



March 18, 2020

The Honourable Travis Toews  
President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance  
Office of the Minister  
Treasury Board and Finance  
208 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Toews,

The Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, Volunteer Alberta, and Alberta Museums Association thank you and your government for its recent injection of emergency funding to Alberta's front-line organizations. This vote of confidence signals that the Government of Alberta recognizes the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the capacity of civil society organizations and on vulnerable Albertans.

These short-term challenges will very quickly create ongoing pressures and uncertainty for non-profits, including concern around legislative requirements and reporting schedules. Many organizations face approaching reporting deadlines and the likely postponement of annual general meetings, in many cases beyond required dates as outlined in their bylaws.

We urge the Government of Alberta to continue your vital dialogue with the non-profit sector and consider the following recommendations to address these challenges:

1. Universally extend deadlines for reporting to funders, which eliminates the need for individual exemption requests in the coming weeks.
2. Create exemptions to legislation that allow organizations to host annual general meetings and conduct other legislative or bylaw work past current deadlines. Specifically, allow a minimum of 90 days past the point at which large gatherings are considered safe, so that organizations responsibly plan and host their annual general meetings.

The COVID-19 pandemic arrived while many non-profits and charities in Alberta were conducting evaluations, drafting annual reports, and scheduling annual general meetings. In following the Government of Alberta's ban on large social gatherings and implementing self-isolation and social distancing measures, non-profits are faced with significantly reduced capacity and, in many cases, an increase in demand for immediate support services.



**It is imperative that the Government of Alberta provide clarity and assurance on these crucial questions facing Alberta's charities and non-profits, which will greatly impact their approach to operations and service delivery in the coming weeks.**

We are eager to partner with Ministers and representatives to ensure clear and consistent communication with the sector during these uncertain times, so that our civil society organizations can remain focused on delivering services to their clients and stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to meeting to discuss how ECVO and the Government of Alberta can work together for the benefit of Edmonton's non-profits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Dunn', with a long, sweeping tail.

**Gemma Dunn**  
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Voluntary Organizations  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meaghan Patterson', with a stylized, cursive font.

**Meaghan Patterson**  
Executive Director & CEO,  
Alberta Museums Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Link', with a stylized, cursive font.

**Karen Link**  
Executive Director,  
Volunteer Alberta

Co-signed:

**David Ridley**  
Executive Director,  
Edmonton Heritage Council

**Laura Cunningham-Shpeley**  
Executive Director,  
Edmonton Federation of  
Community Leagues

**Susan Morrissey**  
Executive Director,  
Edmonton Social Planning  
Council

cc:

The Honourable Nate Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta

The Honourable Grant Hunter, Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction