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## March 23 Letter

Toronto, March 23, 2020

Hon. Bill Morneau, PC, MP  
Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, PC, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Hon. Ahmed Hussen, PC, MP  
Minister of Families, Children and Social  
Development and Development  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Hon. Carla Qualtrough, PC, MP  
Minister of Employment, Workforce  
Disability Inclusion  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, PC, MP  
President of the Treasury Board  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier, PC, MP  
Minister of National Revenue  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers:

I am writing to follow up on my letter of March 18 concerning the situation of the charities, nonprofits, and social enterprises during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

Since that letter, the economic and social effects of the crisis are becoming more clear. I wanted to provide you with an update regarding our sector, and to expand upon the recommendations made in our letter of March 18.

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.

We would be happy to share our data and assumptions with you and your officials and provide a briefing.

While all sectors of the economy are facing unprecedented challenges, there are aspects of the crisis that are unique to us:

- **Most organizations do not carry significant cash reserves;** for those that do, those reserves for the most part represent less than three months of operating capital.
- **Most organizations are not able to access emergency capital** through lines of credit or bridging loans.
- **Fundraising, as well as fee-for-service programs, are at a virtual standstill,** with programs, major events and canvasses cancelled across the country.
- **Demand for charities' and nonprofits' services is countercyclical and as economic uncertainty and dislocation increase, organizations are facing increased demand for their essential services.** Particularly affected are food banks, social service agencies, shelters, and organizations assisting seniors.
- The sector relies on 14 million volunteers; **we are hearing of resource shortages for needed human and social service delivery operations** as many of these volunteers are self-isolating.
- **The cost of providing essential community services has increased,** particularly in the areas of health and safety (for staff, volunteers, and clients), protective equipment, and information technology (as those organizations that are able to do so shift to remote and distributed working in keeping with social distancing principles).

**The result is a severe cash crisis that jeopardizes organizations' ability to provide vital services.** Should community-based organizations be unable to provide these essential services, it will increase the strain on already-stretched public service providers. The government recognized this last week, providing emergency support to shelters assisting the homeless and those fleeing domestic abuse situations.

Circumstances continue to evolve rapidly, and in light of how dramatically the situation has changed in less than a week, we would like to clarify and prioritize the recommendations made to you on March 18.

As mentioned, **the immediate priority is to avert the looming liquidity crisis that threatens so much of our sector.** To that end, we recommend:

1. **An \$8 billion emergency stabilization fund**, comprised of at least 90% grants to organizations. The federal government should identify provincial, regional, or local partners as well as national federations that can distribute the grants in a fast and efficient manner, with parameters broad enough that decisions on eligibility can be made based on local conditions, needs, and priorities. The most immediate priorities would include emergency funding for community food programs, volunteer management, personal protective equipment and emergency support for vulnerable people served by community organizations. There are also a number of existing mechanisms through which the loan component – for those organizations that can benefit from this form of assistance – could be delivered.
2. Under normal circumstances, the sector relies on 14 million volunteers and 2.4 million employees. With many volunteers following advice to self-isolate, paid staff will be under more strain to deliver services and programming that are also often facing growing demand. **The federal government must ensure that charities and nonprofits remain fully eligible for any further federal initiatives aimed at helping employers to retain staff. Depending on how any further measures are designed, this may mean finding alternate means of providing equivalent assistance.** (For example, charities and nonprofits would not benefit from measures related to corporate income tax.) We appreciated the inclusion of charities and nonprofits in the measures announced by the federal government earlier this week; as the employers of 2.4 million Canadians, we are confident that you will continue to recognize our vital role as job creators.
3. For organizations that have existing funding agreements with federal departments and agencies, there should be **automatic renewal of funding**, flexible conditions on how funds are used by the organization, and – in light of the situation in which organizations find themselves – reporting requirements should be kept to the bare minimum necessary to protect the public interest. Several departments have made very encouraging announcements already; all departments and agencies should be required to follow suit.
4. The **restrictions that limit charities and foundations to only providing funds to qualified donees should be temporarily lifted.** This would allow these organizations to form partnerships with nonprofits, social enterprises, private businesses, and community

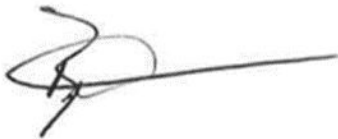
organizations to ensure that vital services are provided in the most effective manner in this time of crisis.

