



CANADA

OECD Global Action on Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems

Canada does not have a framework around the social and solidarity economy (SSE) at the national level. In the country, around **2.5 million people** were employed in non-profit institutions, representing **15.3% of total employment** in 2021. **Women** represented **76.7%** of non-profit employment in 2019.

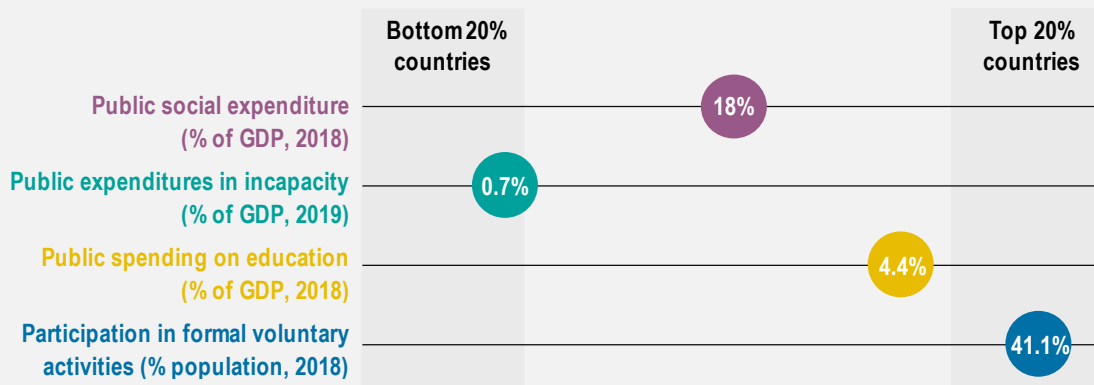
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Canada is a federation of thirteen provinces and territories with a federal government. It is a high-income country with a very high human development level.

| | GDP per capita | Labour force participation rate | Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) | Poverty rate | Gini coefficient | Rural population | Stakeholder engagement for developing regulations |
|--------|----------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Canada | USD 58 348 | 79.8% | 13.7% | 8.6% | 0.280 / 1 | 27.0% | 2.9 / 4 |
| OECD | USD 53 937 | 73.2% | 14.8% | 11.0% | 0.313 / 1 | 23.1% | 2.1 / 4 |

Note: Data from Hungary refer to 2022, except for NEET (2021), poverty rate (2020), Gini coefficient (2020) and stakeholder engagement (2017). OECD data refer to 2022, except for poverty rate (2018), Gini coefficient (2020) and stakeholder engagement (2017). GDP per capita for OECD is an estimated value. The share of rural population for Canada is an estimated value. See sources at the end of the document.

Country position in selected social indicators



Note: For each indicator, the position of the bubble on the line represents the country's ranking compared to OECD and EU countries. Higher rankings are on the right. The panel of countries for the international ranking can vary from an indicator to another due to data availability. See sources at the end of the document.

SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM

Definition of the social and solidarity economy in Canada

No official definition of the SSE is available in the country at the national level.

A definition of the social economy is available in the Quebec Province (see [2013 Social Economy Act](#), Article 3).

Institutional frameworks



Institutions

The **Government of Canada** has established the **Social Innovation and Social Finance (SI/SF) Strategy** with the aim to improve access to financial opportunities for social purpose organisations (SPOs). Key initiatives of the Strategy include (i) Investment Readiness Program (IRP): grants and contributions funding of USD 100 million over 5 years, and (ii) Social Finance Fund (SFF): investment funding of USD 755 million over 10 years, (iii) Social Innovation Advisory Council (SIAC): advisory group that provides strategic advice to help advance the SI/SF strategy. On the **subnational level**, provinces are advancing the social economy further through legislation, strategies, action plans and other support mechanisms (e.g. Quebec Social Economy Action Plan 2015-2020).



Legal instruments

On the subnational level, **Quebec** has a **Social Economy Act** (2013).



Stakeholder engagement

The **Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet)** seeks to increase public demand and political action for policies and programs that support Community Economic Development. It also helps its members find the resources and relationships they need to build more sustainable, equitable and inclusive locally-controlled economies. In Quebec, **innovative territories in the social and solidarity economy (TISS)** contributes to regional development through knowledge transfer in the SSE.

