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Agora Foundation launches new website to provide detailed coverage of Canada's non-profit and charitable sector

Revamped and rebranded, *The Philanthropist Journal* demonstrates the critical role that civil society has played in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TORONTO, ON, June 23, 2021 /CNW/ — The Board of Directors of the Agora Foundation is pleased to announce the formal launch of a new website for *The Philanthropist Journal* (thephilanthropist.ca), signalling a significantly enhanced commitment to disseminate a broad range of news, analysis, and commentary about Canada's far-flung non-profit sector. The new site—the product of two years of planning, consultation with readers, and design research—takes its place as the most comprehensive source of information about the sector.

The relaunch also anticipates the 50th anniversary next year of *The Philanthropist Journal*, which was established in 1972 with the late Madame Justice Bertha Wilson as one of its founding editors (see history background).

Canada's non-profit sector is one of the most important engines of the national economy, generating \$169.2 billion in economic activity in 2017, or about 8.3% of GDP. The sector, consisting of 170,000 non-profits and charities, provides 2.4 million jobs. Volunteer activity, [estimated to be worth the equivalent of \\$41 billion](#) (2013), reaches into every corner of Canadian society, from neighbourhood children's sports organizations to grassroots advocacy networks and hospital foundations.

"The Philanthropist Journal's mission since its founding almost half a century ago has been to enable charitable activity and promote an engaged civil society in Canada by publishing timely and practical information about the sector," said John Gregory, outgoing president of the Agora board and the former editor. "With the relaunch, we're expanding our investment in that mandate by expanding our coverage areas, creating a compelling and modern online presence, and engaging a wider range of contributors."



The new website format was developed and delivered by the design team of [Sasha Endoh](#) and [Kevin Yuen Kit Lo](#). The project includes the weekly newsletter, and coincides with a full rebranding of The Philanthropist Journal. The design team sought to strengthen the Journal's visual identity and clarify its mission and core values for both new and existing readers. With the website redesign, Endoh said, "We focused on optimizing content organization and visitor flow through the website to cultivate positive experiences and engage the Journal's audience with the wealth of content amassed over the 50 years of its existence."

The coverage in the first edition of the redesigned site includes a feature on the future of work; an interview with Leslie Woo, CEO of CivicAction, and Adwoa K. Buahene, CEO of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council; and an exploration of "Nourish," a collaborative initiative to transform food systems in healthcare. Over the coming weeks, the Journal will publish articles about innovative efforts to prevent diabetes in remote Indigenous communities, the surge of volunteer-driven community projects that emerged during the pandemic, and an in-depth analysis of the contours of systemic racism facing Black-led charities. Regular features include the News Digest, solutions journalism articles, guest columns, book reviews, and Q&As. The Journal's diverse contributors include sector leaders, journalists, scholars, and activists, among others.

The publishing program is supported by a 26-member Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC), formally established by the Agora board in November 2020 to provide input and direction on the Journal's coverage. More information about the members of the EAC can be found [here](#).

"Our objective, editorially, is to widen the dialogue about the workings of the non-profit sector, paying particular attention to issues of racism, inclusion and social equity, reconciliation and Indigenous-led philanthropy, and the impact of the pandemic on the non-profit sector," said Leslie Wright, Agora's executive director. "We intend to be the must-read site for everyone involved in this crucial space."

About the Agora Foundation: Established in 1979, the Agora Foundation is a registered charity (Charitable Registration Number: 118778703 RR 0001) whose purpose is to provide, directly or indirectly, educational, research, and administrative resources and facilities to encourage individuals to assume a responsible role in society and to promote, in a non-partisan manner, a better understanding of the theory and practice of democracy. It is the publisher of *The Philanthropist Journal*.

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