

Supporting DSBN students by engaging the community to provide needed funds and resources where government funding is not available.



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Queens Park, Legislature Room
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

March 31, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford:

Our sincere thanks for your leadership on COVID-19. We understand and appreciate the challenges presented by this rapidly evolving situation during these tumultuous times.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding attempts at rapid adaptation, the nonprofit sector in Canada is being neglected and is at risk of collapse. Canadian charities contribute more than 8 percent or \$162 billion to our-country's GDP and employ more than 10 percent of (or 1.4 million working Canadians).

Along with the balance of our economy, the Chief Economist for the Charitable and Nonprofit Sector is projecting significant disruption for our sector. It is estimated 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 we will need to maintain social distancing principles. These figures do not include nonprofit service providers or social enterprises, for whom financial and employment data is not as readily available.

The economic disruption arising during COVID-19 has impacted our sector on many levels: Increased demand for services, decreased donations from our community, and the cancellation of events, all at a time when many organizations already have difficulty generating donations.

Throughout our great country, charities, nonprofits, and social enterprises are working hard to help their communities face the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The need goes on and we are determined to fulfill our mission and work with governments at all levels to see this through.

191 Carlton St., St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4
905.641.2929 x 54104 | efn@dsbn.org
efnniagara.ca

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This week's announcement that the federal government has vastly expanded the 75-per-cent wage subsidy for small businesses which include large companies as well as charities and non-profits for any business or organization that has suffered a 30-per-cent drop in revenue as a result of the coronavirus is encouraging.

We stand ready to do our part to help our families and children need, and will support those who have expressed the urgency for additional support in our community. We commend you on your actions and commitment to support our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Byers", written over a white background.

Laura Byers
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce Murray", written over a white background.

Bryce Murray
Chair, Board of Directors

Cc:

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister
Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance
Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, President of Treasury Board
Hon. Mona Fortier, Associate Minister of Finance
Sean Fraser, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance
Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister, Treasury Board Secretariat
Stan Cho, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
Chris Bittle, MP for St. Catharines
Vance Badaway, MP for Niagara Centre
Tony Baldinelli, MP for Niagara Falls
Dean Allison, MP for Niagara West
Jennie Stevens, MPP for St. Catharines
Jeff Burch, MPP for Niagara Centre
Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Falls
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP for Niagara West

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Wayne Redekop, Mayor of Fort Erie
Jeff Jordan, Mayor of Grimsby
Sandra Easton, Mayor of Lincoln
Jim Diodati, Mayor of Niagara Falls
Betty Disero, Lord Mayor of Niagara on the Lake
Marvin Junkin, Mayor of Pelham
William Steele, Mayor of Port Colborne
Walter Sendzik, Mayor of St. Catharines
Terry Ugolini, Mayor of Thorold
Kevin Gibson, Mayor of Wainfleet
Frank Champion, Mayor of Welland
Dave Bylsma, Mayor of West Lincoln
Cathy Taylor, ED, Ontario Nonprofit Network

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