



January 7, 2013

City of London  
300 Dufferin Ave.  
London, ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor Fontana and Council Members,

**Subject: Impact of Proposed 2013 City of London Budget on Nonprofit Sector & Londoners**

Pillar Nonprofit Network, in partnership with London Community Foundation and United Way London & Middlesex, respectfully submit our collective input on the proposed City of London budget. Our organizations support the over 1,200 nonprofits in the London area who contribute to the quality of life and social well-being of Londoners through arts, education, environment, faith, health, heritage, sports, and social services. We understand the complexity and difficulty of the task you have in determining the right mix and level of services to provide to Londoners at an affordable cost.

As you review the business cases for service changes, we urge you to recognize that the nonprofit sector and those who are most vulnerable will be disproportionately impacted by these changes and cuts. A reduction in programs and services does not reduce the need for these programs, but rather shifts the burden from the tax base to the nonprofit sector which is already under resourced and has had increased service demands due to the economic times. Further, there will be a ripple effect on our community and London's taxpayers will pay for these service changes and cuts either today or tomorrow.

There are 2 proposed reductions in the draft budget which require your reconsideration:

1. Reduced Municipal Investment in Affordable Housing Initiatives (Business Case #4)
2. Reduction in Capital Grant Program Funding (Business Case #3)

**Reduced Municipal Investment in Affordable Housing Initiatives**

The Council approved London Community Housing Strategy is a solid plan with a long term vision for affordable housing. The annual investment from the municipality leverages investments from the other levels of government, the private sector and the non-profit sector. The proposed annual cut to this municipal commitment will have severe and immediate impact on accessing these other investments and in moving people out of shelter and into housing. This will have a long term cost for lower income individuals and families and for our entire community.



### **Reduction in Capital Grant Program Funding**

The proposed cuts to the Capital Grant Program puts at risk the ability of nonprofits to leverage investments from other levels of government to help purchase land or buildings as well as renovate new or existing buildings. The municipal investment in the London Potters Guild, Aeolian Hall, SARI, Thames Valley Children's Centre, Merrymount, Palace Theatre, Royal Canadian Regiment Museum, Salvation Army Village Day Nursery and Grand Theatre from the Capital Grant Program has contributed significantly to our community and it is important that the opportunity to leverage investments continues.

In summary, we feel very strongly that the 2 proposed changes noted above should not be supported by Municipal Council. We acknowledge the complexity of a municipal budgeting process and we urge you to consider the impact your decisions will have on each and every constituent you represent from all socio-economic backgrounds. The nonprofit sector is a driver of social and economic well-being and it requires investment that reflects the value it contributes to London and the kind of community we want to be to each and every Londoner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Baldwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michelle Baldwin  
Executive Director  
Pillar Nonprofit Network

cc:  
Bud Polhill, Ward 1 Councillor  
Bill Armstrong, Ward 2 Councillor  
Joe Swan, Ward 3 Councillor  
Stephen Orser, Ward 4 Councillor  
Joni Baechler, Ward 5 Councillor  
Nancy Branscombe, Ward 6 Councillor  
Matt Brown, Ward 7 Councillor  
Paul Hubert, Ward B Councillor  
Dale G. Henderson, Ward 9 Councillor  
Paul Van Meerbergen, Ward 10 Councillor



Denise T. Brown, Ward 11 Councillor  
Harold Usher, Ward 12 Councillor  
Judy Bryant, Ward 13 Councillor  
Sandy White, Ward 14 Councillor  
Andrew Lockie, CEO, United Way London & Middlesex  
Martha Powell, President & CEO, London Community Foundation