

Special City Council - Budget Revised Meeting Agenda



Wednesday, November 25, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Remote meeting live streamed
on guelph.ca/live

Changes to the original agenda are noted with an asterisk "*".

To contain the spread of COVID-19, City Council meetings are being held electronically and can be live streamed at guelph.ca/live.

For alternate meeting formats, please contact the City Clerk's Office at clerks@guelph.ca or 519-822-1260 extension 5603.

Pages

1. Notice - Electronic Participation

1.1. City Council

This meeting will be held by Electronic Participation in accordance with the City of Guelph Procedural By-law (2020)-20490.

2. Call to Order

3. Open Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

3.1. O Canada

3.2. Silent Reflection

3.3. First Nations Acknowledgement

3.4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

Delegations:

Susan Watson

Diana Boal, Executive Director, Shelldale Family Gateway

Luke Pruski

*Braden Phelan

*Erin Harvey, Family & Children's Services

*Zahid Nasir, Grange Hill East Neighborhood Group

*Sarah Stubbs, Life Gears Academy Inc.

*Dominica McPherson, Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination

*Dan Evans, Junction Neighbourhood Group

*Jennifer MacLeod, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

*Nicki Hammond-Breese, Brant Avenue Neighbourhood Group

*Izabela Lukomska, Brant Avenue Neighbourhood Group

*Kate Vsetula, Guelph Community Health Centre

*Alisha Arnold, Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group

*Helen Fishburn, CMHA Waterloo Wellington

*Geetha Van den Daele, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

*Sarah Haanstra, Adverse Childhood Experiences Coalition of Guelph & Wellington and Toward Common Ground

*Barb McPhee, North End Harvest Market

*Brendan Johnson, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

*Patti Broughton, Guelph Arts Council

*Tom Ewart, Sunnycroft Canopy Project

*Kathleen Salazar

*Shakiba Shayani, Guelph Chamber of Commerce

*Raechelle Devereaux, Guelph CHC

*Kristin Kerr, Stonehenge Therapeutic Community

*Ali Versluis

*Morgan Dandie-Hannah

*Alan Arneill, Guelph Youth Sports Alliance

*Ron East, Council of Canadians Guelph Chapter

*Lin Grist

*Kim Cusimano, PIN, The People and Information Network

*Tanja Gevaert

*Tammy O'Connor, KidsAbility Youth Advisory Committee (KAYAC)

*Steven Petric, Transit Action Alliance of Guelph (TAAG)

Correspondence:

*Rob Statz

*John McMurtry

*Laura Lando

*Morgan Malinski, Ontario One Call

*Mike Darmon, Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation

*Susan Watson

- *Heather Burke, RLB Chartered Accountants
- *Diane Hurst
- *Tom Ewart, Sunnycres Canopy Project
- *Luke Pruski
- *Scarlett Raczkycki, Silence Sounds
- *Sarah Haanstra, Adverse Childhood Experiences Coalition of Guelph & Wellington and Toward Common Ground
- *Raechelle Devereaux, Guelph CHC, and Kristin Kerr, Stonehenge Therapeutic Community
- *Kim Cusimano, PIN, The People and Information Network
- *Brendan Johnson, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
- *Adrienne McBride, Guelph Humane Society
- *Scott Frederick
- *Steven Petric, Transit Action Alliance of Guelph (TAAG)

5. Adjournment

2021 City of Guelph Budget – Public Delegations

General Correspondence – Revised Agenda

To even consider a 3.52% tax increase is a crime! Inflation is .5%!
How can anyone justify this increase!!

Rob Statz

Mayor and City Councillors of Guelph,

Re. "Guelph could see red-light cameras as soon as next year" (GMT, November 12, 2020)

I trust Guelph City Council will recognize as its staff has not the scientific research on red-light traffic cameras which demonstrates they *"do not reduce traffic accidents or improve public safety"*.

The most current research from the School of Management at Case Western Reserve University concluded from analysis of thousands of collisions over a 12-year span that the installation of the cameras led to fewer head-on collisions, but far more rear-end and angle collisions. "There is no reason to believe that there is reduction in overall accidents thanks to red-light cameras - - It's likely the cameras *actually led to more accidents overall*. - - Our analysis does not support the case that the cameras improve public safety".

This accords with my own daily observation as a cyclist across the city of Guelph. Motor vehicles almost never run through red-lights, but are often dangerously speeding and turning right at stop signs and crossings in much greater danger to cyclists and pedestrians.

But it is big business for out-of-town vendors of red-light cameras across American and now Canadian cities. More than 400 communities in the United States—including 36 of the largest 50 cities—have installed the devices, usually placed at busy intersections. Yet once the facts are known, communities refuse or remove the cameras (including Cleveland, where Case Western Reserve University is located).

That City staff are now "seeking 112,400 [of Guelph taxpayers money] to go to implementing the program of \$700,000 total over a seven year contract" is shocking waste in this time where all programs are under financial stress or facing defunding from the Covid crisis.

Sincerely,

John McMurtry FRSC

Hello,

This is a brief email to voice our support of a micro transit option for 2021 for Hanlon Bus. Park in place of the bus line originally planned for this area.

Current options for non-drivers are unsafe esp. considering the amount of construction on that road.

Thanks,

Laura Lando PT, DPT

Clinic Owner & Director

Registered Physiotherapist

www.defysportsperformance.com

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Ontario One Call, a local business located in the Hanlon Business Park on Cooper Drive. The fall of 2020 was supposed to mark the beginning of bus service to our area. We were looking forward to the expansion as a way to boost our recruitment efforts as many of our staff are frequent users of public transit.

Currently employees using transit are required to walk more than 1.5 kms on a busy road with no sidewalks (or often uncleared sidewalks), navigating merges onto the overpass on Laird Rd. It is unsafe to say the least.

We understand that COVID has had an enormous impact on municipal budgets as it has had a significant impact on the way we operate as well. In truth the majority of our staff are now working from home and we are committed to maintaining the work from home option until March 2021. That being said, we still have transit users coming into our office and we are about to begin our recruitment for 2021 in January, adding a dozen new employees, all of whom will work from our office, many of whom will likely be transit riders.

I have seen the micro-transit report. Our current transit riders generally feel that the option is a good one, however, they are concerned that there will be hidden costs transferred to the user. If there are no additional costs for the rider than we support this initiative.

