



August 30, 2022

Mayor Holder and Members of Council
City of London, City Clerk's Office
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON N6A 4L9

CC: Michael Schulthess, City Clerk, City of London;
Lynne Livingstone, City Manager, City of London

Re: Allocation of Remaining London Community Recovery Network Funding

Dear Mayor Holder and Council Members,

Though we are too late to be added to today's meeting agenda, we wish to express our support for Councillor Maureen Cassidy's motion to the Strategic Planning and Priorities Committee

That Civic Administration – including (but not limited to) Staff in Social and Health Development - be directed to work together with Community Partners to develop LCRN business cases with a focus on addressing London's social recovery, especially in mitigating the effects of homelessness, precarious employment, food insecurity, etc.

New information available this week indicates just how urgent and important it is that our next Council take up the challenge of supporting London's social recovery and that City staff have the tools and processes and lens to execute this work.

The Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) with Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO) released on August 29th the [results of a province-wide survey of the nonprofit sector](#) indicating nonprofits are experiencing major challenges from rapid inflation, increased demand, decreased revenue, staffing and volunteer crises, and continued pandemic impacts.

It means that Ontarians are losing critical services and supports – scaled back services, longer wait lists, and the closure of organizations we depend on for social services, for quality of life, and for our ability to rebound economically.

Is this happening in London? Alas, even more than elsewhere in some respects: in this year's pulse check, 47% of London-area nonprofits identified that a lack of funding is affecting their ability to recruit and retain staff, higher than the 39% provincial average. This jibes well with local findings. A survey of our membership this Spring indicated [London-area nonprofits are struggling to attract support during the pandemic](#), and our work with the Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board showed [London-area employers in the Care Economy are facing significant labour challenges](#).

We are supportive of Councillor Cassidy's motion. Indeed, we would support an amendment to reserve *all* of the remaining Community Recovery Network budget for investment in social recovery through support of community organizations who will lead the work, the same organizations who may face barriers to other funding and supporting their own workforces. We believe there is no economic recovery in London without social recovery, and that it is urgent that we better support the organizations and workers that help us weave our social fabric: Care Economy workers who make it possible for Londoners to get back to work; frontline workers supporting Londoners with basic needs; and the arts, sports, and faith organizations that enrich our lives. Without a healthy nonprofit sector able to offer Decent Work, it's hard to see how London might overcome persistent challenges like low labour participation rates. It's hard to see how London will become a safe city for women and girls who will disproportionately have to make up for shortfalls in child care and senior care.

Indeed, without immediate investment in social recovery, and with a resultant loss of nonprofit workers and nonprofit organizations, the City of London and ordinary Londoners will likely pay a much steeper price for economic recovery in the future. Directing the next Council to pick up this work with urgency and enabling staff to develop impactful cases with community partners will be an important step in mounting this social recovery.

Yours Sincerely,

Rachel Berdan and Tanja Kueneman
Co-CEOs and Co-Presidents,
Pillar Nonprofit Network