HIGH IDEALS AND NOBLE INTENTIONS:
VOLUNTARY SECTOR–GOVERNMENT RELATIONS IN CANADA

The relationships between governments and the voluntary sector in Canada are long-standing and complex. Beginning with a historical overview of developments in voluntary sector–government relations from 1600 to 1930, *High Ideals and Noble Intentions* goes on to explore more recent events and to bring present-day policy and practice into focus.

Peter R. Elson examines critical historical events in the relationship between the federal government and the voluntary sector that continue to exert influence. He demonstrates through in-depth case studies that these events are essential to understanding contemporary voluntary sector–government relations. Elson explores the impact of the regulation of charities based on amendments to the 1930 Income War Tax Act; advocacy regulation changes in the 1980s; and the shift from citizen-based program funding to service-based contract funding in the mid-1990s. Elson's case is strengthened by an important and timely comparison of voluntary sector and central government relations in Canada and England. This historically informed comparative analysis provides the basis for practical recommendations to improve the future of voluntary sector–government relations across Canada.

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PETER R. ELSON

High Ideals and Noble Intentions

Voluntary Sector–Government
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To Linda

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I saw a beggar leaning on his wooden crutch
He said to me 'You must not ask for so much'
And a pretty woman leaning on her darkened door
She cried to me 'Hey, why not ask for more'

Excerpt from 'Bird On A Wire' from *Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs*,
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