Providing micro-transit, specifically to business and industrial locations promotes employment. The more Guelph residents we can employ the better for everyone. Guelph has traditionally had a very low unemployment rate, in order to maintain that it is important to provide support so that things like a lack of transit are not preventing our businesses from growing and residents from thriving.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Morgan Malinski

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council:

The Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation (GCAT) is a not for profit organization that seeks to increase the quantity, quality and safety of active transportation in Guelph. For eight years we have acted as the collective advocacy voice for our members and social media followers now numbering in the many hundreds.

We wish to make some comments about the 2021 Budget Recommendation from Staff that will be decided upon at the November 25th meeting of Council.

- In the multi-year capital project list there are several
- allocations (PK0002, PK0075, PK0079, PK0087, PK0091, PK0121, PN0002, PN0011, PO0028, PO0033, RB0010, RD0385, RD0387, for example) that support improved and expanded active transportation. GCAT is in full support of these as we believe these investments will
- pay off to our City and its citizens through an invigorated local economy, energy savings, positive local climate action, reduced noise pollution, lowering costs of road construction, reduced automotive traffic, physical and mental health, wellbeing and social
- benefits and many more.
- GCAT is particularly pleased with the City's having
- joined its provincial and federal government partners to build out 13km of protected cycling infrastructure on three routes within Guelph (RD0357.) We are concerned that it often takes money to spend money and we would like to be assured that the staff resources
- necessary to complete these projects will be funded as well.
- With respect to the Emma Earl bridge project (RD0330),
- GCAT reminds Council of its approval of this project at the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 8, 2020. Please recall that this bridge represents a much less costly alternative to having to provide active transportation infrastructure along Speedvale
- Avenue when it is reconstructed.
- GCAT notes the allocation for the Speedvale underpass
- interim solution approved by Council in 2018 (PK0099.) Although we are pleased that the south side trail is being addressed on an interim basis, we wish to remind Council that it is only an interim solution and that further design work is necessary.
- GCAT notes that there are several road reconstruction
- projects in the capital budget proposal. We would like to remind Council and Staff that, under Section 5.4 (3) iii of the Official plan, the City has committed to "ensure that bikeways and pedestrian walkways are integrated into and designed as part of new
- road and other infrastructure projects in the City. Special consideration will be given to matters such as bike lanes, physically separated bikeways and provisions for a comfortable pedestrian environment which may include shade trees, street furniture, bicycle
- racks, lighting, signed and safe street crossings and other traffic controls."

-

Unfortunately, we have seen isolated cases in the past, particularly when reconstruction projects have been required for repair or replacement of buried infrastructure, where this clause of the Official Plan has been overlooked. We understand how easy it is for project engineers to omit the active transportation layer when their focus is elsewhere.

We would like your assurance that the capital budget proposals and project estimates for all road reconstruction projects have accounted for the cost of active transportation infrastructure and amenities as is specified in the Official Plan.

- GCAT is appreciative of the greater level of detail
- and multiple-year allocations provided this year in the Budget proposal. However, in the case of some capital projects, we feel more detail should be available to the public and organizations like ours. For example, when a project refers to build-outs according
- to existing master plans, we are unable to see any information about which elements of the plan are to be built, when and at what cost. Whether it is part of the budgeting process or otherwise, as an organization that speaks for many hundreds of interested
- citizens, GCAT would like to be part of the conversation that establishes these priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget recommendations, and for your service to the community.

Yours truly,

Mike Darmon
Vice President,
Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation

Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council:

The past 10 months have brought unprecedented challenges and impacts on City of Guelph expenditures and revenues.

The challenge before you is to implement a budget which responds to the current reality, as well as the economic hardships that many people have been experiencing.

This challenge is exacerbated by two realities:

- 1) The property tax regime is not a "progressive" program, ie: it's not based on people's income and ability to pay. It's based on the value of their property.
- 2) The pandemic has polarized the gulf between "haves" and "have nots". Economists describe this as a "K-shaped recovery". Many households in our community are awash in extra cash that they would normally be spending on travel, clothing and dining out. At the other end of the spectrum, people in minimum-wage jobs have been disproportionately impacted.

As of this morning, the ZOLO real estate website documents that housing prices in Guelph have risen 15% year-to-date.

<https://www.zolo.ca/guelph-real-estate/trends>

What this means is that someone who bought a \$400,000 condo a year ago is now \$60,000 wealthier.

If you were living in an "average" house in Guelph worth \$575,000 a year ago, you are just under \$90,000 wealthier and your house is now worth \$661,000.

This needs to be the context within which you consider the 3.63% property tax increase which is put before you.

In actual dollar terms, if a household has an annual tax bill of \$5,000, a 3.63% increase would translate to \$182.00 for the year, or \$15 per month.

I acknowledge that even this small amount could be onerous for households on a fixed income or others experiencing financial stress. How could City Hall expand our Tax Increase Deferral Program to soften the impact of a 3.63% increase on targeted households?

<https://guelph.ca/city-hall/budget-and-finance/property-taxes/bill-payments/deferral-program-and-rebates/#:~:text=The%20tax%20deferral%20amount%20is,property%20or%20change%20in%20eligibility>.

I do not support cutting City services such as affordable housing or transit. Reliable, regular transit is critical infrastructure for low-income people to get to and from their jobs and connect with others in their community. It would be unethical to minimize property tax increases for wealthy property owners at the expense of downloading the impacts onto low-income members of our community.

If Council is concerned about looming future impacts on tax rates, the sacred cow that needs to be put on the table is growth. Ms. Baker has previously told us that the cost of growth over the next 10 years is projected to be \$122 million. That is the shortfall of growth costs not covered by Development Charges and it's sucked out of citizens' pockets both through taxes and water and wastewater fees - \$12.2 million per year!

Council needs to get serious about getting a grip on the pace of growth we can afford and the type of growth that gets approved. Fifteen years ago, Watson & Associates Economists made a presentation to Guelph City Council which demonstrated that most low-density housing does not cover the cost of services delivered through property taxes remitted. In contrast, most medium and high-density housing results in a net benefit to City tax coffers: taxes remitted exceed the cost of providing services to compact development.

Given this information, Clair-Maltby is sheer financial folly. Guelph citizens will pay the price while developers will pocket the profits.

