



June 29, 2020

Honorable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba  
204 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Municipal Relations  
344 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

cc: Hon. Scott Fielding - Minister of Finance  
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

Dear Premier Pallister and Minister Squires,

Thank you for your ongoing work and leadership as Manitoba navigates the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as your response to an initial letter and recommendations dated April 21, 2020. Your acknowledgement of the important work of the non-profit and community sector in building thriving and sustainable communities across the province in your letter dated June 2, 2020 is appreciated.

Today, we are writing to request that the Province of Manitoba convene a **non-profit sector table to support the sector through the COVID-19 pandemic**.

As you know, non-profits and charities are essential for Manitoba's economic, social, and environmental well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic, and always. They provide services and programs to communities in our province without which the very face of Manitoba would look quite different. A recent Leger survey in partnership with the Manitoba and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce identified non-profits as a key sector that has been deeply impacted by COVID-19 with specific needs for re-opening, recovery, and stability.<sup>1</sup>

A non-profit sector table would maximize the impact and efficiency of government spending pertaining to the sector by ensuring alignment between policy/programming and the dynamic needs of the sector.<sup>2</sup> By strengthening the working relationship between the Province of Manitoba and sector leaders, Manitoba will be better positioned to address the problems facing our communities now and as we travel down the road to recovery.

While the June 5, 2020 sector forum and already announced programs targeting the sector have been appreciated, we believe that a sector table would be beneficial to ensure that future decisions effectively use government dollars to help benefit the sector as much as possible. There are a number of member-networks and associations, including this letter's signatories, that would make valuable contributions to this table.

We appreciate the provincial government's indication that it is open to suggestions to improve programs, and we hope you consider this suggestion to formalize a non-profit table at this time.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to make this recommendation.

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<sup>1</sup> [mbchamber.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Manitoba\\_Business\\_Revival\\_Survey\\_Results\\_Chamber-FNL.pdf](https://mbchamber.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Manitoba_Business_Revival_Survey_Results_Chamber-FNL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> We believe models that could be drawn upon include the Premier's Economic Opportunities Advisory Council here in Manitoba or the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Margo Powell, Executive Director  
**Abilities Manitoba**

Monique Brandt, Executive Director  
**Association of Manitoba Museums**

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

Carly Gasparini, Chair  
**Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations**

Thom Sparling, Executive Director  
**Creative Manitoba**

Vicki Sinclair, Executive Director  
**Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations**

Glen Koroluk, Executive Director  
**Manitoba Eco-Network**

Sandra Oakley, Chair  
**Manitoba Federation of Non-profit Organizations**

Christina Maes Nino, Executive Director  
**Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association**

Lorie English, Executive Director  
**West Central Women's Resource Centre**

Trevor LaForte & Dodie Jordan, Co-Chairs  
**Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle**

Jessica da Silva, Director  
**Youth Agencies Alliance**