5. **We also recommend the creation of an ad hoc table** so that you and your senior officials can share advice and ideas with a cross-section of charity and nonprofit leaders from across Canada. This unprecedented situation means that we must remain flexible. Actions that seem adequate when announced may be overtaken by events. The only way that we as a country are going to get through this crisis is by maintaining open and frank dialogue. We can convene sector leadership on short notice.

On March 18, we had mooted the possibility of increasing the Charitable Donation Tax Credit, for donations made and claimed in 2020, to 75%. Given the struggle charities would face raising funds while trying to deliver basic services right now, and the fact that this measure would not benefit nonprofits, we are focussing on the more immediate measures above.

Thank you for your attention. Do not hesitate to contact us should you need further information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bruce MacDonald', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce MacDonald  
President & CEO

cc: **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  
**Hon. Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP**  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

## March 23 Letter - Sector Endorsements

<p><b>Kris Archie, Executive Director</b> The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples Canada</p> <p><i>75 members from Indigenous-led charitable and philanthropic organizations</i></p>	<p><b>Ted Garrard, CEO</b> SickKids Foundation</p> <p><i>The Hospital for Sick Children serves more than 100,000 patients and provides health information for more than 1 million Canadians annually</i></p>
<p><b>Nicolas Moyer, CEO</b> Canadian Council for International Cooperation</p> <p><i>86 member organizations across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Andrew Chunilall, CEO</b> <b>Andrea Dicks, President</b> Community Foundations of Canada</p> <p><i>191 community foundations provide funding and services in more than 90% of Canadian communities</i></p>
<p><b>Nadine Duguay-Lemay, CEO</b> Dialogue New Brunswick</p> <p><i>Serving 735,000 people</i></p>	<p><b>David Mitchell, President &amp; CEO</b> Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations</p> <p><i>350 members and 26,000 organizations supported</i></p>
<p><b>Alison Brewin, Executive Director</b> Vantage Point</p> <p><i>425 members serving 1,500 organizations and more than 10,000 volunteers annually</i></p>	<p><b>Jennifer Gillivan, President &amp; CEO</b> IWK Foundation</p> <p><i>The IWK Health Centre is the Maritime's leading health centre providing highly-specialized and primary health care services for women, children, youth, and families.</i></p>
<p><b>Hilary Pearson, Co-Chair</b> Advisory Committee on the Charitable Sector</p>	<p><b>Katherine Carleton, CEO</b> Orchestras Canada</p> <p><i>130 member orchestras with an audience of 2.8 million Canadians</i></p>

<p><b>Paula Telfer, CEO</b> Easter Seals of Alberta Society</p> <p><i>Serving more than 6,000 Albertans with disabilities</i></p>	<p><b>Dan Clement, President &amp; CEO</b> United Way Centraide Canada</p> <p><i>79 United Ways and Centraides, 6,000 programs and services, 8.5 million Canadians served</i></p>
<p><b>Michael Toye, Executive Director</b> Canadian Community Economic Development Network</p> <p><i>204 member organizations</i></p>	<p>Scott Fortnum, President &amp; CEO Children's Health Foundation London, Ontario</p> <p><i>The Children's Hospital and Thames Valley Children's Centre serve 40,000 children annually</i></p>
<p><b>Jean-Marc Mangin, President &amp; CEO</b> Philanthropic Foundations Canada</p> <p><i>142 foundations representing 60% of all private philanthropy across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Frédéric Lalande, Board Chair</b> The Chantier</p> <p><i>Bringing together a network of more than 11,000 social enterprises</i></p>
<p><b>Patricia Bradshaw, Board Chair</b> Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia</p> <p><i>Representing 6,000 organizations</i></p>	<p><b>Paula Attfield, Chair</b> Association of Fundraising Professionals Canada</p> <p><i>20 chapters and 3,700 members</i></p>
<p><b>Tracey Mann, CEO</b> Community Initiatives Fund</p> <p><i>Supporting 450 Saskatchewan nonprofits serving 150,000 people</i></p>	<p><b>Pearl Veenema, CEO</b> Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation</p>
<p><b>Stephen Huddart, CEO</b> The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation</p> <p><i>Supports 200 community organizations across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Marina Glogovac, CEO</b> CanadaHelps</p> <p><i>More than 2 million Canadians used this platform to donate \$250 million in donations to 21,000 charities</i></p>
<p><b>Lynn Sparkes, President &amp; CEO</b> Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation St. John's, NF</p>	<p><b>Tracey Mann, Chair</b> Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership</p> <p><i>Representing 6,000 nonprofits</i></p>
<p><b>Cathy Taylor, Executive Director</b></p>	<p><b>Penelope Rowe, CEO</b></p>