If you are serious about getting a grip on rising property taxes, this is where you need to focus restraint, not on key services like libraries and recreation centres.

Sincerely,

Susan Watson

City Councilors of Guelph

We wish to communicate our support for the micro transit proposal for the Hanlon Creek Business Park. We were very happy to learn of the approval of some transit in the 2019 budget, and while we realize that COVID-19 has necessitated certain projects to be put on hold, we would like to strongly encourage council to consider this proposal as a means to facilitate employees and patrons of businesses in the Hanlon Creek corridor to have reliable access. We feel it would be a good way to test the waters for micro transit in Guelph and provide valuable feedback and data on how micro transit can help a city support local residents and local businesses in under serviced transit areas.

During cold winter months employees and patrons having to walk fairly long distances in the dark and/or poor weather to reach places of employment and business which often preclude them from doing so. We feel it would be of good value for the city to support this area of town which continues to see considerable expansion and growth.

We hope to hear that council is able to find some room to begin navigating this possibility in a timely and friendly manner.

Regards,

Heather Burke



Heather Burke

Office Manager

Dear Friends,\$ LongTCare or parking? Public Health /Full Transit-BOTH, 20%salary reduction

Dear Friends,

Regarding Budget priortizing:

Consider the importance of investment and values of \$ Long Term Care or parking,

further supporting Public Health and Full Transit ,in 1919 we had better transit,

New Zealand politicians voluntarily took a 20 % salary cut. Gritty empathetic and insightful leadership.(some people could do this)

Regards,

Diane Hurst

November 14, 2020

Mayor Cam Guthrie & Councillors of the City of Guelph
Guelph City Hall, 1 Carden Street,
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

RE: LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO CELEBRATE OUR TREES

Dear Mr. Mayor and Esteemed Councillors,

We wanted to invite you to take a moment to celebrate our trees--and all they do for our economy and health and safety.

Guelph was recently named one of the Tree Cities of the World, in part for the rigour and ambition in its Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). What an accomplishment to be recognized by a United Nations agency and large American foundation!

We, Guelphites, take pride in this recognition and what it means. As you know, 95% of respondents to a City survey were supportive of long-term investment in our urban forests, and over 300 signed a [petition](#) this Fall asking that the UFMP be fully funded.

Clearly, this pride and commitment extend to you, our elected representatives. On September 28th, you unanimously approved staff's UFMP update and second phase plan. City staff seem eager to put the plan's second phase into action and have requested the budget needed to do so. We have no doubt that you will accept staff's recommendation before you now, and fully fund the UFMP this year and going forward. We thank you in advance for that.

Our economy and household finances also thank you. As you know, our tree canopy provides an estimated \$9.7 million in environmental benefits **each year**, including \$1.9 million in home energy savings. We want those annual dividends to continue being paid to us, which requires properly maintaining our trees--like one needs to maintain a home to hold its value and livability. (Speaking of which, research has shown that [trees support property values](#) too.)

Finally, let us not forget the positive health benefits we all get from our trees. Research shows:

- trees [clean the air we breathe](#) and [provide free air conditioning](#),
- trees [make streets safer](#), and may even [reduce crime](#),
- having more trees [reduces prevalence of asthma in children](#), and that
- 'doses of nature' [enhance attention](#) including among those with attention deficit disorder, and have [restorative influences on health](#).

In summary, we have a lot to be thankful for: thanks to our trees, thanks to City staff for developing a plan to care for them, and thank you for enabling that plan with appropriate funding.

Sincerely,

Meeting Date: November 25th, 2020
Delegation: Guelph Skatepark Community

Introduction

The Guelph skatepark is an amazing place for people of all ages, genders and backgrounds to enjoy. Although it is called a skatepark, people use this to participate in their choice of action sports, whether that be skateboarding, biking, scootering, or rollerblading. It provides participants with a sense of belonging where everyone shares the same love of action sports. Our skatepark has grown into its own community within Guelph.

Action sports give people an outlet to reduce stress, improve their physical skills and most importantly, to have fun. They provide a meaningful outlet for youth where the only competition is against yourself. The mental strength required to keep pushing your own personal limits is what makes action sports so amazing. This builds confidence and resilience; aptitudes that can all be applied to everyday life.

Findings

In the past 1-2 years we have seen a crazy spike in usage. This is especially true since the onset of the COVID pandemic. The skatepark is overcrowded, and as a result the safety of the park is compromised with increased chance of a collision. I have personally been involved in multiple collisions and have witnessed many. Generally we see a more experienced rider collide with a less experienced rider (not to say it can't happen to anyone). There are three main reasons for these collisions:

1. Awareness of surroundings and abilities to anticipate
2. Understanding of park rules/etiquette
3. Overcrowding and the absence of lighting

Learning the rules and etiquette of the skatepark can be very difficult. Aside from specific rules most of it is being extremely aware of your surroundings and having enough knowledge to anticipate where someone else is going. Riders should look before dropping into the body of the park as your path of travel might interfere with someone else's path. This lack of awareness is a main factor that contributes to collisions.

Within a skatepark there are safe zones to stand/idle. The rule is that you should only idle in these zones. These zones are at the edges of the skatepark, and although unmarked, are recognized by experienced riders. Beginners often overlook this rule. Beginners standing in non-idle zones affect the flow of traffic, further contributing to unsafe conditions.

Another main factor contributing to collisions is that the skatepark is overcrowded with too many participants at any given time. This is especially true after school and work hours. In the fall and spring, it is especially busy as daylight hours are limited. An overcrowded skatepark and less

experienced riders do not mix well. There are many skateparks around the Guelph area that have lights for evening use. This includes Norton skatepark in Burlington, Iceland skatepark in Mississauga, Gellert skatepark in Georgetown and Fischer Hallman skatepark in Kitchener. If you live in Guelph and want to ride at night, this involves driving outside of our community to participate. Not all riders have access to a vehicle, making it more difficult to participate. Additionally, other recreational facilities in Guelph have lights. For example, adjacent to the Guelph Skatepark is a new dog park which has lights. Most tennis courts and basketball courts in Guelph also have lights. I believe it is unfair to privilege certain recreational users over others, as recreation sports of all types should be celebrated and promoted our community.