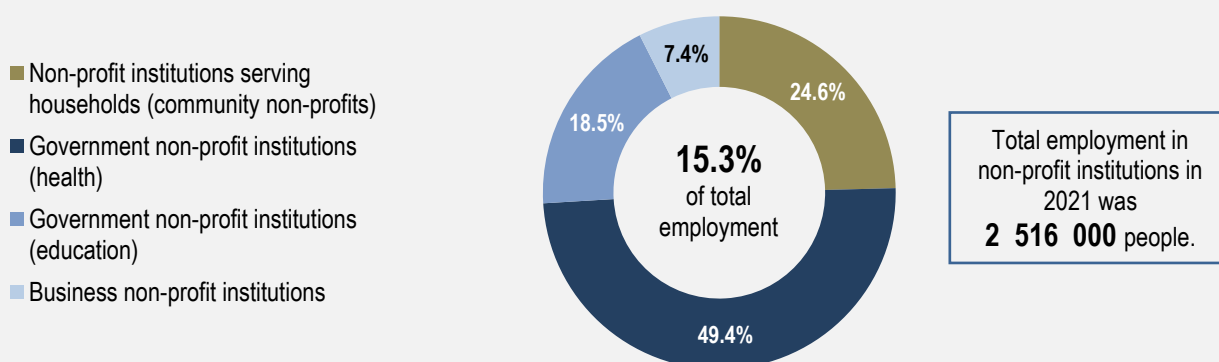
Main figures

In Canada, around **2.5 million people** were employed in non-profit institutions, representing **15.3% of total employment**. **Human health services** had the highest share of non-profit employment with **44.7%**. **Women** represented **76.7%** of non-profit employment in 2019. The GDP of the non-profit sector was estimated to be around **CAD 200.2 billion** in 2021.

SCOPE

The scope includes non-profit institutions, namely entities in the third sector that are neither part of government nor of the private sector, as defined in the Canadian satellite account for non-profits and volunteering. For purposes of national statistics, non-profit institutions are grouped under three categories, irrespective of their legal forms: community, business and government non-profit institutions. Only entities not directly controlled by government are included in the scope.

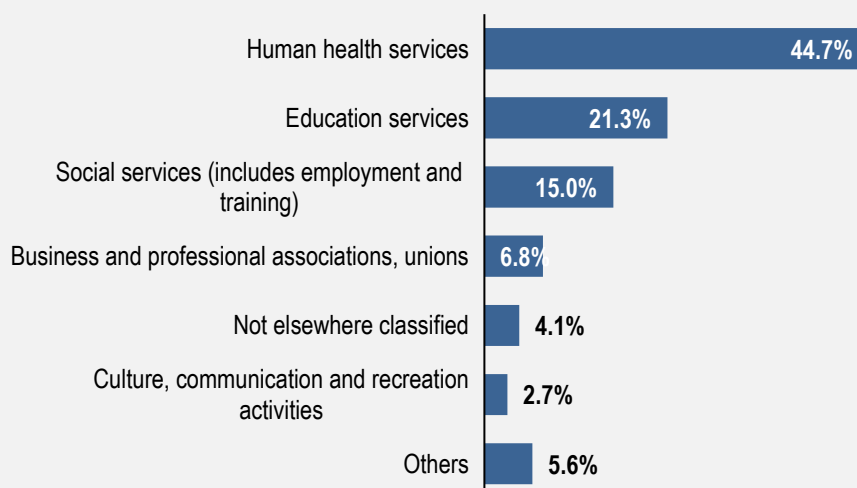
Employment in non-profit institutions (2020)



Note: Employment information is provided in headcounts.