<p>Ontario Nonprofit Network</p> <p><i>450 members, supporting 8,000 nonprofits</i></p>	<p>Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador</p>
<p><b>Marcel Lauzière, CEO</b> The Lawson Foundation</p> <p><i>Financially supporting 150 organizations across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Kelly Duffin, CEO</b> Goodwill, The Amity Group</p> <p><i>6 sites serving 185,000 Canadians</i></p>
<p><b>Ruth MacKenzie, President &amp; CEO</b> Canadian Association of Gift Planners</p> <p><i>20 chapters across Canada, almost 1,100 members</i></p>	<p><b>Michael McKnight, President &amp; CEO</b> United Way of the Lower Mainland</p> <p><i>Supports 150 social service organizations that serve more than 350,000 people</i></p>
<p><b>Marco Pagani, President &amp; CEO</b> Ottawa Community Foundation</p>	<p><b>Stephen Faul, President &amp; CEO</b> Frontier College</p> <p><i>Supporting 40,000 Canadians annually</i></p>
<p><b>Bruce Lawson, President</b> The Counselling Foundation of Canada</p> <p><i>Supporting the work of 30 organizations across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Wendy Rinella, CEO</b> The Oakville Community Foundation</p> <p><i>Direct programming benefitting 10,000 people, and supporting the work of 100 charities across Canada</i></p>
<p><b>Peter Dinsdale, CEO</b> YMCA Canada</p> <p><i>44 Member Associations, 1700 locations serving 2.8 million Canadians annually</i></p>	<p><b>Lynne Skromeda, Executive Director</b> Winnipeg Folk Festival Board member, Imagine Canada</p>
<p><b>Rachel Gouin, Executive Director</b> Child Welfare League of Canada</p> <p><i>94 member organizations across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Claudine Cook, Executive Director</b> The ALS Society of Quebec</p> <p><i>Serving more than 1100 patients and caregivers, and more than 2,000 health care professionals</i></p>
<p><b>Rev. John Pellowe, CEO</b> Canadian Council of Christian Charities</p> <p><i>Representing 3,449 charities across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Mike House, President &amp; CEO</b> Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation</p>
<p><b>Mark Hierlehy, CEO</b></p>	<p><b>Dalal Al-Waheidi, Executive Director</b></p>