Luke Jefferson, the city's manager of open space planning and parks, said in a statement to the Guelph Mercury that,
"Lighting is not planned for the skate park because of the impacts that would have on neighbours, capital and operating budgets (because it extends the service beyond permitted hours) and impacts to the surrounding environment, which is located, like many of our parks, within a natural area,"

Upon visiting other parks in Guelph which have lights, these parks are also directly adjacent to residential developments. For example, Exhibition Park tennis courts and baseball diamonds, St. Georges park tennis courts, Margaret Green Park tennis courts and Zaduk Park tennis courts. The photos provided show the proximity of the lights to the neighbours.

Margaret Green Park





St George's Park



Zaduk Place Park

In addition, the skatepark is directly adjacent to highway 24, which is supplied with street lights. These lights are closer to the neighbours on Bristol Street than any lights that would be installed in the future at our skatepark. This shows once again how the skate community and its athletes are discriminated against. Not only is our park not illuminated, but is placed far away from any residential development or other recreational facility making it difficult to access and unsafe.

Recommendations

As a representative of our skatepark community, I present our action plan for the Guelph Skatepark to improve the safety of our community.

1. Post rules & park etiquette

- Post a sign outlining rules and etiquette at the park entrance.
- Post rules and etiquette on a park website or the Guelph Skatepark community instagram.
- 2. Designate idle zones
 - Post a map of the skatepark with directional flow and idle zones at the park entrance.
 - Paint idle zones on the surface of the skatepark.
- 3. Install lights
 - Install lights around the perimeter of the park and parking areas. Lighting will create a safer environment with less congestion and lower risk of mixing experienced and less experienced riders.
- 4. Build more skateparks in Guelph
 - Additional skateparks in Guelph will disburse the amount of people at the skatepark to ensure the safety of participants. For action sport users, it is clear that there is a demand for more skateparks, including BMX jump/pump tracks. Guelph needs to seriously consider adding more of these facilities to our Parks and Rec areas to accommodate all athletes from all backgrounds.

Summary

In summary, we hope to improve the safety of our community with the recommendations proposed above.

To date we have 775 community members who have signed a petition to support the installation of lights and an additional skatepark in Guelph. The petition is bringing our community together to advocate for change. With the support of Mayor Cam Guthrie I hope to see these changes implemented soon. [LINK TO PETITION AND COMMENTS](#) This is an opportunity for the City of Guelph to support all athletes of diverse backgrounds. If we can implement structural changes such as lights, safety zones & signage, this public space will be a safe and welcoming environment both physically and socially.

Sincerely,

Luke Pruski

November 18th, 2020

To: the City of Guelph Council,

I write to you today on behalf of Silence, the arts and performance space on Essex St. in Guelph. While this is a personal letter, I also write on behalf of artists, musicians, creators and community innovators in this great city of ours. I say that this city is great and that is an unwavering truth but it is so, in a lot of ways, because of the contributions of those arts workers for whom I am advocating. Today I am urging you to support the proposed budget request for the Community Investment Strategy as well as the Tourism Rebuild Emergency Grant. Both requests that, if implemented, will further support the programs, businesses, and people who make this city a great place to live.

The impact of the COVID19 pandemic has been devastating. Many of us have found commiserating to be helpful as we touted our “all in this together” mindset, but as the months have worn on, we have come to realize that there is a great deal of variety in how folks are experiencing the pandemic and how the many economic, social, and physical ramifications of this virus have affected individuals in different ways. One experience, however, that I believe is universal is the role that arts and culture workers have played in uplifting our spirits, fostering community, and inspiring joy, thoughtfulness, and creativity in others. Without arts workers, stay at home mandates would have been unbearable. When we’re alone, we turn to music, art, television, film, books, and online content to connect with others, to connect with ourselves, and to escape some of the crueler aspects of our collective reality.

While social distancing may have led to an increase in consumption, arts workers are often not reaping the benefits of this. Instead, independent artists, venues, community centres, and content creators are competing with an oversaturation of free digital content, and streaming services run by media conglomerates are raking in the funds while grassroots workers and creatives are struggling to make ends meet and stay connected to their audiences. Even before the pandemic, opportunities for independent musicians and visual artists to access fair wages have traditionally been few and far between. I’m proud to be a part of the vibrant and resilient community that is the arts and culture sector in Guelph. However, without support from the municipality and other funding streams, we will not be able to sustain the programming and content creation that our communities thrive on. As we all learn to continuously adapt to changing restrictions, new innovations, and the economic realities of a post-pandemic environment, there are significant challenges that we must work together to overcome.

