



April 6, 2020

The Honourable Brian Pallister  
Premier of Manitoba

Re: COVID-19 Provincial recommendations for the non-profit and voluntary sector

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the board and staff of The Manitoba Federation of Non-profit Organizations Inc. (MFNPO) we have been monitoring the evolving COVID-19 crisis, and the response of our sector organizations.

We applaud the coordinated efforts of the Provincial and Federal governments, who we are partners with in this.

The non-profit and charitable sector in Manitoba is a key economic contributor, with more than 100,000 employees in our workforce.

From Indigenous organizations, to long-term care homes, youth or environmental-serving organizations, shelters, food banks, arts and cultural groups, Manitoba's non-profits, charitable organizations and the voluntary sector are on the frontlines supporting and serving our communities during the COVID-19 emergency.

Right now we are being asked to do more with less.

On behalf of non-profit organizations in Manitoba, and the communities we employ and serve, we are calling on your government to implement the following steps to support non-profit organizations in the response to COVID-19:

1. Speak to the needs and responses of all three sectors: business, government and the non-profit, charitable and voluntary sector so that we know your commitment to our sector in all communications and planning.
2. Create a stabilization fund to provide financial supports for the non-profits that are on the frontlines, especially those organizations that cannot enforce social distancing or work-from-home for service or organizational reasons.
3. Create emergency funding provisions (one-time funding or zero/low interest loans for non-profits, charitable and voluntary organizations which may be facing a funding crisis or drawing on their reserves).
4. Provide and clearly communicate flexibility measures to assist non-profits that receive funding directly from Government as they manage their agreements with the Province. This could potentially include allowing funds to be moved between budget categories, extending funding agreements concluding in 2019/20 through the 2020/21 fiscal year, postponement of implementation of administrative guidelines, and recognition that program outcomes may shift.



5. Include the non-profit, charitable and voluntary sector at leadership tables to ensure that their needs are explicitly addressed in planning and fund allocation.
6. Articulate a clear strategy to ensure that the non-profit, charitable, and voluntary sector and their organizations remain viable and able to deliver critical services during the COVID-19 situation.

We acknowledge that government is facing increasing pressure for financial assistance and that its resources are not unlimited. However, the non-profit, charitable and voluntary sector provides critical and much needed services to the communities they serve and needs to be recognized as a valued partner in the response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandra Simpson  
Executive Director  
Manitoba Federation of Non-profit Organizations

Sandra Oakley  
Chair  
Manitoba Federation of Non-profit Organizations

Cc: Hon. Scott Fielding  
Minister of Finance

Hon. Rochelle Squires  
Minister of Municipal Relations

Hon. Heather Stefanson  
Minister of Families

Hon. Cameron Friesen  
Minister of Health, Seniors, and Active Living

Hon. Ralph Eichler  
Minister of Economic Development & Training

Hon. Eileen Clarke  
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations

Hon. Sarah Guillemard  
Minister of Conservation and Climate

Hon. Cathy Cox  
Minister of Sport, Culture, and Heritage



## ENDORSEMENTS:

This letter is endorsed by a group of networks that bring together or have memberships made up of non-profit, charitable and community-based organizations. Together they span across variety of sectors and non-profit organizational types - all of them working for the betterment of Manitoba's communities.

Abilities Manitoba - Margo Powell, Director

Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg - Damon Johnston, President

Canadian Community Economic Development Network - Darcy Penner, Manitoba Network Manager

Creative Manitoba - Thom Sparling, Executive Director

Manitoba Association of Newcomer-Serving Organization - Vicki Sinclair, Executive Director

Manitoba Eco-Network - Glen Koroluk, Executive Director

Youth Agencies Alliance - Jessica da Silva, Director