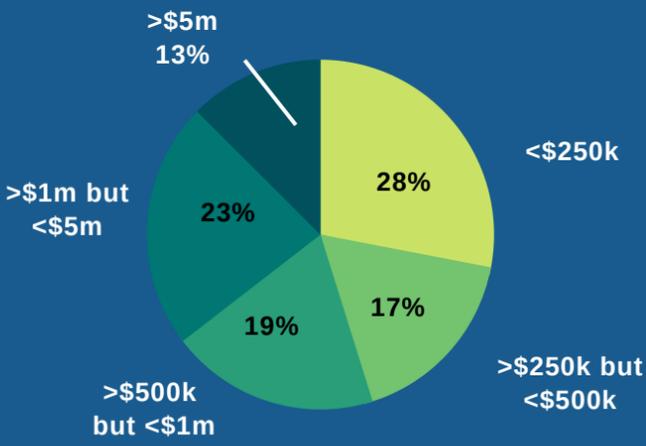
This summary infographic was produced by Sustainability Network and we hope it helps you face the future with confidence.



Paul Bubelis
Executive Director
Sustainability Network

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Annual budget

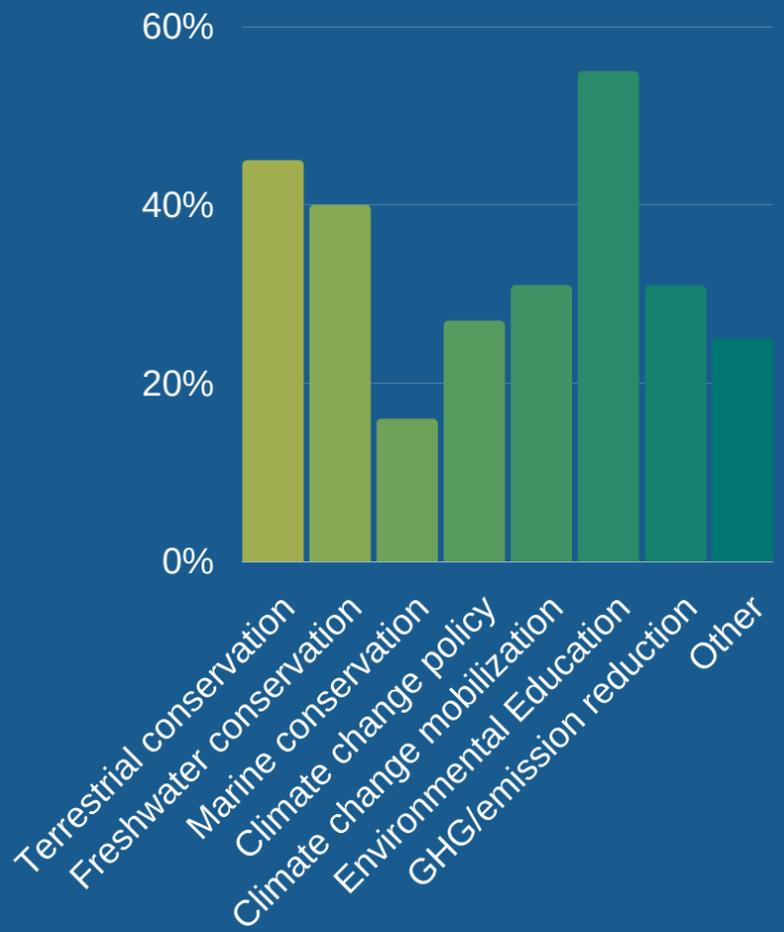


52% of organizations have 1-10 paid staff.

Out of the 177 respondents **29%** stated that their scope is national while

46% served one particular province.