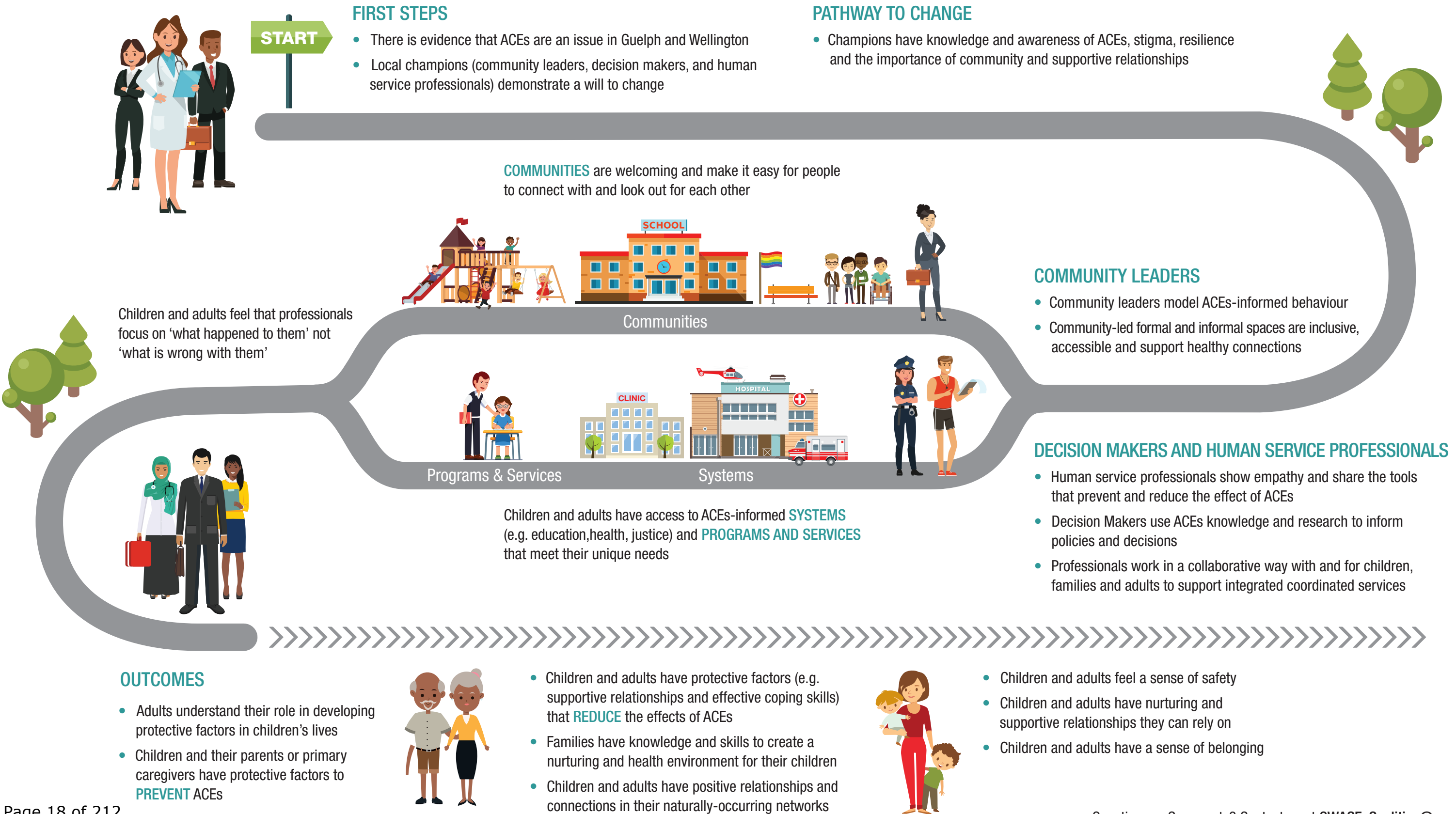
By supporting the Community Investment Strategy and the Tourism Rebuild Emergency Grant, you are showing the incredibly hardworking people in these sectors how valuable their contributions are to creating an enriched community.

Sincerely,
Scarlett Raczynski
Executive Director
Silence Guelph



THEORY OF CHANGE

VISION: A resilient community that prevents and reduces the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



Mayor's Task Force: Program Sustainability



WELCOMING STREETS INITIATIVE
ADDICTION COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM
SUPPORTED RECOVERY ROOM
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
EXPANDED SERVICE HOURS

Welcoming Streets Initiative



Program Overview

- To support local businesses and street-involved individuals in the Guelph Downtown Area.
- **Outreach Workers** work in a close and integrated way with existing services that serve individuals with complex needs

Outcomes

1. Downtown Guelph feels safe and welcoming for everyone
2. Ensuring downtown businesses are receiving the support they need to respond to challenging situations appropriately
3. Building positive relationships with vulnerable individuals to ensure they are supported and connected to the resources they need

Welcoming Streets Initiative

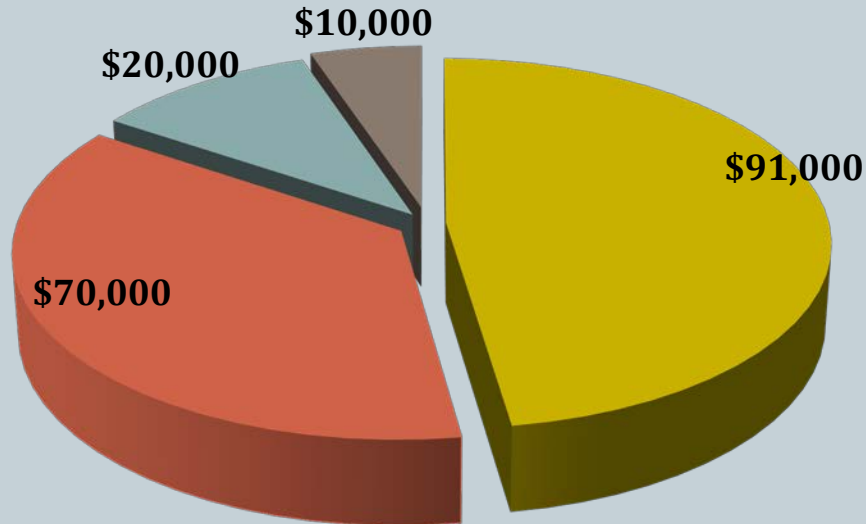
2019/2020 Outcomes

- Business calls received and responded to: 272
- Client engagements: 1773
- Unique clients supported: 206
- Presentations : 20

Several Ontario municipalities have looked to Guelph's Welcoming Street's program as a best-practices model, with communities including Barrie, North Bay, Oshawa, Coburg, Kenora, Brantford, Brampton, Cambridge, and Hamburg Germany visiting to learn from program partners and staff about this innovative client-centred approach to enhancing community safety.

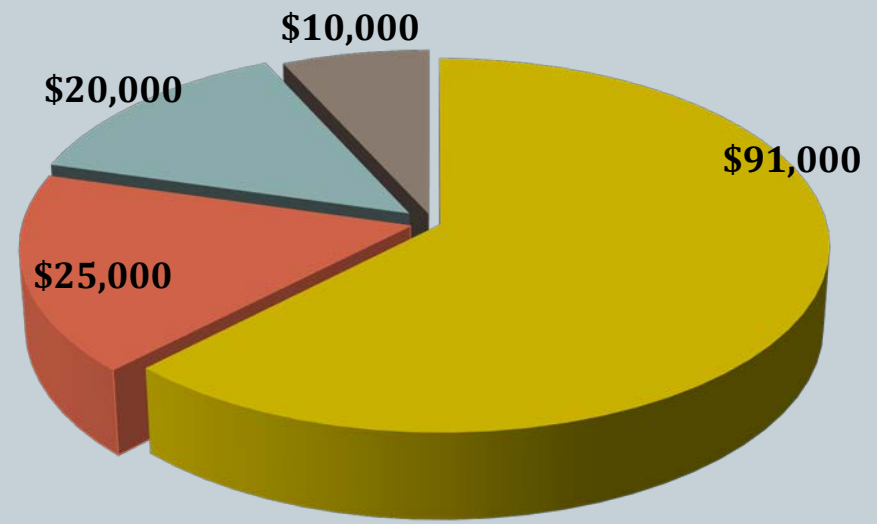
Welcoming Streets Initiative Budget

2020/2021 Budget Revenue



- City of Guelph: \$91K
- Ontario Health West: \$70K
- Downtown Business Association: \$20K
- Guelph Police Services: \$10K