<p>Canada's Children's Hospital Foundations</p> <p><i>13 foundations for hospitals serving 2 million children annually</i></p>	<p>WE Charity</p> <p><i>Providing services to more than 7,000 schools and 2 million students</i></p>
<p><b>Charlene Rocke, Executive Director</b> Victoria General Hospital Foundation</p>	<p><b>Margaret Mason, Board Chair</b> Imagine Canada</p>
<p><b>Karen Droblich, CEO</b> Goodwill Industries Niagara</p> <p><i>6 locations serving more than 500,000 people</i></p>	<p><b>Morag Carter, Executive Director</b> Greater Trail Community Skills Centre</p> <p><i>Catchment population of 22,000 people</i></p>
<p><b>Denise Amyot, CEO</b> Colleges Institutes Canada</p> <p><i>Representing 140 institutions across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Eileen Dooley, CEO</b> Health Partners Canada</p> <p><i>16 organizations offering more than 1200 local programs and services across Canada</i></p>
<p><b>Henry Kim, CEO</b> Aga Khan Museum</p> <p><i>250,000 visitors and program participants annually</i></p>	<p><b>Refat Jiwani, Board member</b> Imagine Canada</p>
<p><b>Laura Manning, Executive Director</b> Lyle S. Hallman Foundation</p> <p><i>Granting support to 80 organizations for programs reaching more than 15,000 people</i></p>	<p><b>Maud Cohen, President &amp; CEO</b> Fondation CHU Sainte-Justine</p> <p><i>Serving more than 300,000 children, adolescents, and mothers annually.</i></p>
<p><b>Owen Charters, President &amp; CEO</b> Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada</p> <p><i>87 chapters and 200,000 children and youth served across Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Marcia Carroll, Board member</b> PEI Community Sector Network</p>
<p><b>Sandy Houston, President &amp; CEO</b> Metcalf Foundation</p> <p><i>Supports organizations in the fields of the environment, performing arts, and inclusive local economies</i></p>	<p><b>John Rafferty, President &amp; CEO</b> Canadian National Institute for the Blind</p> <p><i>56 locations serving 1.5 million people</i></p>
<p><b>Heather Norris, CEO</b> Ottawa Network for Education</p>	<p><b>Teri Nicholas, CEO</b> BC Children's Hospital Foundation</p>



<i>Served more than 38,000 people last year</i>	<i>Supports 3 institutions serving more than 93,000 patients annually</i>
<b>Kevin McCort, President &amp; CEO</b> Vancouver Foundation  <i>Supports more than 1,700 organizations annually</i>	<b>Marcia Nozick, CEO</b> EMBERS  <i>Serves more than 2,000 people annually</i>
<b>Connie Côté, CEO</b> Health Charities Coalition of Canada	<b>Karen Link, CEO</b> Volunteer Alberta  <i>Representing 26 volunteer centres across Alberta</i>
<b>Sharaf Sharafeldin, Executive Director</b> Muslim Association of Canada  <i>13 chapters serving 60,000 Canadians weekly</i>	<b>David Armour, President</b> United Church of Canada Foundation  <i>Funds 519 organizations that serve more than 500,000 Canadians</i>
<b>David LePage, Managing Partner</b> BuySocial Canada	<b>Sandra Richardson, CEO</b> Victoria Foundation  <i>Supports 600 organizations providing services to more than 10,000 people</i>
<b>Martin Garber-Conrad, CEO</b> Edmonton Community Foundation  <i>Supports 700 charities that serve approximately 250,000 Canadians</i>	<b>Claudette Leclerc, CEO and Executive Director</b> Manitoba Museum  <i>On-site attendance of 300,000 annually, including 85,000 students</i>
<b>Doug Pawson, Executive Director</b> End Homelessness St. John's  <i>Supports 15 organizations in St. John's, NF</i>	<b>Connie Walker, President &amp; CEO</b> United Way Winnipeg  <i>Supports more than 100 health and social service agencies, serving more than 350,000 people annually</i>
<b>Barbara Cartwright, CEO</b> Humane Canada  <i>Represents 55 Humane Societies and SPCAs across Canada</i>	<b>Christopher Hatch, CEO</b> Food Banks Canada  <i>Represents 650 food banks serving more than 700,000 Canadians</i>