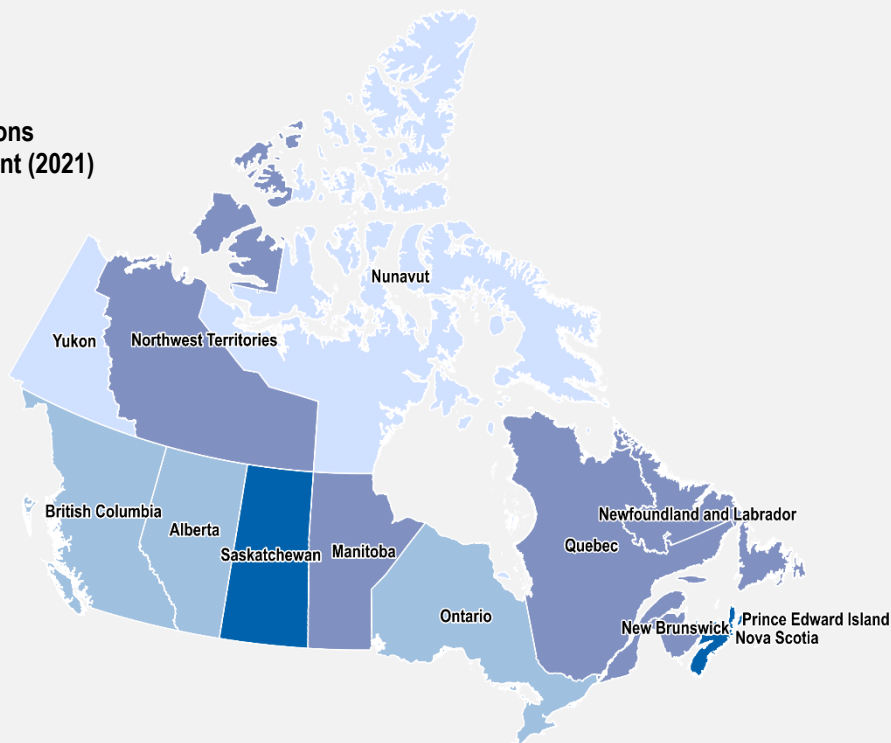
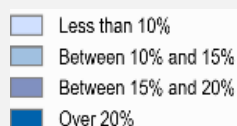
EMPLOYMENT IN NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS

Employment in non-profit institutions by sectors of activity (2021)



Note: Others include philanthropic intermediaries and voluntarism promotion; community and economic development, and housing activities; civic, advocacy, political and international activities; religious congregations and associations; and environmental protection and animal welfare activities. Detailed information for other activities is not available.

Employment in non-profit institutions as a share of provincial employment (2021)



REACH

Gender equity



Women represented **76.7%** of employment in non-profit institutions while their share in total economy was 47.5% in 2019.

Volunteering



The economic value of volunteering activity in Canada was **CAD 41.8 billion** in 2013.

Economic contribution



The GDP of the non-profit institutions sector in Canada was estimated to be **CAD 200.2 billion** in 2021.

Legal frameworks

Legal frameworks to support the development of the SSE can be adopted at the national and subnational levels. They can regulate the SSE as a whole, or specific legal entities of the SSE (such as associations, cooperatives, mutual societies, foundations and social enterprises).

For the SSE

- Quebec: Social Economy Act (2013) - [Link](#)

For specific SSE entities at national and subnational level

- Insurance Companies Act (1991). Mutuals – [Link](#)
- Canada Cooperatives Act (1998) – [Link](#)
- Not-for-profit Corporations Act (2009). Associations – [Link](#)
- Income Tax Act (1985). Registered Charities – [Link](#)
- Canada Business Corporations Act (1985). Social Enterprises – [Link](#)
- Cooperative legislation: Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador - [Link](#)
- British Columbia: Business Corporations Act (2013) - Community Contribution Companies - [Link](#)
- Nova Scotia: Community Interest Company Act (2012) - [Link](#)
- Ontario: Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act (1994) - [Link](#)

Note: The list above is not exhaustive of all existing legal frameworks around SSE in Canada.

Fiscal treatment

Different fiscal treatment can be established for the social and solidarity economy as a whole, or for specific SSE entities, at the national and subnational level.

Fiscal treatment of SSE entities

- Non-profit organisations and registered charities are exempt from income tax, including tax on capital gains.
- In some provinces, non-profit organisations also benefit from tax exemptions on goods and services (GST).

Fiscal treatment for contributors in the SSE

Not available.