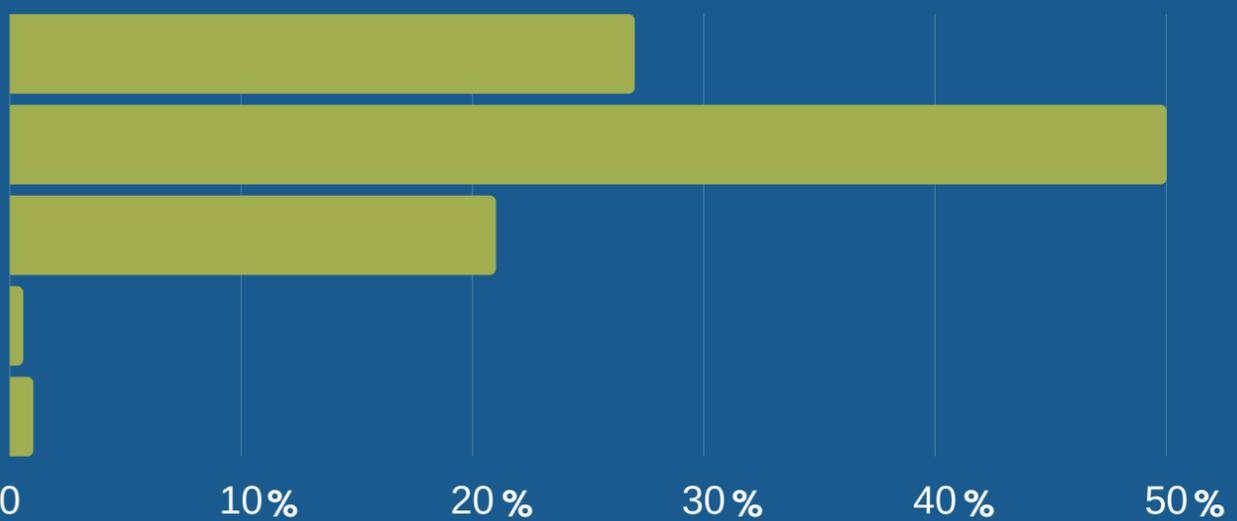
Focus of work



CURRENT SITUATION

Open or closed?

- 27% - Fully open and operating
- 50% - Open and operating at a similar level with modifications
- 21% - Open but with reduced operations
- 1% - Not open
- 1% - Other



Over half (51%)

believe their operations have remained fairly consistent compared to last year.

50%

stated their organizations are open and operating at similar levels with some modifications from one year ago.



89%

said the most significant impact of COVID-19 on their organizations has been cancelled in-person programs or events.



ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRESSED

46%

felt that cancelled or poorly attended in-person programs or events would continue to impact their organization the most, even after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

43%

worry about reduced revenue even after COVID restrictions are lifted.

37%

believe that their organization will be affected by delayed or modified programs.

"Staff leaving the organization, morale issues, stress, loss of resilience. Staff burnout due to work/family overload. Different from staff absence. Exhaustion is having a major impact on the health of some of our staff. We are concerned about losing good people who can't keep this up much longer."

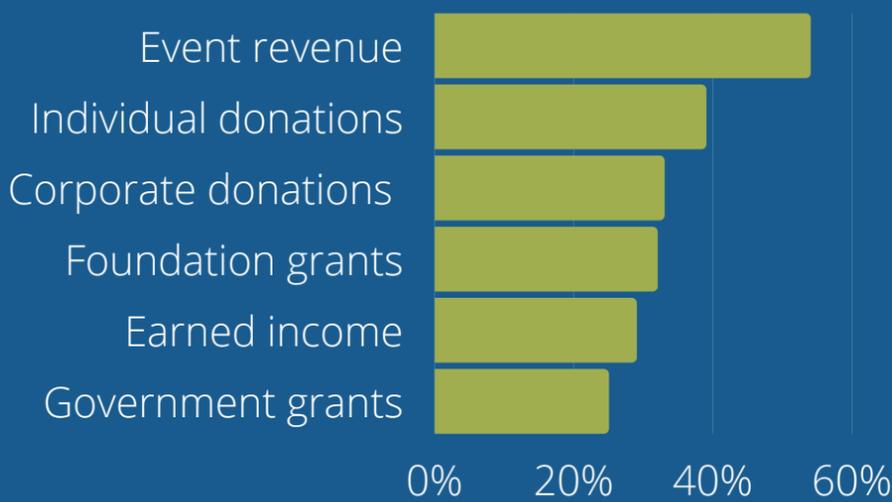
50%

stated that the scope of their mission realized over the past year was somewhat or very limited given the impact of COVID-19.