<p><b>Caroline Riseboro, CEO</b> Trillium Health Partners Foundation</p> <p><i>3 hospital campuses serving 2.2 million people</i></p>	<p><b>Terry Cooke, CEO</b> Hamilton Community Foundation</p> <p><i>Supports 307 organizations providing service to around 580,000 people</i></p>
<p><b>Jo-Anne Ryan, Executive Director</b> Private Giving Foundation</p>	<p><b>Ali Salam, Board member</b> Imagine Canada</p>
<p><b>Brynn Boback-Lane, President &amp; CEO</b> Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation</p>	<p><b>Kevin Keohane, President &amp; CEO</b> CHEO Foundation</p>
<p><b>Paulette Senior, CEO</b> Canadian Women's Foundation</p> <p><i>Supports 73 programs benefiting more than 9,000 Canadians</i></p>	<p><b>Sue Tomney, CEO</b> YW Calgary</p> <p><i>More than 5,000 women and children supported annually</i></p>
<p><b>Jennifer Conley, Chief Advancement Officer</b> Carleton University</p> <p><i>Serves more than 31,000 students</i></p>	<p><b>Barbara Stead-Coyle, Chief Executive Officer</b> Muscular Dystrophy Canada</p>
<p><b>Michelle Capobianco, CEO</b> Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation</p> <p><i>Serves 5,000 Canadians</i></p>	<p><b>Tammy Moore, Chief Executive Officer</b> ALS Society of Canada</p> <p><i>Supports 8 client service branches and more than 40 researchers and serves 3,000 Canadians with ALS plus their families and caregivers</i></p>
<p><b>Commissioner Floyd J. Tidd</b> The Salvation Army</p> <p><i>Has locations in 400 Canadian communities and serves 1.7 million Canadians annually</i></p>	<p><b>Dale Monaghan, CEO</b> Goodwill Industries of Alberta</p> <p><i>Has 18 branches and serves 1.9 million Albertans</i></p>
<p><b>Bev Heim-Myers, CEO</b> Huntington Society of Canada</p> <p><i>Serving 7000 Canadians</i></p>	<p><b>Joyce Gordon</b> Parkinson Canada</p> <p><i>Has 7 local offices and over 120 support groups and supports 100,000 people with Parkinson's and an additional 400,000 directly affected by Parkinson's</i></p>
<p><b>Dick Vollet, CEO</b></p>	<p><b>Michael Allen, CEO</b></p>

<p>St. Paul's Foundation of Vancouver</p> <p><i>Serving 600,000+ Canadians</i></p>	<p>United Way East Ontario</p>
<p><b>Sheldon Pollett, Executive Director</b> Choices for Youth</p> <p><i>Serving 1,500+ Canadians annually</i></p>	<p><b>Patricia Barbato, CEO</b> The Arthritis Society</p> <p><i>Serving 1 million Canadians</i></p>
<p><b>Stephen Cornish, CEO</b> David Suzuki Foundation</p> <p><i>Reaching 1 million Canadians</i></p>	<p><b>The Kidney Foundation of Canada</b> Elizabeth Myles, National Executive Director</p> <p><i>Has 8 branches, over 40 chapters and serves over 200,000 Canadians</i></p>
<p><b>Cathy Barrick, Chief Executive Officer</b> Alzheimer Society of Ontario</p>	<p><b>Doug Earle, CEO</b> Fighting Blindness Canada</p> <p><i>Serving more than 60,000 Canadians</i></p>
<p><b>Riz Ibrahim, Executive Director</b> CERIC</p> <p><i>Serving more than 60,000 Canadians</i></p>	<p><b>George Habib, President and CEO</b> Lung Health Foundation</p> <p><i>Representing the 1 in 5 Canadians with lung disease</i></p>
<p><b>Charles Robert, CEO</b> Live Different</p> <p><i>Impacting more than 120,000 Canadians</i></p>	<p><b>KELLY GROVER, PRESIDENT &amp; CEO</b> CYSTIC FIBROSIS CANADA</p> <p><i>With 51 chapters serving more than 4,000 Canadians living with Cystic Fibrosis and their families</i></p>

## March 23 Letter - Sector Quotes

### SUB-SECTOR: SOCIAL SERVICES; ANIMAL WELFARE

“Humane Societies, SPCAs and Animal Shelters across the country are closing to the public, reducing services and preparing for an increased demand. We expect the need for our sector’s services and associated expenses will continue to climb, with no corresponding revenue streams. An immediate and steep decline in donations has led to significant reductions in staff and services. **Our sector is anticipating increased animal surrenders due to economic stress, increased animal protection calls, increasing reliance on pet food banking and high need for compassionate boarding for people quarantined, hospitalized or fleeing increased violence in the home.** Our shelters are struggling without adequate resources including Personal Protective Equipment and hand sanitizer, as well as not being deemed essential services. **We are concerned this will create a perfect storm that could significantly impact the animal care and protection system in Canada.**”

**Barbara Cartwright, CEO - Humane Canada**

“The last few weeks have seen a dramatic reduction in services for children and families in vulnerable situations. Many organizations who were offering family enhancement and prevention programming have either shut down programs or moved services online. **We are very concerned for the safety and well-being of children whose families were already coping with multiple difficulties** (e.g. addiction, intergenerational trauma, family violence, food insecurity) in a context of poverty.”

