



Dear John Nater, MP, Perth- Wellington,

I am reaching out to you today to share the latest data (as of March 23rd) and policy recommendations from the charitable and nonprofit sector.

In brief, they are as follows:

1. An \$8 billion emergency stabilization fund, comprised of at least 90% grants to organizations.
2. Ensuring that charities and nonprofits remain fully eligible for any further federal initiatives aimed at helping employers to retain staff.
3. Existing funding agreements with federal departments and agencies should be automatically renewed and flexible conditions on how funds are used by the organization should be applied. Reporting requirements should be kept to the bare minimum necessary to protect the public interest.
4. The restrictions that limit charities and foundations to only providing funds to qualified donees should be temporarily lifted.
5. The creation of an ad hoc table so that Ministers and senior officials can share advice and ideas with a cross-section of charity and nonprofit leaders from across Canada.

The Chief Economist for the Charitable and Nonprofit Sector has taken emerging data, and using reasonable assumptions, has projected significant disruption for our sector. We estimate that registered charities will see financial losses this year of between \$9.5 billion and \$15.7 billion and layoffs of between 118,000 and 194,000 people. The scale of loss will depend on how long and how strictly social distancing principles are implemented. These figures do not include nonprofit service providers or social enterprises, for whom financial and employment data is not as readily available.

Across Canada, charities, nonprofits, and social enterprises are working hard to help their communities face the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Whether providing meals to isolated seniors, services to at-risk youth, shelter for the homeless, support for those fleeing domestic abuse, addiction counselling, settlement services for recent immigrants, assisting urban Indigenous peoples, or the countless other contributions that organizations in our sector make, they are determined to fulfil their missions and work with governments at all levels to see us through this situation.

Quite simply, organizations are seeing the same revenue losses and challenges as private businesses. At the same time, many organizations are seeing increased demand for the services they provide – particularly organizations involved in food security, services to the homeless, providing support for people with serious illnesses, and providing assistance to seniors. I should note that the cost of providing services is also increasing, as volunteers self-isolate and as extraordinary measures are taken to ensure the health and safety of clients, staff, and volunteers.

We appreciate the challenges you and your colleagues face in this rapidly-changing situation. Charities and nonprofits stand ready to do their part to help communities weather this storm, but the federal government needs to act quickly to ensure they are able to do so.

Sincerely,



Ryan Erb, Executive Director
United Way Perth –Huron



Kathy Vassilakos, Co-Chair
Social Research and Planning Council

CC: Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. Bill Morneau, PC, MP Minister of Finance
Hon. Ahmed Hussen, PC, MP Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
Hon. Carla Qualtrough, PC, MP Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, PC, MP President of the Treasury Board
Hon. Diane Lebouthillier, PC, MP Minister of National Revenue
Hon. Steven Guilbeault, PC, MP Minister of Canadian Heritage
Hon. Patty Hajdu, PC, MP Minister of Health
Hon. Deb Schulte, PC, MP Minister of Seniors Hon.
Karina Gould, PC, MP Minister of International Development
Ben Lobb, MP, Huron - Bruce