To: Alberta Businesses - the Big, the Small and the Ma & Pa

From: Alberta’s Community Nonprofits

Communities across our province have been hit hard by the covid-19 pandemic. Businesses have been forced to close their doors and lay off long-standing employees, while households and communities have struggled with the pressures of social isolation and the economic downturn.

More than ever, we need a strong nonprofit and voluntary sector to help protect the most vulnerable, maintain social services and provide health support. As we emerge from isolation, the programs and services offered by Alberta’s 25,000+ nonprofits will be critical to rebuilding our quality of life.

Despite the struggles and uncertainties, Alberta business and nonprofits are collaborating and getting creative in how we help each other. In the face of challenge, we are working together because we know we are *all* stronger when we support one another.

**Alberta nonprofits want to share some ways your business can help nonprofit and charities continue to do their important work in your community:**

1. **Talk to us.** Let us know how you are and how we might be able to work together. Communicate both good and the bad news.If you can’t give what you gave last year, that’s completely understandable. Nonprofits simply ask you communicate with them so they can plan accordingly.
2. **Give to the best of your ability**. Frontline nonprofits are seeing increased demand for their services, while social distancing is causing operational and funding challenges (such as lost casino, registration fee and event revenue) across all types of charities.

Whether you typically give to the food bank or the community soccer team, nonprofits need funds to maintain their services and/or sustain through the lock down. Please give what you can.

1. **Think beyond dollars.** Many companies are getting creative in how they give. Bakeries are donating bread, tech shops are donating old laptops and professional firms are donating their expertise. What are creative ways your business can give?
2. **Support volunteering.** Covid-19 is not stopping Albertans from giving their time, in fact we’ve seen an increase in volunteering. Encourage your employees to give their time either virtually or in physically-distanced ways (collecting food, calling community seniors, donating blood). Visit [VolunteerConnector.org](https://www.volunteerconnector.org/) or contact your [local Volunteer Centre](https://volunteeralberta.ab.ca/programs_services_resources/networks/volunteer-centres/) for opportunities.

Albertan businesses are known for their resiliency, generosity and willingness to roll up their sleeves and help each other out when the going gets tough. We encourage you to reach out to your local nonprofits to talk about how you can help.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we will get through this.

**RESOURCES:**

**Volunteering:** Check out [VolunteerConnector.org](https://www.volunteerconnector.org/) or contact your [local Volunteer Centre](https://volunteeralberta.ab.ca/programs_services_resources/networks/volunteer-centres/).

**Donations Matching**: The Alberta Government’s [Donation Matching program](https://www.alberta.ca/charitable-donation-matching-program.asp) will match up to a maximum of $2 million dollars for funds raised by designated organizations.

**Bits & Pieces Program:** If you are a manufacturer or produce goods that could be in any way useful to this fight against the pandemic, the Alberta Government has created the [Bits & Pieces program](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a9dc59fefa324814884e16f4ac084d6d).

**CONTACT:**

If you have questions or want to speak to someone in the nonprofit and voluntary sector, please contact us at info@albertanonprofits.ca and we will direct you to the appropriate person.

*This message is brought to you by**The Alberta Nonprofit Network (ABNN), an independent network of organizations seeking to advance the cohesive, proactive and resilient nonprofit sector in Alberta. Our network brings together organizations of all sizes and scopes to collectively define and respond to systemic issues impacting the nonprofit sector in Alberta. More information can be found at* [*www.albertanonprofits.ca*](http://www.albertanonprofits.ca)*.*