



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Research supports more resources to help the Third Sector better serve the community**

The findings of preliminary research into Bermuda's Third Sector have today been released, indicating that organisations want more information to be available so that they can better understand and meet the needs of the community, now and in the future.

One of the two reports released today is a review of relevant background research on third sector strengthening approaches and trends worldwide, involving more than 40 international studies. It suggests elements for an effective framework for Bermuda's charities, non-profits, philanthropy and government stakeholders, if the third sector decides to develop in that direction.

The second report released today is the result of 26 hours of in-depth interviews with people working in the sector in Bermuda including non-profit service providers, government officials, foundations and private consultants. The results show an interest in shaping the way the Third Sector works together with more efficiencies, collaboration and shared resources. The study invited suggestions of how to develop and operate a 'Reimagined Third Sector' so that organisations benefit, and Bermuda's community is served with a greater impact and with an emphasis on equitable outcomes.

#### **All Third Sector stakeholders are urged to participate in the next stage – quantitative survey**

A third body of research for the *Reimagining the Bermuda Third Sector* initiative will test these findings with a wider audience using an online survey that all third sector stakeholders are encouraged to participate in. Sector stakeholders have been part of the process, supporting the researchers in the development of this survey. The project leaders want "transparency, engagement and continuous feedback, as it is critical to the success of the initiative."

The Third Sector Survey will be released on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 all Third Sector stakeholders interested in shaping the outcomes of the sector review can do so by completing the survey. Interested parties can [click here](#) to sign up to be sent the survey link, to ensure they are a part of the process. The link will also be available publicly on social media.

The initial reports are available in full, links below, and the upcoming online survey will test the findings with a wider-reaching audience. This will collect views in agreement and against the suggestions to date. Stakeholders are invited to read both reports before completing the online survey.

Results from the first two reports show an interest by Bermuda's charities, non-profit organisations, foundations, donors, QUANGOs, private consultants and government officials to better understand the root causes of why particular needs exist.

Anand Dholakia, researcher and project co-leader, says, "COVID-19 has heightened awareness of the critical role the Third Sector plays as a social safety net which is vital to community wellbeing. The crisis has forced third sectors worldwide to address unprecedented challenges and operate in brand new ways. This global moment has raised an opportunity for the Bermuda Third Sector to transform how it approaches its purpose."

He says the research is an opportunity for the sector to build on its "history of self-improvement and to 'reimagine' what it looks like in the future, for example, to consider the infrastructure it needs to face existent, emerging and enduring social problems, revisit who sits at which tables and in which roles, question all assumptions, tackle the root causes of long-standing issues, pursue new ideas, address underlying power dynamics, and work together in new ways."

### **Community Needs**

All stakeholders interviewed believe that understanding community needs is critical to addressing key issues, yet they currently rate the sector's understanding as *fair*, indicating there is room to know more. The majority would like access to more data and easy to interpret databases, research reports and newsletters, available online.

### **Purpose of the research**

The purpose of this research is to provide accurate information to Bermuda's third sector to help stakeholders determine whether they are meeting the needs of the community, whether there is room for improvement in the way organisations work together and if there is opportunity to collaborate, network and share resources for the benefit of all.

All third sector organisations are involved in determining whether a transformative third sector model is feasible for Bermuda and how it could be developed and who would lead the effort.

The research phase of the *Reimagining the Bermuda Third Sector* initiative is funded by Centennial Bermuda Foundation and Bermuda Community Foundation with dedicated independent project leaders, Dr. Leslie Steede, Partner with Global Research and Anand Dholakia, Principal Associate with Community Science, managing the design, analysis, and conclusions. The research considers the views of all third sector stakeholder groups, which includes non-profit organisations, philanthropy and government working side-by-side as partners.

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### **Background - recordings and reports**

Two Zoom webinars were hosted last year to introduce the project to Bermuda's Third Sector and to highlight the key results of initial exploratory research. Interested stakeholders are invited to review the webinars and the completed reports using the links below.

### **Webinar One: Introductory Webinar**

#### **ZOOM link and password:**

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/h6lRpou28lqlbGK3v1ssKKpziRn6qXKbTBZ4-1EBzHahrBYwshcXU5SuU-ycjzgE.eSHzX11ib6ykYx\\_R](https://zoom.us/rec/share/h6lRpou28lqlbGK3v1ssKKpziRn6qXKbTBZ4-1EBzHahrBYwshcXU5SuU-ycjzgE.eSHzX11ib6ykYx_R)

Access Passcode: Rw@3X=qF

**Presentation link:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y7ft23yg2af8nwi/Reimagining%20Bermuda%27s%20Third%20Sector%20Kick-off%20Webinar%20-%20October%202%2C%202020.pdf?dl=0>

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**Webinar Two: Mid-Project Webinar**

**Zoom link and password:**

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/rGUAgFDTXICcP97Ga6x8sSI4KBYk9emxNuYo9enqmozNuEmdIONlPm82Jvc6WFz.jUn7if1C8ma5NUn6>

Access Passcode: MidPoint#2

**Presentation link:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/254sf9ke0i3vo4p/Reimagining%20Bermuda%27s%20Third%20Sector%20Mid-project%20Webinar%20-%20December%2016%2C%202020.pdf?dl=0>

**Reports**

**In-depth Interviews**

**Report:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/kbbiyujothjz6ec/Reimagining%20the%20BDA%20Third%20Sector%20In-depth%20Interview%20Report%20-%20March%207%2C%202021.pdf?dl=0>

**Secondary Research**

**Report:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/rmu5vx5u9hhsaw3/Reimagining%20BDA%20Third%20Sector%20Secondary%20Research%20Report%20-%20March%207%2C%202021.pdf?dl=0>

Both reports are available at <https://centennial.bm/resources/>

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**About Centennial Bermuda Foundation.**

An independent philanthropic foundation, Centennial Bermuda Foundation ([www.centennial.bm](http://www.centennial.bm)) supports the Bermuda community by providing funding to a wide range of non-profit initiatives and scholarships. Its vision is that all people in Bermuda be healthy, independent, financially secure and connected to community, with equitable opportunities for all. To realise that vision, grants are focused in four key areas; Economic Participation, Connected Communities, Healthy Families and Education. Centennial Bermuda Foundation is a company limited by guarantee with assets acquired from private charitable trusts and has operated as an independent philanthropic foundation since 2004.

**About the Bermuda Foundation (formerly Bermuda Community Foundation).**

The Bermuda Foundation (BCF) is a limited liability and segregated accounts company, registered as Bermuda charity #948. Its mission is to create an enduring source of funds forever dedicated to the good of Bermuda. BCF improves and strengthens Bermuda's social sector by assisting donors of all kinds to make the most of their generosity. As a public grantmaking foundation, its resources go towards creating a permanent asset base for the public benefit by stewarding and investing charitable gifts from the community, grantmaking, and responsibly managing its operations. BCF was founded in 2013 by The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Buchanan Charitable Fund and RenaissanceRe with support from private donors and nonprofits that established their own endowed

agency funds to be managed at the foundation. Bloomberg Philanthropies, Hemera Foundation, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies Ltd., XL Foundation, and Meritus Trust Company also made key contributions. BCF benefits from the professional support of Conyers Dill & Pearman and from PwC who conduct its annual audit.