



September 2, 2020

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, PC, MP  
Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Finance. I am writing to you as the Interim President and CEO of The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, a member-based organization speaking on behalf of the issues affecting the thousands of nonprofits in Calgary, to request that you include our sector in the Government's recovery plan.

As Minister of Finance, you will no doubt appreciate the economic contribution made by the sector. We account for 8.5% of GDP and collectively employ 2.4 million people in communities across the country. But the sector's true value - and strength - lies in how organizations touch the lives of individuals every day of the year. With more than 26,000 charities and nonprofit organizations in Alberta, the sector is a crucial partner in delivering services to Albertans and plays a fundamental role in making Alberta a desirable place to work and live. Through our range of services, we support individuals of all income levels, educational backgrounds, stages of life and geographic origin. We collectively weave together the social fabric of this country and communities around the world where our organizations offer programming.

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed that the charitable and nonprofit sector really is critical infrastructure. Charitable and nonprofit organizations can be considered first responders, they are the first to know about problems and opportunities in their communities. And similar to other critical industries like energy and transportation, we need to work closely with the federal government to ensure that our systems are as efficient, effective, and enabled as possible.

Recent survey work tells us that 20% of organizations do not expect to survive the next six months. Ontario Nonprofit Network data reveals that 10% of respondents contributed their own personal funds towards the continued operation of their organization. We are nonprofit organizations and as such, our current revenue declines do not represent less profit, but direct and concrete loss of critical programming on offer to Canadians, to newcomers, and to the environment.

With the upcoming Speech from the Throne, we are asking you to involve the charitable and nonprofit sector in the design and implementation of the recovery plan. We urge you to remember that the sector's survival is



crucial to ensuring that our communities emerge from the recovery more resilient, more vibrant and more equitable than before. Organizations need to be funded and fully operational - as well as supported by enabling regulation - in order to tackle the hard work that lays ahead in rebuilding. We are asking for a Sector Resilience Grant Program and a handful of precise regulatory changes outlined in **Imagine Canada's 2021 pre-budget submission**. The return on this investment in our nonprofits and charities as we rebuild will be immeasurable.

We look forward to working with you on the issues that matter most to this government: from maintaining quality of life, making individuals' lives more affordable and strengthening the healthcare system, to protecting the environment, keeping our communities safe and moving forward on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Ball'.

Karen Ball  
Interim President & CEO