2021/2022 Budget Request



- City of Guelph: \$91K
- County of Wellington: \$25K
- Downtown Business Association: \$20K
- Guelph Police Services: \$10K

Annual Budget: \$150,000

- Health sector contribution for 2021/2022 is pending
- \$40K reserve budget from 2020/2021. Enables longevity and ESA requirements for program
- To ensure program sustainability, we are requesting for an extended agreement beyond 1 year to support the sustainability of the program

Addiction Court Support Program



Program Overview:

- To connect with individuals to address both substance use issues and criminal offending behaviour
- **Counsellor** provides outreach based service delivery that is flexible and responsive to client care needs
 - ✦ Services include: referrals to ongoing treatment, support access with community resources, brief counseling

Outcomes:

1. Decreased interactions with police/court
2. Increased adoption of health behaviours and enhanced motivation for positive change
3. Increased connections to treatment and social services
4. A safer and healthier community for all

Addiction Court Support Program



Service Overview:

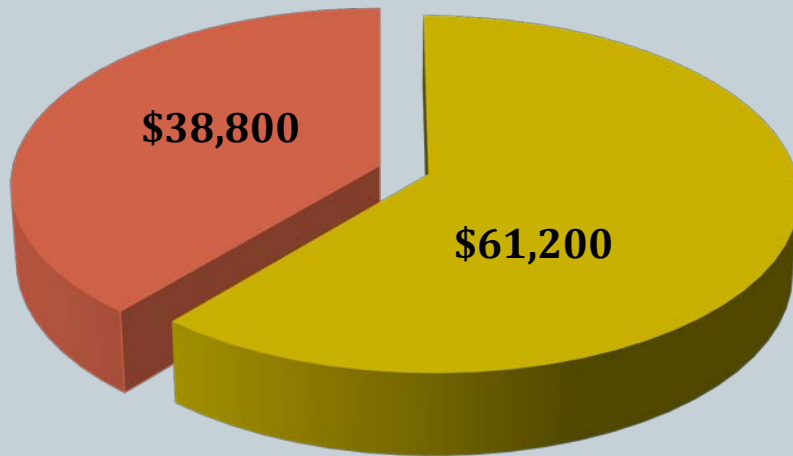
- **635** client interactions
- **64** unique clients have connected with the counsellor
- Majority of referrals were made by John Howard Society- Direct Accountability Program or defense counsel

Of the 64 clients connected to the program:

- **56% referred to community treatment resources**
- **43% referred to residential treatment**

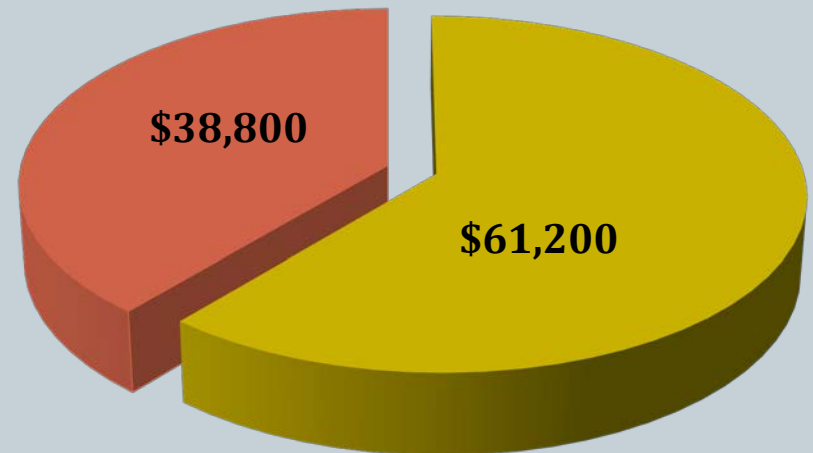
Addiction Court Support Program Budget

2020/2021 Revenue



■ City of Guelph ■ County of Wellington

2021/2022 Budget Request



■ City of Guelph ■ County of Wellington

Annual Budget: \$100,000

- Health sector contribution support for 2020/2021, 2021/2022 pending
- To ensure program sustainability, we are requesting for an extended agreement beyond 1 year to support the sustainability of the program

Supported Recovery Room



Program Overview

- To provide care and stabilization following crisis related to substance use and mental health issues deemed too ill for shelter and not requiring hospital care.
- Integrated staffing model:
 - **Wyndham House:** provides 24-7 support
 - **Stonehenge Therapeutic Community:** addiction/concurrent clinical staff
 - **Guelph CHC:** nursing staff

Outcomes

1. Reduced pressure on EMS, hospital, and health care organizations
2. Reduced safety concerns in the community when this populations' need are met
3. Reduced occupancy and safety concerns for the shelter system
4. Improved linkages to health and social supports for complex populations

Supported Recovery Room

- The SRR adapted this year to changing needs given the pandemic, and resources were utilized to support the Supported Isolation Centre for the first half of the year.
- The SRR is re-launching out of Loyola House between now and March 31, 2020
- Next year the program will be **reduced to 1-2 safe beds** utilized according to the SRR model to support the shelter system and the upcoming permanent supportive housing models

Summary of Request 2021/2022



- To support and sustain these innovative, cross-sector collective impact programs going forward we respectfully request that the City of Guelph consider annual funding contributions of:
 - Welcoming Streets Initiative \$91K
 - Addiction Court Support \$61.2K

TOTAL: \$152.2 K
- At this time, we are requesting no further investments to support the SRR program. **Rather, we are focusing our targeted energy on securing the foundational operating funds to implement PSH - such that we are addressing the root cause issue - homelessness.**



Permanent Supportive Housing



Canadian Mental
Health Association

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale



STONEHENGE
Therapeutic Community

Permanent supportive housing need

- Snapshot of April 2020 By-Name List
- Not a definite number for PSH need



88 high-acuity individuals

All should be considered for some form of PSH.

29



experience significant challenges in finding & maintaining housing

59



also face challenges, but likely do not require the same degree of support as the 29 individuals

Should be considered for...

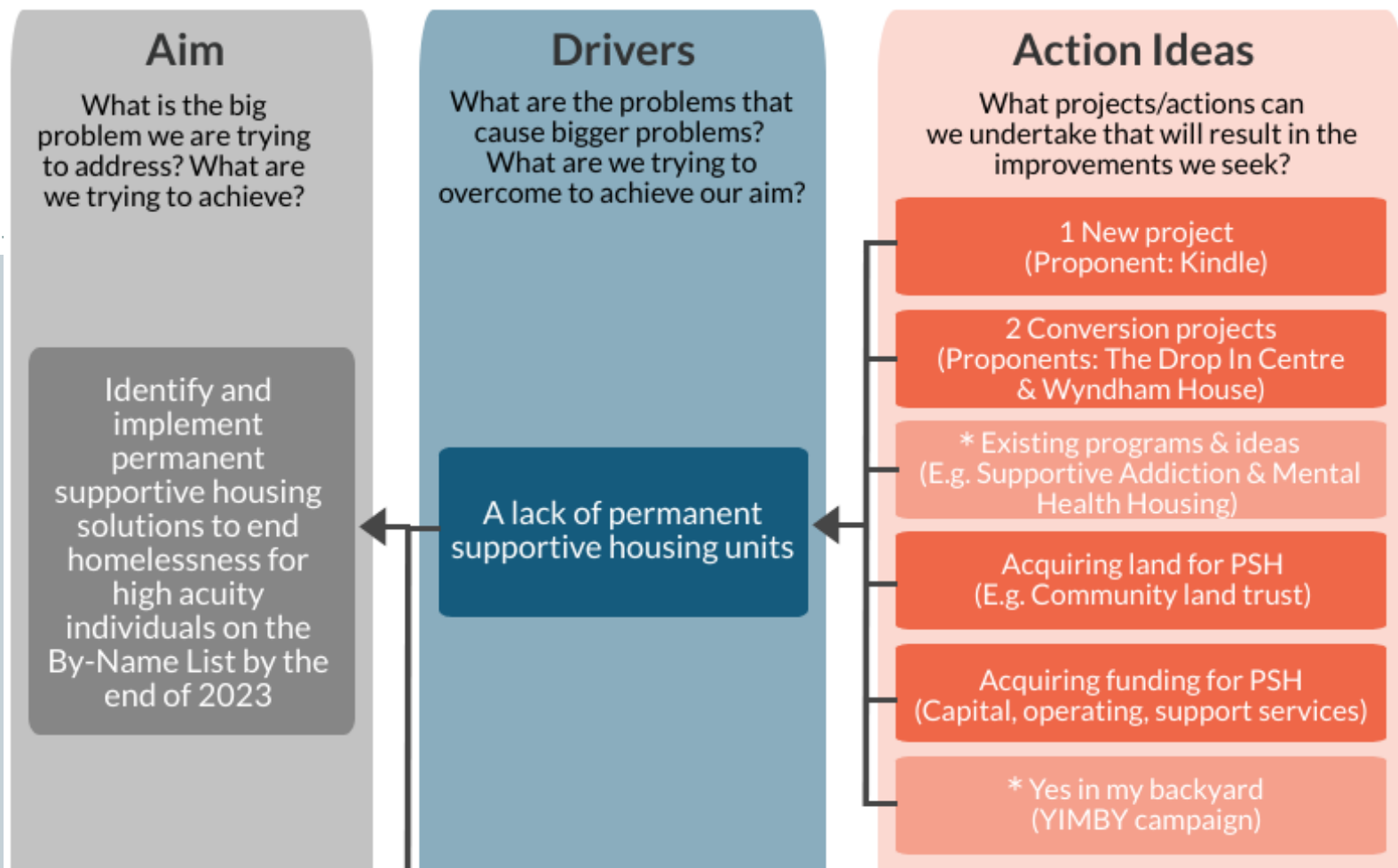
A high-intensity PSH model with supports for very high-acuity individuals with complex mental health, addiction, & physical health barriers

Should be considered for...

A PSH model with intensive case management supports

Important to also consider **outreach**, as **60%** of the 29 individuals were most frequently unsheltered (sleeping in locations unfit for human habitation)

Action Ideas



*existing projects & programs that were already underway



Three Emerging Projects:

1. The Drop In Centre's plan to purchase and retro fit the Parkview hotel;
2. Kindle Communities plans to develop new-build PSH on land donated from Skyline and SkyDev;
3. Wyndham House's plan to adapt existing transitional housing residence to permanent supportive housing.

Developing Our Vision



- We are committed to designing an integrated and a ***comprehensive system*** of support and care that will be applied **across the developing permanent supportive housing programs** in the City of Guelph.
- In our design, each partner's expertise will be wholly leveraged as we build our best practice, integrated wraparound model together.
- Where the needs of residents exceed the capacity of the onsite services, specialized services will be invited into the team.

PSH Going Forward



- Recently submitted a \$2.7 M operating funding proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's "Back to Home" funding envelope, endorsed by the Mayor's Task Force partners, and the Guelph and Area OHT.
 - Over \$1M in in-kind operating resources from across multiple organizations and sectors have been identified.
- We are pursuing multiple avenues to support our operating costs, with an assumption that municipal investments will be necessary to support ongoing operating costs.
- United Way is a long-standing partner/ funder of Mayor's Task Force programming. They remain committed to support going forward, focused on the greatest areas of need, including a dedicated PSH fundraising campaign.
- We expect to have greater clarity on our resource needs in the coming months, at which time we will be making an informed request for funding to both the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington.



- Questions?

