



14 April 2020

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

Dear Prime Minister,

Green Communities Canada joins the list of Canadian non-profit organizations and charities calling on the Government of Canada to provide urgent financial aid and federal action to prevent our organizations from suffering irreparable damage amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Non-profits and charities are a vital part of the Canadian economy. The COVID-19 crisis and the resulting economic fallout is threatening to quickly destroy our sectors. Without immediate support from the federal government, most Canadian non-profits and charities will be forced to lay off substantial numbers of employees and many will face a significant likelihood of total and permanent closure. A failure to support these sectors will jeopardize the ability of our organizations to provide essential services, will increase the strain on public services, and will leave many vital needs unmet.

Green Communities Canada endorses the recommendations put forward by Imagine Canada President and CEO Bruce MacDonald in a letter to you dated 23 March 2020, namely:

- an \$8 billion emergency stabilization fund, comprised of at least 90% grants to organizations;
- the assurance that non-profits and charities remain fully eligible for any further federal initiatives aimed at helping employers retain staff;
- automatic renewal of all existing funding agreements non-profits and charities have with federal departments and agencies, and flexibility in how these funds are used; and

- the creation of an ad hoc table so government officials can share advice and ideas with a cross-section of charity and non-profit leaders from across Canada.

Green Communities Canada appreciates the many efforts taken by the federal government to address this crisis, and urge you to take specific measures to ensure the survival of Canada's non-profit and charity sectors.

Sincerely,



Chris Birchall, Board Chair
Green Communities Canada

c.c. Hon. Chrystia Freeland, PC, MP Deputy Prime Minister

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

Bruce MacDonald, President and CEO Imagine Canada