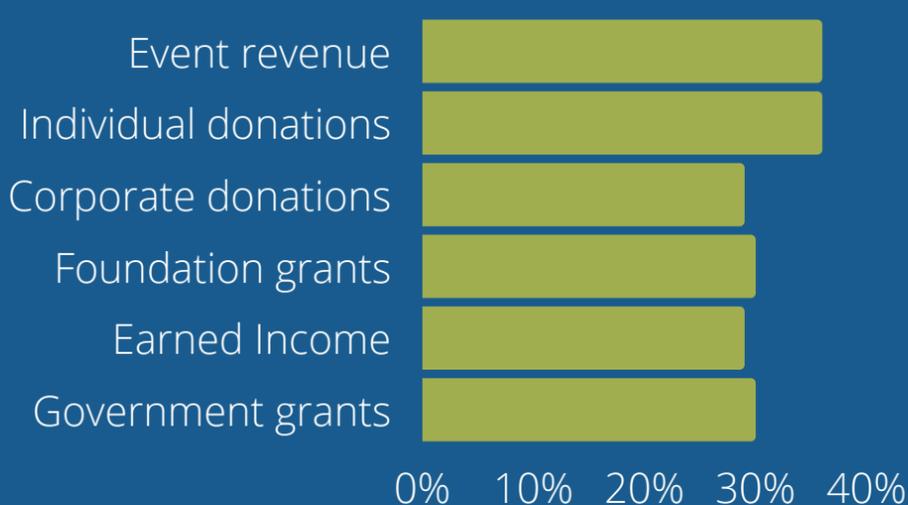
67%

believe that this situation will continue to improve in the future and feel they will be able to realize their mission fully.

REVENUE



Which revenue sources were affected most in the past year?



Which revenue sources will be most affected in the future?

FINANCIAL IMPACT

31%

stated that their organization has faced a revenue reduction of less than 10%.

22%

faced a revenue reduction of over 10% but less than 20%.

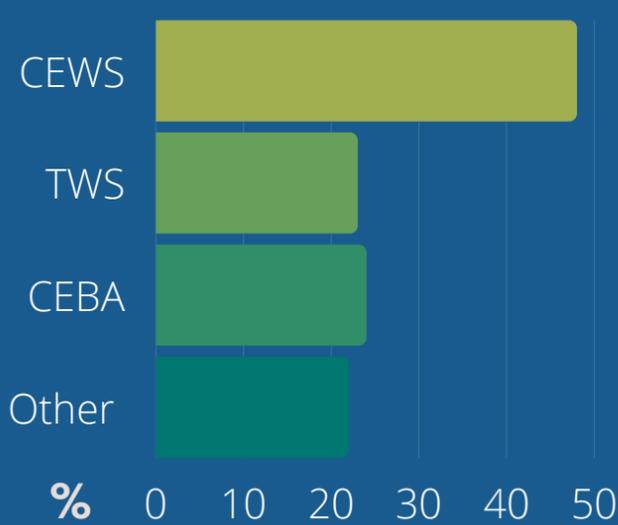
58%

fully expect to be able to operate with minimal risk in the near future.

