

February 12, 2020



To: Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee  
Re: 2020 Budget Deliberations

**Thank you** for not passing the recently proposed resolution to reduce funding to the local non-profit sector.

I am gratified that such a strong portion of Council voiced solid support for the non-profit sector and in so, recognized and valued the deep, and broad array of benefits the sector creates for our community.

During the discussion at SPPC, some perspectives arose that I feel are important to revisit. (Please note I am paraphrasing my understanding of the discussion, not intending to directly quote.)

- 1) 'The City should not be in the business of helping non-profits fund infrastructure like roofs and parking.'  
City Hall delivers important service to the community and could not do so without a roof. Our sector is no different. Non-profits are very well experienced in assessing the best use of available funding sources. If they tell you their best use of your support is to fix a roof, please believe them.  
As you might easily imagine, there are funders who place overly tight restrictions on their funding making it very difficult to deliver programming. (An example from our own experience is a willingness to fund trees but not to fund any of the coordination hours it takes to plan, order, deliver the trees, or manage volunteers at the event.)
- 2) 'Non-profits should be looking elsewhere for funding.'  
All funders require leveraging; none want to be the sole funder. So you can be assured that non-profits are indeed seeking multiple sources of funding for almost every endeavour. The example of the federal Enabling Accessibility Fund was often raised. This fund also requires leveraging. If the City were to cease funding accessibility upgrades because "non-profits should be getting the money from the Feds", the *City would be essentially making it harder* for a local organization to access federal funding (due to lack of local leveraging).

Our local non-profit sector is delivering services and benefits in all the gaps that governments, at all levels, are not fully delivering on. Local municipal support directly empowers local non-profits to successfully *attract investment from outside London*, from provincial, federal and foundation sources, to our community and put it to work here, making London better for everyone.

Thank you

Dean Sheppard  
Executive Director