

City of Guelph Budget Delegation November 25, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Members of Council

On behalf of the sector, PIN asks that City Council invest \$150,000 to fund the cost of appropriate Police Records Checks for volunteers supporting Guelph Nonprofits in 2021. This amount covers the 4209 completed volunteer checks Guelph Police Services reported on from 2019 with a slight incremental increase.

Your support would help alleviate impact for organizations and barriers to volunteer in Guelph.

As you can see from slide 3 in the submitted material, the sector across Canada is formidable. 8.1% of the total GDP - more than the retail trade industry and close to the value of mining, oil and gas.

Research from the Ontario Nonprofit Network has indicated 1 in 5 nonprofits could close within the next 6 months as a result of COVID. PIN embarked on a Community Benefit Survey to learn what that could mean for Guelph Wellington. Slide 4 is a visual for the following findings:

- 61 % respondents indicated an increase in workload; 24% noted that their duties had changed and over half of respondents indicated they expect to see this increase in the next 3 – 6 months.
- In already lean nonprofit staffing models, this is significant
- 42% have had decreased budgets w/ 65% increase in costs due to COVID
- Loss of budgeted revenue of over \$5 million with the cancellation of events and fundraisers
- 62% reduction in volunteer involvement
- 55% Disruption of services for clients and community coupled with 31% increased demand for service. The latter number was an early finding and demand for service actually rose by 40%
- Aside from organizations already impacted, the horizon locally indicates:
 - 1 in 3 significantly impacted in 9 - 12 months
 - 2 out of 3 in 1 to 2 years

Alarming results and as such, PIN registered to delegate this evening to ask for the city's support to help alleviate one of the impacts.

The end of the Police Record Check legacy agreement waiving fees for volunteers coupled with the mounting impacts of COVID has a one-two combo impact in this precarious landscape.

Through your package and subsequent communications, over 30 letters of support have been received with request for continued waiving of the fee for volunteers. These letters include diverse organizational voices including a peer volunteer centre, our local United Way and Volunteer Canada

United Way demonstrates need Quote "90 volunteers who are answering calls on Family Counselling and Support Services' Distress Line. This line previously received 300-400 calls a month and now is receiving 1,300 calls a month." unquote

A personal reflection from a volunteer at HOPE House who would not have been able to afford a PRC and where volunteering improved their life - quote "Through Hope House and the belief in myself I have gained a part time job as a custodian. Not only has this position improved my self-esteem, it has impacted a lot of our community members as well." unquote

Here is what we know:

- We know that the PRCs that PIN had approved centred around volunteer roles that supported poverty, homelessness, food insecurity as example.
- We know through National Research, that 44% of Canadians volunteer formally. Applied to Guelph, this could be almost 60,000 volunteers.
- We know the Conference Board of Canada dollar value per hour would result in over 1.6 million of human resource support provided to this city based on those 60,000 volunteering just one hour each. GNSC noted over 1 million in volunteer support alone in their presentation this evening.
- So, we know volunteers are a substantial resource nurturing social well-being and belonging.
- We know not all volunteer roles require a PRC; in fact, we seek to support best practices in volunteer engagement including the 10 steps of volunteer screening.
- We know that the waived fee has been a valuable resource and we also know that that fee only applied to members of PIN as part of that legacy agreement.
- We are requesting support for all nonprofits and charities across the city to support volunteerism and the sector as it manages through COVID

The impact, shown on slide 7, notes that the loss of nonprofits and charities is a social crisis and imagines that locally 20% are closed. This is a child's volunteer tutor, mentor for our youth, driving your sister for a cancer treatment or delivering a meal to your father. Nonprofits and charities are a vital core to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Delegation on behalf of the Community Benefit Sector:

Kim Cusimano
Executive Director
PIN – The People and Information Network
kim@PINnetwork.ca

Old Quebec Street Shoppes
55 Wyndham Street North, Suite 4A
Guelph, Ontario N1H 7T8
t 519-822-0912 • 1-866-693-3318
f 519-822-1389
PINnetwork.ca