**Rachel Guoin, Executive Director - Child Welfare League**

“We’re already seeing the dramatic impact and challenges COVID-19 is putting on the food bank network in Canada. **I’m impressed with the devotion and ingenuity of food banks, working tirelessly to provide the much needed food for those living in poverty.** And, for now, they are doing it despite COVID-19 challenges like drastic reductions in volunteers and local food donations in addition to having to modify their operations for social distancing. But they need help – which is why we are appealing to the public to donate on our website. **In a country that sees 1.1 million visits each month to a food bank in normal times, we are concerned for what’s ahead as the economic situation worsens and more people lose their jobs.**”

**Chris Hatch, Chief Executive Officer - Food Banks Canada**

## SUB SECTOR: NETWORK LEADS

“Community organizations are incurring additional costs to adapt to public health requirements while continuing to deliver essential services connecting vulnerable Canadians with the resources they need. **Social enterprises, co-ops and other forms of citizen engagement and mutual-aid will be critical to community well-being and to the recovery afterwards.** We strongly support Imagine Canada’s recommendations, which should be a central part of the federal government’s COVID-19 response.”

**Michael Toye, Executive Director - CCEDNet**

“The community sector is central to the economic and social well-being in every community in Newfoundland and Labrador. **In addition to providing services for seniors, youth, persons requiring support and mental health services non profits are often the primary life line which enables volunteers as well as employees to meet such needs.** The sector is an important economic generator enabling small businesses to exist. Our research indicates that the community sector is a major employer with at least 16,000 people employed in nonprofit organizations [in Newfoundland alone], yet many are fragile operating on a month to month basis. Many young people are employed during the summer months by nonprofits which enables them to help pay for their education. The sector is also fundamental to tourism, theatres, museums, and cultural endeavours all of which generate revenues which flow into the economy. All these organizations are driven by volunteers. The Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes that governments at all levels are navigating our country through unbelievably challenging times. We acknowledge the incredible efforts being made by our elected and bureaucratic officials. We encourage you to recognize the absolutely essential role of the nonprofit sector as you move forward to help secure our country and we extend our services to aid in any way possible.”

**Penelope M Rowe, CEO - Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador**

“Over the past few days, ONN has heard from countless organizations that are **facing a “triple whammy” - an abrupt loss of revenue from the cancellation of fundraising events and a steep drop-off in donations; the closure of offices and cancellation of programs/services due to pandemic restrictions; and unprecedented human resource challenges in terms of both paid staff and volunteering and donations.** Arts organizations are having to cancel shows, recreation centres have been shut due to the state of emergency, and front-line social services and residential homes are struggling to provide services safely without access to adequate testing and personal protection equipment (PPE). Catering, courier, and retail social enterprises that employ people with disabilities have had to close up shop. Food banks have two weeks of supplies left, at most. **The situation is dire. Many nonprofits do not know how they can continue to pay staff and are beginning to lay off workers.** ONN’s own 2019 State of the Sector survey showed that almost half of Ontario’s nonprofits do not have adequate reserve funds to last three months. We are deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 and the related economic downturn on our sector and the communities we serve. We hope that governments at all levels, as well as other funders and donors, will step up to ensure that

nonprofits and charities can continue to meet their missions and serve their communities in these extremely challenging times.”

**Cathy Taylor, Executive Director - Ontario Nonprofit Network**

**“Non-profits and charities in BC are on the front lines, holding relationships with the most vulnerable in this unprecedented time and doing all they can to protect and support communities across the province.** But these same, vitally important organizations are struggling to keep their doors open, and meet payroll to keep staff safe and in place. Even if a non-profit has an operating reserve, spending it now means putting off closing their doors. **Civil society – social services, arts and culture, family support, transition houses, seniors centres, counselling and referral, volunteer centres and programs – we are the third sector and without us the economy and communities will fail.** We are the frontline and we will falter without support.”