33%

expect to be able to operate with moderate risk and would require help to mitigate the impact.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT



COVID related Federal Government support Received

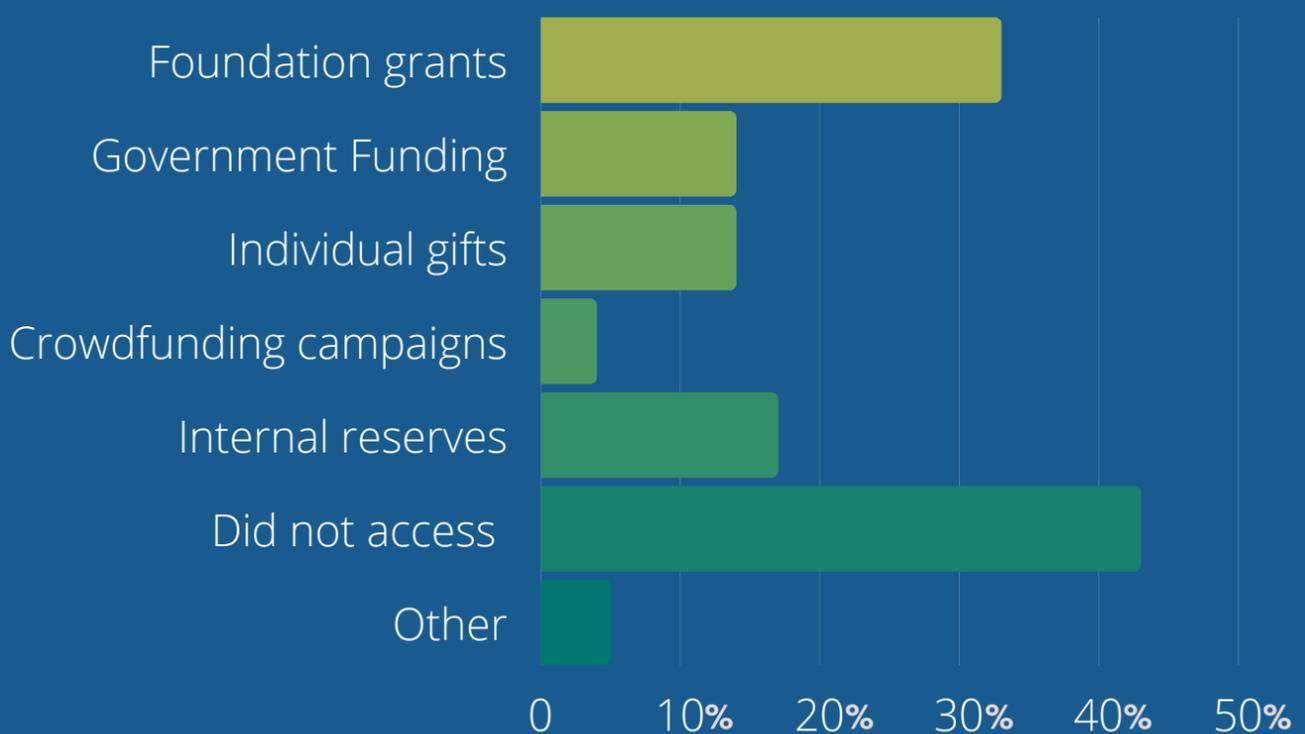
48%

stated that their organization did not qualify for support.

31%

did not require the support.

Other Emergency Support



FOUNDATION FUNDERS

80%

felt that flexibility in meeting project/grant timelines was one of the most beneficial supports from foundation funders.

73%

felt flexibility in meeting project/grant deliverables was the most beneficial support from foundation funders.

"One of our funders allowed us to apply a portion of a project grant to operations, which was a major help."

41%

believe that the new project funding provided by foundation funders was most beneficial to their organizations.

75%

feel new project funding provided by foundation funders will be critical for the growth of the organizations in the coming year.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

80%

stated that they developed new methods of delivering programs as a result of COVID19 which are beneficial to the organization over the long term.

57%

stated that they created new partnerships for program delivery which could be beneficial to the organization in the long run.

48%

renewed their organization's strategic directions.

"The needs are highest ever, but people-based approaches to environmental work which prioritize justice are the most powerful avenues for positive change in society now more than ever."
