

# Briefing Note

## (For Boards or Stakeholders)

### Briefing Note: Annual Return Compliance in Alberta Nonprofits

Prepared by Guardian Accounting  
*Supporting governance clarity for Alberta nonprofits*

#### Issue:

Many Alberta nonprofits are falling behind on filing Annual Returns, often for multiple years.

#### Background:

Volunteer turnover, unclear onboarding, and limited administrative capacity contribute to missed filings. This is a widespread issue across the sector.

#### Risks:

- Loss of good standing
- Ineligibility for grants
- Banking and property complications
- Potential dissolution by Corporate Registry

#### Analysis:

The issue is structural, not individual. Organizations with rotating volunteer boards are especially vulnerable. Simple governance tools can significantly reduce risk.

#### Recommendation:

Adopt a standardized compliance checklist, ensure board onboarding includes governance responsibilities, and review Annual Return status annually.

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### About Guardian Accounting

Guardian Accounting provides clear, accessible governance and compliance support for Alberta nonprofits, with a focus on volunteer-run and legacy organizations. Our goal is to strengthen continuity, reduce administrative stress, and help boards stay confident in their responsibilities.

**guardianaccounting.ca**