

April 7, 2020

Letter sent by email from 314 non-profits, charities and their partners to:

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

Hon. Bill Morneau, PC, MP
Minister of Finance

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

Hon. Ahmed Hussen, PC, MP
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

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

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

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

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

We are writing to request that the new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program be made immediately available to all charities and community non-profits, rather than requiring us to experience a devastating 30% revenue loss before becoming eligible. Such a test is not appropriate for this sector, which has a different financial structure than the private business. Canada cannot afford at this time to see the charitable and non-profit sector thrown into further crisis.

As you know, charities and non-profits form a vital part of our social fabric. Many are on the front lines of the COVID-19 response, providing a wide range of health and social services. They work directly with the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our communities, including seniors, people with disabilities, those living in poverty or experiencing homelessness or hunger, women and children dealing with violence and people struggling with mental health issues or addictions—to name just a few.

Most charities and non-profits are not primarily in the business of selling goods or services. Their revenues typically arrive at various key points in the year in response to fundraising appeals and events, membership fees, grants from institutional funders (including governments and foundations), and business sponsorships. Requiring them to show a 30 per cent drop in gross revenues compared to a year ago in order to access the wage subsidy doesn't make

sense. Relief should be extended to non-profits and charities proactively, before they are forced to lay off staff, abandon leases, or even shutter permanently.

Many charities and non-profits are seeing an increase in demand for their services during the pandemic, but without a commensurate boost in revenues to support that increased demand. In addition to providing direct services, these organizations play an essential advocacy role, highlighting and seeking to address many of the inequities and gaps in our social safety net that have become so glaring in recent weeks as the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Charities and non-profits are also the engine that keeps whole sectors of our economy—like the arts—alive.

Charities and non-profits operate differently than private enterprise and face a number of unique challenges. They generally do not carry significant cash reserves and most organizations are not able to access emergency capital through lines of credit or bridging loans. The sector also relies on millions of volunteers at a time when physical distancing is challenging normal service delivery models. Given the realities facing the sector, it is inappropriate to subject these organizations to the same eligibility test as corporations.

Charities and non-profits—by definition—do not operate to make a profit, so the worst that will happen as a result of extending immediate assistance is that some organizations may experience a net boost in revenues, but one that is directly used in the community or that bolsters reserve funds going into a prolonged recession.

We implore you to make charities and non-profits immediately eligible for the CEWS. It is an easy and important fix. Communities can't wait.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Daub, BC Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
604-780-9133 or shannon@policyalternatives.ca together with:

1JustCity	ANIDA
À deux mains / Head & Hands	Animals in Science Policy Institute
Abilities Manitoba	Archway Society for Domestic Peace
Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg	Arts Council of New Westminster
Aboriginal Mother Centre Society	ArtsForward
Access Pro Bono Society of BC	ArtStarts
Active Support Against Poverty	Association Of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE)
Aids Vancouver Island	Atira Development Society
Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society	Aunt Leah's Place
Alexandra Neighbourhood House	BC Artscape
Ambioterra	BC Civil Liberties Association

BC Council for Families	Canadian Mental Health Association, National
BC Healthy Communities Society	Canadian Mental Health Association, Vancouver – Fraser Branch
BC Library Association	Canadian Mental Health Association; Vernon and District Branch
BC Non-Profit Housing Association	Canadian Muslim Women’s Institute
BC SPCA	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, British Columbia
Be the Change Earth Alliance	Capilano Students’ Union
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North & West Niagara	Caravan Farm Theatre
Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver	Catalyst Community Developments Society
Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island	Center for Epilepsy & Seizure Education
Broadbent Institute	Central City Foundation
Caetani Cultural Centre Society	Central Food Network
Calgary Catholic Education Foundation	Centre d’éducation financière EBO
Campaign 2000	Centre for Studies and International Cooperation (CECI)
Campbell River, Courtenay & District Labour Council	Chalmers Community Services Centre
Can You Imagine Preschool	Check Your Head: the Youth Global Education Network
Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance (CADDRA)	Children First Canada
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation
Canadian Community Economic Development Network	CHILLIWACK RESOURCE CENTRE
Canadian Federation of Students	Chrysalis Drug and Alcohol Abuse Recovery Society
Canadian Goodwill Industries	Chuntoh Education Society
Canadian Mental Health Association	Circle of Life Thunderbird House
Canadian Mental Health Association – Cariboo Chilcotin Branch	CMA
Canadian Mental Health Association – Cowichan Valley Branch	Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Canadian Mental Health Association – Kelowna & District Branch	Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Canadian Mental Health Association – SOS Branch	Columbia College
Canadian Mental Health Association – South Cariboo	Community Action Initiative
	Community Bridge
	Community Legal Assistance Society

Community Social Planning Council	DreamRider Productions Society
Connect Employment Services Inc.	Dundarave Festival
Conseil culturel et artistique francophone CB	Eastside Culture Crawl Society
Conseil québécois LGBT	Eating Disorders NS
Conseil régional FTQ Montréal métropolitain	EDAM Dance
Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan	Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations
Continuity Care Inc.	Elizabethfry society
Coolaid	Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society
Corporation de développement communautaire de Beauport	Environmental Youth Alliance
Corporation de Développement Communautaire de Vaudreuil-Soulanges	Equal Opportunities West
Corporation de Développement Communautaire du Haut-Saint-Laurent	Exchange Inner City
Council of Canadians	Explore & Discover Early Learning Centre
Covenant House Vancouver	Fédération des syndicats de l'action collective (FSAC-CSQ)
Craig Street Cats	Federation of Calgary Communities
Creating Accessible Neighbourhoods	Femmes autochtones du Quebec
Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC	First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition
CSD	First United Church Community Ministry Society
Csq	Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Inc.
Cyrus Centre Ministries	Focus on Nature
Cythera Transition House Society	Folklorama
David Suzuki Foundation	Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society
Dawn House Services and Housing for Women, Inc	Fort St John Métis Society
Decolonizing Practices / Nahanee Creative	Fort St. John Literacy Society
Disability Alliance BC	Fraser River Indigenous Society
Disability Foundation	Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society	Fsac csq
Dogwood	Furniture Bank
Down syndrome resource foundation	Gastrointestinal Society
	Georgia Strait Alliance

