



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIN – The People and Information Network launches 'Community Benefit Sector Survey'

Understanding the impact of COVID on local nonprofits and charities.

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There is an estimated 170,000 nonprofits and charities in Canada and in 2018, over 12.7 million Canadians engaged in formal volunteering, with a total of 1.6 billion hours of their time given to charities, non-profits and community organizations—equivalent to almost 858,000 full-time year-round jobs (Statistics Canada). In Ontario, nonprofits and charities contribute \$50 billion in economic impact engaging 5 million volunteers: significant and vital resources for communities.

“The community benefit sector is not only an under recognized economic engine” says Kim Cusimano, Interim Executive Director “if forms the foundation of supports contributing to the health and well-being of communities and powered by a valuable volunteer human resource.”

Over the last 6 months, provincial and national reports have given voice to the community benefit sector and the impact of COVID. Revenues have declined an average of 30.6% since the onset of the pandemic, with 69% of charities reporting decreased revenues. (Imagine Canada Sector Monitor Report) and 1 in 5 survey respondents say they could close within the next 6 months (Ontario Nonprofit Network, ONN- The state of the Ontario nonprofit sector).

What does this mean for Guelph – Wellington? “We need to understand the status of nonprofits and charities locally” says Cusimano. With appreciation to The Guelph Community Foundation and United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin’s Respond, Recover, Rebuild Fund, PIN is launching a ‘Community Benefit Sector Survey’ to understanding the current landscape.

Why is this important? “You do not need to look far to see how the community benefit sector contributes to our towns and cities, and to our families, our children and ourselves.” shares Cusimano, “coaching your children’s sports team, your grandfather’s weekly friendly visitor, driving your Mom for her cancer appointments, supporting food insecurity, accessing health services and housing, engaging in faith, arts and culture and more; nonprofits and charities are woven into our lives.”

“If you consider that potentially 20% of local organizations may close in the next 6 months, what does that mean for our community; it’s health, resiliency and what does it mean for volunteerism?” 40 percent of nonprofits continue to experience an increase in demand for services, over 3 in 10 nonprofits have had to lay off staff and have lost more than 53% of their volunteers. (ONN – The state of the Ontario nonprofit sector). “More demand, less human resource and lack of sustainable dollars” says Cusimano, “this is a significant social crisis.”

"We welcome all nonprofits and charities to complete this survey. By gathering local data, we can understand the impact of COVID on our communities while we seek to strengthen and rebuild."

To complete the survey, visit PINnetwork.ca

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PIN, The People and Information Network

We provide connections and leadership in Guelph and Wellington County to support the development of individuals and organizations. We help people navigate essential community services, provide a hub for volunteer opportunities and engagement, and enable best practices and continuous learning for professionals in the non-profit sector. **PINnetwork.ca**

