



April 9, 2019

Dear Cycling Advisory Committee,

This is a request for funds in the amount of \$400 to provide London newcomers with a cyclists' handbook in their own language. The handbook provides information about our traffic laws and safe cycling habits. We have identified language and cultural gaps with our Bikes for Newcomers program, and there is an urgent need to provide education in Arabic, Spanish, English and French.

#### What is Bikes for Newcomers?

A working bicycle can be life-changing. It can mean freedom to get to school or visit friends, or can mean getting a job that is further than walking distance. The Bikes for Newcomers project provides refurbished bikes to newcomers to Canada, to increase mobility and welcome newcomers into the London cycling community.

The project started as a tangible response to the Syrian refugee crisis and has continued to meet the needs of many individuals and families who are restarting their lives in London and need help to get around. London Cycle Link is partnering with the [Cross Cultural Learner Centre](#) and [LUSO Community Services](#) to help distribute the bicycles to families in need. In 2018 we received a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to offer locks, lights, and bells, making the refurbished bikes even more useful. The grant also supports our welcoming efforts by offering free Squeaky Wheel Bike Co-op memberships and workshops to newcomers.

#### 24-hour Repair Marathon

On Groundhog Day 2019, we held a 24-hour bike fixing marathon to refurbish as many bikes as we could to distribute to newcomers. Twenty-eight bikes were fixed in total and a lot of fun was had by all - a big thanks to all the volunteers who came out to fix bikes in the wee hours of the morning!

#### Support B4N

If you want to support this project you can donate your:

**time** - Volunteer build nights are Tuesdays from 6:30-9:00pm at the Squeaky Wheel Bike Co-op (809 Dundas Street, London)

**money** - We accept donations in person at the Squeaky Wheel Bike Co-op during open hours and are working to offer this online

**bicycle** - Drop off your bicycle during open hours or contact London Cycle Link at [info@londoncyclelink.ca](mailto:info@londoncyclelink.ca) to arrange pick-up. Please note, it is helpful if bikes are in good condition (ie. don't require a huge effort to get working). Donated bikes will be refurbished and either paired with newcomers or offered as affordable used bikes to the wider community.

**REQUEST OF THE CYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

Booklets

In addition to a bike and workshops, we have a gap in education and there is an urgent need to provide newcomers with a cyclists' handbook in their own language. In the interim, we have received permission to reprint The Windsor-County Essex handbook free of charge. The handbook provides information about our traffic laws and safe cycling habits. Printing costs are estimated to be \$2 per book.

We are asking funding for:

- 100 prints in Arabic
- 40 prints in English
- 40 prints in French
- 20 prints in Spanish

Total request: 200 prints x \$2 = \$400

Thank you,

Rebecca Henderson

Board Member, London Cycle Link