

Which Microsoft 365 plan is right for your organisation?

Canadian nonprofits that qualify for Microsoft's nonprofit program can access up to 300 free Microsoft 365 Business Basic licences under the grant, with discounted staff pricing on paid plans above that baseline. This guide helps you choose the right plan for your team's needs and data obligations.

Pricing verified 2026-08-10 against Microsoft's published Canadian nonprofit staff pricing for business and enterprise plans. All figures are CAD, per user per month, paid yearly on an annual commitment, plus applicable tax.

Microsoft sets nonprofit pricing as a percentage of commercial pricing and may change it at any time without notice. Confirm current figures on the two Microsoft pricing pages listed under Sources before quoting or budgeting. Prices on those pages are rendered by the site and can differ from cached copies — check them in a browser.

Plan Overview — Pricing at a Glance

Business Basic	Business Standard	Business Premium	Microsoft 365 E3	Microsoft 365 E5
Grant Free up to 300 users	CA\$4.60 user/month, paid yearly	CA\$7.50 user/month, paid yearly	CA\$13.20 user/month, paid yearly	CA\$32.60 user/month, paid yearly
Nonprofit Staff Pricing Up to 300 seats	Nonprofit Staff Pricing Annual commitment	FSET recommended minimum Annual commitment	Nonprofit Staff Pricing No seat cap	Nonprofit Staff Pricing No seat cap

FSET recommended minimum — Business Premium (CA\$7.50/user/month). For nonprofit clients handling donor data, financial records, or personal information, Business Premium is the recommended minimum. It adds Intune device management, Defender for Business, Defender for Office 365 Plan 1, the advanced tier of Microsoft Entra ID (Conditional Access and MFA), and Purview Information Protection Plan 1 — the security and compliance baseline appropriate for organisations with data obligations under PIPEDA or provincial privacy legislation. Many nonprofits run a mixed environment: Business Basic under the grant for volunteers and admin-only roles, Business Premium for staff with data access.

Full Feature Comparison

Feature parity between nonprofit and commercial plans is identical — the plans are the same product at a reduced price. The Business Premium column is shaded as the FSET recommended minimum for most clients.

Scope note: this table covers the capabilities where Microsoft publishes a named tier (Plan 1, Plan 2, Free version, Standard, Premium) or an explicit inclusion. Verified 2026-08-10 against Microsoft's official business and enterprise plan comparison PDFs (published August 1, 2026). It is not the complete feature list — for every row, see those source PDFs, linked from the two pricing pages under Sources.

Feature / Capability	Business Basic Grant	Business Standard CA\$4.60	Business Premium CA\$7.50	Microsoft 365 E3 CA\$13.20	Microsoft 365 E5 CA\$32.60
SEATS AND PURCHASING					
Seat cap	300	300	300	No limit	No limit
Grant seats at no cost	300	—	—	—	—
Available through Microsoft CSP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PRODUCTIVITY					
Office apps — web and mobile	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Office apps — desktop install	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Devices per user	Web and mobile only	5 + 5 + 5	5 + 5 + 5	5 + 5 + 5	5 + 5 + 5
Exchange Online (email)	Plan 1	Plan 1	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 2
SharePoint	Plan 1	Plan 1	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 2
Cloud storage per user	1 TB	1 TB	1 TB	1 to 5+ TB	1 to 5+ TB
Power BI Pro	—	—	—	—	Yes
Windows 11 edition	—	—	Business	Enterprise E3	Enterprise E5
TEAMS, CALLING AND MEETINGS					
Microsoft Teams	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Webinar hosting	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Teams Audio Conferencing (PSTN dial-in)	No-cost add-on	No-cost add-on	No-cost add-on	No-cost add-on	No-cost add-on
Teams Phone (external calling)	—	—	—	—	Yes
IDENTITY AND ACCESS					
Microsoft Entra ID	Free version	Free version	Included (advanced)	Plan 1	Plan 2
Conditional Access	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multifactor authentication	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DEVICE MANAGEMENT					
Microsoft Intune	—	—	Plan 1	Plan 1 and Plan 2	Plan 1 and Plan 2
Intune Suite (Cloud PKI, Endpoint Privilege Mgmt)	—	—	—	—	Yes
SECURITY					
Defender for Business	—	—	Yes	—	—
Defender for Office 365	—	—	Plan 1	Plan 1	Plan 2
Defender for Endpoint	—	—	—	Plan 1	Plan 2
Defender for Identity	—	—	—	—	Yes
Defender for Cloud Apps	—	—	—	Add-on	Yes
Security Copilot	—	—	—	—	Included
COMPLIANCE AND INFORMATION PROTECTION					
Purview Information Protection	—	—	Plan 1	Plan 1	Plan 2
Purview Data Loss Prevention	—	—	Emails and files	Emails and files	Yes
Purview Audit	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Premium
Purview eDiscovery	—	—	—	Standard	Premium

Feature / Capability	Business Basic Grant	Business Standard CA\$4.60	Business Premium CA\$7.50	Microsoft 365 E3 CA\$13.20	Microsoft 365 E5 CA\$32.60
Purview Insider Risk Management	—	—	—	—	Yes

AI Feature / Capability	Business Basic Grant	Business Standard CA\$4.60	Business Premium CA\$7.50	Microsoft 365 E3 CA\$13.20	Microsoft 365 E5 CA\$32.60
Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Microsoft 365 Copilot (full)	Add-on	Add-on	Add-on	Add-on	Add-on

Plan names shown are Microsoft's current SKU names: Microsoft 365 Business Basic / Business Standard / Business Premium (Nonprofit Staff Pricing), and Microsoft 365 E3 / E5 (Nonprofit Staff Pricing).

Plan Selection Quick Reference

Plan	Best for	Key limitation
Business Basic (Grant)	Volunteers, admin-only roles, and email-and-Teams-only users.	No desktop Office apps. Not suitable as the primary plan for most staff.
Business Standard (CA\$4.60)	General staff who need desktop Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.	Entra ID Free version only — no Conditional Access. No device management or advanced security. Low-risk data only.
Business Premium (CA\$7.50) ★	Any staff handling donor, financial, or personal data. FSET recommended minimum.	300-seat cap. Rarely a constraint for the nonprofits FSET serves.
Microsoft 365 E3 (CA\$13.20)	Organisations above 300 users, or those needing Windows 11 Enterprise, eDiscovery, or Defender for Endpoint.	No Teams Phone. eDiscovery and Audit at Standard tier only.
Microsoft 365 E5 (CA\$32.60)	Nonprofits with advanced security and compliance obligations, dedicated IT security staff, Power BI, or Teams Phone needs.	Typically more than most nonprofits require. Roughly four times the Business Premium rate.

Sources

Source	URL
Microsoft 365 business plans — Canadian nonprofit pricing	microsoft.com/en-ca/microsoft-365/business/nonprofit-plans-and-pricing
Microsoft 365 enterprise plans — Canadian nonprofit pricing	microsoft.com/en-ca/microsoft-365/enterprise/nonprofit-plans-and-pricing
Microsoft nonprofit eligibility — organisation criteria	microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/eligibility
Microsoft nonprofit eligibility — country-specific criteria	aka.ms/eligibility-requirements
Goodstack nonprofit definitions by country	poweredbypercent.com/nonprofit-definitions
Microsoft nonprofit portal (registration)	nonprofit.microsoft.com

This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, compliance, or financial advice. Pricing is approximate and subject to change. Eligibility criteria and plan features are set exclusively by Microsoft. Confirm current pricing and features at microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/eligibility and on Microsoft's Canadian nonprofit pricing pages before making any purchasing decision. FSET Inc is a Microsoft CSP partner and can provision and manage Microsoft 365 nonprofit licences on behalf of eligible Canadian organisations once eligibility is confirmed.