


MEASUREMENT NEEDS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATIONS

An examination of
funder requirements for
social organizations on
Prince Edward Island



What are the measurement needs of non-profit associations?

- This issue was indirectly approached through an examination of relationships between small social organizations and their government funders on Prince Edward Island. (Wynne, 2007)
- Thirty organizations were interviewed to document the nature and levels of public funding and policy supports, and to identify potential areas for action.
- Participants consistently reported that funder accountability requirements were problematic.

Overview of current reporting environment

- In an era of increased accountability, characterized by measurement practices that are dictated by funding programs, there exists an incongruity between funder requirements and organizational needs.
- This study's findings are further evidence in the body of research describing issues with **government funding models**. (examples include: Blue Ribbon Panel, 2006; Bradshaw, 2007; Eakin, 2007; and Scott, 2003)

Characteristics of funder requirements

- Lack of meaningful measures
- Short-term accountability for long-term goals
- Administrative burden
- Inconsistencies across funders
- Absence of dialogue between organizations and funders

Measurement needs from the non-profit perspective

- Proactive, citizen-based approaches to measurement practices.
- Challenges to the assumptions of what drives the need for accountability.

Areas for action

- Meaningful and efficient accountability practices
- Priorities based on social needs
- Effective partnerships with funders and within the sector
- Ways to measure, communicate and enhance the value of the social economy

Next steps

What opportunities exist for SEAR in the non-profit sector?

How can resource and capacity challenges be overcome to meet measurement needs?

References

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- Scott, K. (2003) *Funding Matters: The Impact of Canada's New Funding Regime on Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations.* Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development.**
- Wynne, B.G. (2007). *Bridging Public Investment and Social Value: An examination of the Supports for the Social Economy on Prince Edward Island.* Island Studies Press, University of Prince Edward Island.**