Global Youth Education Network Society//Next UP	Keewatinowi Awasisak Opi-Ki-Wak, Inc./ Grassroots ELCCC
Graceland Ministries	Kekinow Native Housing Society
Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation	Kinbrace Community Society
GREEN COMMUNITIES CANADA	La Boussole, centre communautaire Francophone
Green Teams of Canada	La maison sous les arbres
GRFPQ	Ladysmith Family and Friends
Groupe de recherche et de formation sur la pauvreté au Québec	Ladysmith Resources Centre Association
H.I.M. Health Initiative for Men Society	Last Door Recovery Society
Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver	Leadership Victoria Society
Handy Circle Resource Society	LGBT YouthLine
Health Sciences Association of British Columbia	Lillooet Friendship Centre Society
Hello Cool World	Living in Community
Helping Hands	Living Oceans Society
Helping Spirit Lodge Society	Living Wage Canada
Hollyburn Family Services Society	Mennonite Central Committee Canada
Home Routes / Chemin Chez Nous	Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba
Hope for Freedom Society	Mennonite Central Committee Ontario
ID2 Communications Inc – Communications for Sustainable Communities	Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan
IMPACT Parkinson’s Society	Millennial Womxn in Policy
Indian Summer Arts Society	MOSAIC
Islamic Social Services Association	Museum of Vancouver
Island Prostate Centre	National Campus and Community Radio Association
ITALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN CANADA WEST	NEC NATIVE EDUCATION COLLEGE
James Bay New Horizons	Network of Inner City Community Services Society
Jennifer Ashleigh Children’s Charity	New View Society
Jewish Seniors Alliance of Greater Vancouver	New Westminster Family Place
Journey Home Community Association	Nobel Women’s Initiative
Jubilee United Church	NorteSur Artistic Productions
	North Shore Community Resources

Northern Health Authority	Sarasvati Productions
Nursery Two Child Care	Sasamat Outdoor Centre
Oak Table Inc.	scfp
ONE TO ONE Literacy	SCFP 1500
OPEN Technologies	Schubert Centre Society
OpenMedia	Section locale 571, SEPB-Québec
Options Community Services Society	Semiahmoo House Society
Options for Sexual Health	Seniors Services Society of BC
Outward Bound Canada	Seniors Serving Seniors
Pacific Immigrant Resource Society	Sentiers Québec-Charlevoix
Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society	SEPB section locale 574
Phoenix Society	SFU Centre for Dialogue
Po Yuen Taoist Centre Society	SFU Public Square
Polaris Institute	Sierra Club BC
Port Alberni Friendship Center	Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries
Positive Living North	Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
Prince George New Hope Society	Social Venture Partners Vancouver
Québec Native Women	Société francophone de Maillardville
Rabble.ca	Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby
Réseau des tables régionales de groupes de femmes du Québec	Sooke Shelter Society
Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes	Sources Community Resources Society
Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation	South Granville Seniors Centre
Reseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique	South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH)
Richmond Poverty Response Committee	Southside Community Church
Rivershed Society of BC	SPEC
Russian School Svetlyachok	Spectrum Society for Community Living
Ryde Lake Camp	Spirit of the Children Society
S.P.L.A.S.H. Child Care Inc.	Splash Child Care
Salt Spring Arts Council	Splash child care Inc
Sam Sullivan Disability Foundation	St. Amant Foundation
Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries	St. James-Assiniboia Montessori Assoc. Inc.
SARA for Women Society	St. Vital Child Care Co-op Inc.

Stanley Knowles Children's Centre Inc.	UBC School of Social Work
Stars of Promise Inc	Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op
Still Moon Arts Society	Umoja Operation Compassion Society
Street Corner Media Foundation	Unicorn Group
Student Energy	Uniti
Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society	Urban Native Youth Association
Sunshine Coast Hospice Society	Urban Village Church
SWAN Vancouver Society	Vancity
Syndicat du personnel du CECI	Vancity Community Foundation
Synergy Sustainability Foundation	Vancouver Foundation
T2 Thompson Toddlers Day Care	Vantage Point
Table de concertation de Laval en condition féminine	Vernon Public Art Gallery
The Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba	Volunteer Campbell River
The Dance Centre	Wachiay Friendship Centre Society
The Essential Collective Theatre	Wasagaming Foundation Inc. (Camp Wannakumbac)
The Leap	WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre
The Mississauga Food Bank	Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility
The Parkwood Foundation	Wawanesa Wee Care Inc
The Progressive Housing Society	West Coast LEAF
The Realistic Success Recovery Society	West End Seniors' Network
The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby	Westside Family Place
The Vancouver Learners Society	Wilderness Committee
The Writers' Exchange Society	Wildsight
The Yoga Outreach Society	Wings of Power
Thrive Kids Canada Association	WISH Drop-In Centre Society
Tides Canada	WOMAN HEALING FOR CHANGE MB
Together We Can Drug & Alcohol Recovery & Education Society	YMCA Canada
Two Rivers Gallery	YWCA Vancouver
Two Ten Recovery Inc.	Zero Ceiling Society of Canada
	Zion United Church