

March 25, 2020

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Navdeep Bains, PC, MP
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, PC, MP
President of the Treasury Board

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier, PC, MP
Minister of National Revenue

Hon. Bill Morneau, PC, MP
Minister of Finance

Hon. Carla Qualtrough, PC, MP
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers:

As a coalition of Canadian charities, we are writing to request urgent financial aid and federal action to prevent our organizations from suffering irreparable damage amid the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when more and more Canadians and vulnerable families throughout the world will be in desperate need of our services.

Canada's charities are a vital part of the Canadian economy, contributing more than eight percent of Canada's GDP (\$162 billion in 2017) and employing more than ten percent (1.4 million) of working Canadians. But our work is best evident in what we do in our communities and to support the most vulnerable at home and abroad. During the COVID-19 crisis, we will be on the frontlines providing shelter and food for the homeless, protecting seniors and youth, helping women fleeing violence, supporting healthcare and mental health, strengthening education and the environment, and helping vulnerable children and families at home and around the world. Our work will be critical to maintaining the social cohesion necessary for the fight against COVID-19 and the survival and recovery of Canadians and communities everywhere as we confront this enormous crisis together.

The COVID-19 crisis and the resulting economic fallout is threatening to quickly destroy Canada's charitable sector. Without immediate support from the Government of Canada, most Canadian charities will be forced to lay off substantial numbers of employees, will no longer be able to support vulnerable people, communities and animals, and many will face a significant likelihood of total and permanent closure.

Charities are particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 crisis because our organizations rely on a steady stream of donations, business support and government investments to survive. All of these revenue sources have been disrupted and are under threat. To appeal to donors, meet the demands of regulators and best serve our beneficiaries, our charities are low-overhead and

operate on razor-thin margins. To sustain trust in our operations, we do not carry large financial savings, investments, or credit sources. We are defenseless against COVID-19's disruption with very few tools to overcome its impact.

Without immediate intervention to save Canada's charitable sector, Canadians will not only lose a major source of employment and economic activity, they will also lose their most active community partners - partners who are well positioned to respond to, manage, and help aid the recovery from this crisis at home and abroad. Without the presence of charities supporting Canada and the world's recovery, more and more vulnerable members of our society and world will be at risk, which in turn will worsen and deepen the impact of COVID-19 for all Canadians.

We appreciate the extraordinary efforts of the Government of Canada so far to address this crisis. However, these measures are not focussed on Canada's charities and are not enough to sustain our existence. Given the severity of the situation facing Canada's charities, we are calling on the Government to take the following emergency actions, in line with proposals under consideration in the United States, Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom:

1. The immediate establishment of an emergency stabilization fund that will allow charities to stay afloat, pay staff, cover critical expenses, and continue essential, frontline operations during the pandemic. Given our sector's significant employment numbers and GDP contributions, we estimate that this fund will need to be at least \$10 billion to be effective – a total that is proportional to the size and impact of the sector.
2. Provide financial support through and guarantees to Canada's banks to ensure that charitable organizations have easy access to urgent, substantial short term low or no-interest loans to support their operations. This partnership should encourage the rapid distribution of these funds.
3. Enhance the Charitable Donation Tax Credit through to the end of 2021 from 50% to 75% (in line with the rate that is provided for political donations) to encourage Canadians to donate.
4. Continue to flow already-contracted funds to charities and allow for maximum flexibility and re-budgeting as charities struggle to deliver and/or redesign their programs in the wake of COVID-19. In other words, do not delay or cancel payment on grants as charities work furiously to assess how they can and should program to keep their stakeholders safe.
5. Ensure that charities have access to the same recovery programs that businesses do at every step.

We also support the efforts and recommendations put forward by Imagine Canada in their letters sent to the Government of Canada over the past two weeks.

We believe that a virtual meeting with you or your designates would be essential to pushing forward a plan for Canada's charities.

We understand that all sectors are struggling to stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are difficult, frightening and uncertain days for everyone. We thank you for all that you are doing. Nevertheless, the charitable sector is uniquely vulnerable and our collapse would threaten millions of children, women and families in Canada and around the world who rely on our ongoing operations.

Please help us be there for those who need us most, now more than ever.