**Alison Brewin, Executive Director - Vantage Point**

“Our network and these organizations are made up of talented, skilled individuals who care deeply about an organization’s cause or mission. **The question on the mind of an organization is, “How can we support our staff during this time of uncertainty?”** Many are concerned over losing their key staff and how to float salaries while operating with reduced or even cancelled programming. To another extreme, some organizations are concerned for the health and safety of their staff as they put in long hours in conditions that put them at risk. People are at the heart of the nonprofit and charitable sector and the sector needs help to provide stability and retain its staff.”

**Gemma Dunn, Executive Director - Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations**

“Volunteer engagement, within the context of a public health crisis, raises many questions as organizations assess the evolving risks and needs in our communities. **For many volunteers, volunteering has provided an important connection to the community and has contributed to a sense of purpose.** Staying away can be difficult, especially for those living alone. Many organizations are reaching out to volunteers to check-in and pay attention to the risks of social isolation.”

**Paula Speevak, President and CEO - Volunteer Canada**

“Nonprofits and charities in London and the region have seen a drastic increase in the need for their services with significant reductions in revenue, cancellations of programs and events and layoffs to staff. **Further, we have seen the over 100 social enterprises in our community who rely on the sales of products and services like all small businesses have their ability to earn revenue cut to nothing.** The nonprofit sector is a social and economic driver in every corner of this country and immediate attention to address its ability to continue now and to be standing as we come through this COVID-19 is critical to the health and resilience of communities.”

**Michelle Baldwin, Executive Director - Pillar Nonprofit Network**

**“Within only a few days nonprofits in Saskatchewan have had to manage through a myriad of challenges and are struggling to balance between providing safe programming and protecting their staff and volunteers.** Many programs and services have closed and in some cases then had to re-open on very short notice (particularly child care centres to support essential services workers). Revenues lost through the closure or cancellation of fee-generating programs, fundraising initiatives and social enterprises is inestimable at this time. With more than 30% of nonprofits with fewer than 3 months of cash reserves the ability of these organizations to continue is questionable. Many funders are indicating they will be flexible and supportive in the short term however uncertainty in the longer term is present, and particularly what resources will be available to support a timely recovery when programs are able to re-open. While organizations are being creative in developing alternate and safe means of program delivery, managing human resources is becoming especially problematic within this environment. Relief funds are beginning to emerge to support communities and the sector, however demand is increasing and particularly to support those who are most vulnerable, ensuring food security, shelter, and social supports.”

**Tracey Mann, Chair - Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership**

“Our mission is to stimulate a world of generosity and positive social good through fundraising best practices. There is no doubt that COVID-19 has had and will continue to have a significant impact on our work and the work of our members. We recently made the decision to switch our conference to a completely online event ([AFP ICON VIRTUAL](#)) and we know our chapters are considering similar options for their events. The work of our members—professional fundraisers—provides vital funding that makes a big difference in our communities. **With the cancellation of fundraising events, the reduction of individual and corporate giving, our members are certainly feeling the impact of this crisis. We anticipate that it will have a long-lasting impact not only for our sector, but for all those who are served by the charities across our country.**”

**Lisa Davey, Vice President - Association of Fundraising Professionals Canada**

“We are hearing concerns from the Sector about funding and being supported during this time. **Not many in the sector have reserve funds that can carry them for long** and fundraisers have been and will continue to be cancelled.”

**Sandra Oakley, Co-chairperson in the Executive Board - Manitoba federation of nonprofit organizations**

## SUB SECTOR: FOUNDATIONS

“We’re bracing for the gendered impacts of COVID-19 on women, girls, and trans and non-binary people in Canada. For instance, research and past evidence suggests that women could face spikes in gender-based victimization, overwhelming unpaid caregiving and economic stress, and lowered access to life-saving help such as domestic violence services. **Some will be at greater risk, including migrant women, street-involved women, and women who are**

**incarcerated and institutionalized. An initial survey of some of our anti-trafficking service providers has revealed that almost all of their face-to-face services have ground to a halt. This puts very vulnerable women in a dire position where COVID-19 will be only one of many threats to their lives and well-being.** If we don't specifically act to bolster services that reduce gender inequalities, this pandemic could have a devastating impact on the gains Canada has pushed for when it comes to equity for all."

