

Public Participation Meeting Presentation

Introductions:

Martha Powell – President & CEO, London Community Foundation

Andrew Lockie – CEO, United Way London & Middlesex

Michelle Baldwin – ED, Pillar Nonprofit Network

Pillar Nonprofit Network in partnership with London Community Foundation and United Way of London & Middlesex are here today to share our perspectives on the 2013 budget and its impact on the nonprofit sector and quality of life of Londoners. *Joining us today are board members, staff, volunteers and the nonprofits + charities we support.*

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. We appreciate the opportunity to come and share our perspectives with you today.

There are ^{*more than*} ~~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. These nonprofits play a critical role in attracting new investments and jobs to communities by providing strong recreational, cultural and social infrastructure. These nonprofits provide preventative services and collectively, these organizations work tirelessly to make London a great place to live.

As you are going through your decision making process, we urge you to recognize that the nonprofit sector and those who are most vulnerable will be disproportionately impacted by the 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.

Nonprofits and charities depend on financial and human resources to conduct their day to day activities. Shifts in the availability of these resources can obviously have significant effects on the ability of organizations to carry out their missions.

Further, there will be a ripple effect meaning it will compound our biggest challenges we face as a community and create new systemic challenges for our community. 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 we are suggesting require your reconsideration:

1. Reduced Municipal Investment in Affordable Housing Initiatives
2. Reduction in Capital Grant Program Funding

Reduced Municipal Investment in Affordable Housing Initiatives

The Council approved the London Community Housing Strategy, this 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.

A shocking statistic from the most recent London's Vital Signs Report reveals that 3,500 are on the wait list for affordable housing in London and Middlesex County. At the current rate of development people can expect to wait up to 8 years for a home. In response the London Community Foundation has established a new Loan Fund to help bridge the gap offering loans up to \$500,000 to build affordable housing solutions. In creating this Loan Fund the London Community Foundation had reviewed the current system to support affordable housing in London and we urge

you to continue your annual commitment as your investment is critical to this support system

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. Let's imagine London without the recent renovations and new builds including 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 of which you as a City Council supported in the last few years.

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 ask 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 with nonprofits contributing 106 billion to the GDP in Canada 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.

Thank you and we would be happy to answer any questions.