With thanks,

The Undersigned Leaders of 95 of Canada's Charities

Supporting Organization	Representative	Title
ABC Head Start Society	Walter Lidster	Executive Director
Action Against Hunger	Danny Glenwright	Executive Director
Aids Free World	Paula Donovan	Co-Founder and Co-Director
Alberta Council for Environmental Education	Gareth Thomson	Executive Director
Alzheimer Society of Canada	Stephen McCullough	Executive Director
Amref Health Africa	Onome Ako	Executive Director
Artbound	Amanda Alvaro	Co-Founder and President, Pomp & Circumstance
Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Toronto	Caroline Riseboro	President
Breast Cancer Society of Canada	Kimberly Carson	CEO
Camp Ooch and Camp Trillium	Alex Robertson	CEO
Canadian Cancer Society	Andrea Seale	CEO
Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association	Laura Solberg	Executive Director
Canadian Civil Liberties Association	Michael Bryant	Executive Director
Canadian Council for International Co-operation	Nicolas Moyer	President and CEO
Canadian Feed The Children	Jacquelyn Wright	President and CEO
Canadian Foodgrains Bank	Jim Cornelius	Executive Director
Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse	Kathy Majowski	Board Chair
CARE Canada	Mara O'Brien	President and CEO
Catalyst Canada	Tanya van Biesen	Executive Director, Canada
Centre for International Studies and Cooperation	Claudia Black	Executive Director
Community Food Centres Canada	Nick Saul	CEO
Compassion Canada	Allison Alley	President and CEO
Covenant House Toronto	Mark Aston	Executive Director
Crohns and Colitis Canada	Mina Mawani	President and CEO
Crossroads International	Heather Shapter	Executive Director
David Suzuki Foundation	Stephen Cornish	CEO
Diabetes Canada	Russell Williams	Acting President
Easter Seals	Dave Starrett	President and CEO
Ecojustice	Devon Page	Executive Director
Engineers Without Borders	Boris Martin, PhD	CEO
Evergreen	Geoff Cape	Founder and CEO
Farm Radio International	Kevin Perkins	Executive Director
Foundation for Environmental Stewardship	Steve Lee	Founder and President

Friends of the Earth	Beatrice Olivastri	CEO
Gastrointestinal Society	Gail Attara	President & CEO
Global Vision/Vision Internationale	Amy Giroux	Executive Director
Heart and Stroke Foundation	Geoff Craig	Chief Marketing & Development Officer
Humanity and Inclusion Canada (Handicap International)	Jérôme Bobin	Executive Director
Indspire	Roberta L. Jamieson	President and CEO
Institute for Canadian Citizenship	Yasir Naqvi	CEO
International Development and Relief Foundation	Mahmood Qasim	CEO
Intriciti	Alana Walker Carpenter	CEO
Islamic Relief Canada	Zaid Al-Rawni	CEO
JA Canada	Scott Hillier	President and CEO
JA Central Ontario	Jane Eisbrenner	President & CEO
JA Northern Alberta & NWT	Jennifer Martin	President and CEO
JA Nova Scotia	Kristin S. Williams	President and CEO
JA Peterborough Lakeland Muskoka	John McNutt	President and CEO
Jack.org	Eric Windeler	Founder & Executive Director
Journalists for Human Rights	Rachel Pulfer	Executive Director
KidsHelpPhone	Kathy Hay	President & CEO
Lymphoma Canada	Antonella Rizza	CEO
MADD - Mothers Against Drunk Driving	Andrew Murie	CEO
Make Music Matter	Darcy Ataman	Founder and CEO
Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation	Suzette Strong	CEO
Meal Exchange	Farheen Khan	Interim Executive Director
Médecins du Monde Canada	Nadja Pollaert	Executive Director
Mennonite Central Committee	Rick Cober Bauman	Executive Director
Mission Inclusion	Richard Veenstra	Executive Director
MLSE LaunchPad	Tanya Mruck	Executive Director
MusiCounts	Kristy Fletcher	Executive Director
North Bay Regional Health Centre Foundation	Tammy Morison	President and CEO
ONE	Stuart Hickox	Canada Director
Ottawa Network for Education	Heather Norris	President and CEO
Pancreatic Cancer Canada	Michelle Capobianco	CEO
Parachute	Pamela Fuselli	President and CEO
Partners in Health	Mark Brender	National Director

PLAN International Canada	Dr. Tanjina Mirza	Interim Co-CEO/Chief Programs Officer
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund	Will Postma	Executive Director
Prison Fellowship Canada	Stacey Campbell	CEO
Right to Play	Kevin Frey	CEO
Save the Children	Bill Chambers	President and CEO
Southlake Foundation	Susan Mullin	CEO
Stephen Lewis Foundation	Meg French	Executive Director
Swim Drink Fish CANADA	Mark Mattson	President
The Canadian Breast Cancer Network	Cathy Ammendolea	CBCN's Board Chair
The International Development and Relief Foundation	Mahmood Qasim	CEO
The Learning Partnership	Debra D. Kerby, MSc MBA	President and CEO
The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative	Dr. Shelly Whitman	Executive Director
The Walrus Foundation	Shelley Ambrose	Executive Director
Toronto Humane Society	Jacques Messier	CEO
Trillium Health Partners	Caroline Riseboro	President and CEO
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto	Adam Minsky	President and CEO
UNICEF Canada	David Morley	President and CEO
United Way Centraide Canada	Dan Clement	President and CEO
Veterinarians Without Borders	Monique Charron	Acting Executive Director
War Child Canada	Dr. Samantha Nutt	Founder and President
We Charity	Dalal Al-Waheidi	Executive Director
Western Canada Wilderness Committee	Beth Clarke	Executive Director
World Vision	Michael Messenger	President and CEO
YMCA Canada	Peter Dinsdale	President and CEO
YMCA Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford	Jim Commerford	President and CEO
YMCA of Greater Toronto	Medhat Mahdy	President and CEO
YMCA Ontario	Medhat Mahdy	President
Yonge Street Mission	Angie Peters	President and CEO

cc: Ian Shugart, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet
Graham Flack, Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Development
Bob Hamilton, Commissioner of the CRA
Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Canada
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister of Finance
Peter Wallace, Secretary of the Treasury Board