**Anuradha Dugal, Senior Director, Community Initiatives and Policy - The Canadian Women's Foundation**

#### SUB-SECTOR: HEALTH

"In response to COVID-19, the CNIB Foundation has expanded its virtual program offerings to combat social isolation and foster community engagement among Canadians who are blind or partially sighted. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have been forced to cancel all of our philanthropy events, including Dining in the Dark dinners and one-of-a-kind galas, that raise significant funds for the organization. **We are also concerned that the economic uncertainty will pause charitable donations made to the CNIB Foundation for the foreseeable future.**"

**Angela Bonfanti, Senior Vice President - CNIB**

"Hope Air's central mission is to help Canadians dealing with financial challenges, with free travel and accommodation to medical care far from home. Across all provinces, Hope Air ensures that Canadians have access to the medical care they require. The COVID-19 pandemic has created enormous financial hardship for individuals and families. **Combined with the disruption to the Canadian airline industry, as well as the health care sector, much greater demand for our programs will take place in the weeks ahead.** We require the necessary resources to be able to respond to this increased demand on a timely basis"

**Mike Rubinstein, CEO - Hope Air**

#### SUB-SECTOR: ARTS & CULTURE

"The biggest challenge is we don't know how long this will go on - **when we will be in a position to earn revenue and fundraise again.** We have to ask what a new normal state of operations will be going into the future. What is the size of staff and programming that we will be able to sustain given a decrease in audiences and fundraising?"

**Claudette Leclerc, CEO - Manitoba Museum**

#### SUB-SECTOR: SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

"Our most vulnerable populations are more marginalized than ever, with social distancing, social isolation, decreased food security, and overall economy uncertainty compounding their current



challenges. We know that we will be facing more restrictions and more uncertainty in the coming days and weeks ahead, and our organization will continue to provide as much support as is possible – and safe – to offer youth and young families in our community. However, **the needs of vulnerable youth will continue to grow and we will be forced to make hard decisions about how to support them based on decreased capacity and uncertain funding and economic futures.** As Governments of all levels work to make additional and emergency funding available for the charitable sector, we hope to see flexibility in current funding agreements to allow organizations to respond directly to the current pandemic and to properly support and care for clients during this public health crisis.”

**Sheldon Pollett, Executive Director - Choices for Youth**

“I think the first shock waves are here, we know the next few months will be crisis response and short term interventions and survival. **But I am now starting to really worry about what will be the long term sector impact?** We all need to hold hope, and begin very soon to co-create a plan for the future of a more resilient and effective community non-profit and social enterprise sector...”

**David LePage, Managing Partner - BuySocial Canada**

“**The community sector has always responded in times of crisis.** There are three areas of concern right now. First, it's never been more important to support our community organizations by investing into front line staff. Making strategic investments into staffing will ensure our most vulnerable neighbours have the support, services and resources they need to navigate through the challenges brought about by COVID-19. With these unprecedented times upon us, it is also critical for the Federal Government to invest in the charitable sector by ensuring investments into critical resources can be rapidly deployed to the front lines. A system-level response will ensure timely and efficient access to vital front line services for our most vulnerable neighbours. Finally, it's crucial to recognize that social enterprises make significant economic and social contributions to their communities. It is imperative that the Federal Government include social enterprises that are negatively impacted to ensure that they have the financial resources to continue operations and meet their social obligations.”

**Douglas Pawson, Executive Director - End Homelessness St. John's**

“In Quebec alone, 8400 enterprising non-profits generate over \$8.6G dollars every year. Non profit organisations that do not sell goods or services nonetheless have to pay salaries, rent and sometimes mortgages even while all of their activities (and therefore sources of funding) are suspended. **In all cases the closure of these organisations threatens the economic and social wellbeing of millions of Canadians, particularly if it is permanent.** From cultural organisations forced to close their operations, to homecare and childcare organisations forced to operate at reduced capacity, to organisations that integrate people far from the labour market, the loss of these essential local services would be economically and socially devastating.”

**Béatrice Alain, Executive Director - Chantier de l'Économie sociale**