Briefing Report: Funding to Sustain Implementation of Mayor's Task Force Priorities

Attention: City of Guelph Council
County of Wellington Social Services
Date: November 16, 2020
Submitted by: Raechelle Devereaux CEO, Guelph Community Health Centre
Kristin Kerr, Executive Director, Stonehenge Therapeutic Community

In 2019, the **Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness and Community Safety** was convened. From this Task Force, cross-sector community leaders identified five priorities, including:

1. Develop **Permanent Supportive Housing** to house 15 chronically homeless individuals with complex needs, with 24/7 staffing to support residents with addiction, mental health, or chronic health issues
2. Re-open a **Supported Recovery Room**, which would meet sleep and recovery needs for clients for up to 72 hours. It would be staffed by a registered nurse, addiction counsellor, and peer worker
3. Fund the **Welcoming Streets Initiative** to support individuals and businesses in Guelph's downtown by educating, empowering, and connecting them to services and supports
4. Re-start an **Addiction Court Support Worker** program, which provides an addiction counsellor for people who are in bail court and connects them to services and supports
5. Implement system and service improvements such as **expanding service hours to evenings, weekends and holidays**; including peer supports in service delivery; and involving end-users in the design of services

Over the course of the past 18 months, community partners have been working tirelessly to design, implement, and sustain all five priorities in our community. By way of this report, we are providing you with a high-level summary of respective program status' and outcomes, **as well as respectfully submitting our funding requests for the 2021 year.**

Welcoming Streets

- The Welcoming Streets Initiative began as a pilot in the spring of 2018, through a partnership between the Guelph Community Health Centre, the Guelph Downtown Business Association, and Guelph Police Services. Welcoming Streets program outcome's span multiple sectors, including:
 - Support downtown businesses to respond to challenging behaviours from complex individuals (municipal)
 - Building positive relationships with vulnerable individuals to ensure they are supported and connected to the resources they need (health and social services)

- Downtown Guelph feels safe and welcoming for everyone (municipal, social services, health)
- The following is a snapshot of the program's reach during the 2019/2020 year:
 - Business calls received and responded to: 272
 - Client engagements: 1773
 - Unique clients supported: 206
 - Presentations : 20

Because of the outcomes achieved, several Ontario municipalities have also looked to Guelph's Welcoming Street's program as a best-practices model, with communities including Barrie, North Bay, Oshawa, Coburg, Kenora, Brantford, Brampton, Cambridge, and Hamburg Germany visiting to learn from program partners and staff about this innovative client-centred approach to enhancing community safety.

Welcoming Streets Initiative Funding

- **The annual budget for the 2-staff program is \$150K.** Recognizing the program's cross-sector outcomes, the Welcoming Streets Initiative has consistently been supported by a cross-sector funding model, with time-limited contributions from the City of Guelph, the County of Wellington, the United Way, the Guelph Downtown Business Association, Ontario Health West (formerly the Waterloo Wellington LHIN) and the Guelph Police Services Board.

2020/2021 budget contributions include:

1. \$91K 1 x funding City of Guelph
2. 20K 1x funding Downtown Business Association
3. \$10K City of Guelph Police Services Board
4. \$70 K 1X Ontario Health West (WWLHIN)

At this time, for the 2021 year, we request that:

- The City of Guelph consider an annual funding contribution of \$91K
- The County of Wellington consider an annual funding contribution of \$25K
- That the City of Guelph considers extending the funding agreement beyond a one-year period to support the sustainability of the program

Addiction Court Support Program

- Delivered by a single outreach worker, the Addiction Court Support Program focuses on disrupting the cycle of arrest – release – return that is so often the norm for those whose addiction/mental health issues result in conflict with the law. The program works with individuals to address both substance use issues and criminal offending behaviour. Engaging individuals at key moments when motivation for change is likely to be higher - in Bail Court, and as they are preparing for release from custody – is a key element of the program's success.
- This program, initially delivered for 10 months in 2016-17 as part of Guelph's Community Response to Methamphetamine, began as a partnership between Stonehenge Therapeutic Community, the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy, and Guelph Police Services. When the original funding source, a Proceeds of Crime

grant, expired, Guelph Police opted to fund the program for several more months in recognition of its positive impact for justice-involved individuals.

- The services provided by the Addiction Court Support are outreach-based services, ensuring a flexible and responsive approach to care. Offering referrals to ongoing treatment, support to access and fully engage with other resources in the community, and brief counselling focused on building and consolidating motivation for change, this program demonstrated strong evaluation outcomes and quickly became a vital resource for legal and social service partners.
- Although the original program was forced to wind down in 2017 due to lack of sustainable funding, its impact continued to be felt and it was quickly identified as one of the key priorities by the 2019 Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness and Community Safety. Thanks to contributions from the County of Wellington and the City of Guelph, the Addiction Court Support Program returned to the community in May of 2019 and has provided support to 64 individuals to date with over 600 client interactions.

Addiction Court Support Funding

This innovative program relies on a collective impact funding model, which recognizes the cross-sector outcomes that it delivers, including

- Decreased interactions with police/courts (municipal)
- Increased connections to treatment and social services (health and social services)
- A safer and healthier community for all

The annual budget for the program is \$100K. 2019/2020 budget contributions included:

1. \$38.8K 1x funding County of Wellington
2. \$61.2 1x funding City of Guelph

At this time, for the 2021 year, we request that:

- The County of Wellington consider an annual funding contribution in the amount of \$38.8K
- The City of Guelph consider an annual funding contribution in the amount of \$61.2K
- That both funders consider extending agreements beyond a one-year period to support the sustainability of the program.

Permanent Supportive Housing

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a long-standing gap in the continuum of care for complex individuals in our community. Homelessness presents individuals with a lack of dignity, elevated health risks and mortality, and lack of basic human needs. In addition, extensive research demonstrates the acute pressures that homelessness places on other emergency community services including shelters, policing, and hospital utilization.
- In the winter of 2019, the Mayor's Task Force (MTF) prioritized PSH as a critical need in our community. Since that time, with the strong support of the Poverty Task Force, partners have been working relentlessly to advance PSH developments; with a shared vision to provide client-centred wraparound

housing services **WHILE** simultaneously reaching our community's goal to end homelessness by 2023!

- **Data Snapshot: In April 2020, our community's Built for Zero data identified that 88 homeless individuals in Guelph Wellington had needs that were well-matched to PSH programming.**
- At this time, three PSH projects have emerged:
 - The Drop In Centre's plan to purchase and retrofit the Parkview Hotel to PSH;
 - Kindle Communities plans to develop new-build PSH on land donated from Skyline and SkyDev (see attached briefing note);
 - Wyndham House's plan to adapt existing transitional housing residence to permanent supportive housing
- To operationalize these developments with the necessary staffing models, community partners have engaged in robust planning together to design a **consistent and comprehensive system of support and care** that will be applied across all PSH programs in the City of Guelph and Wellington County. In our design, each partner's expertise is being wholly leveraged in integrated ways.

Permanent Supportive Housing Funding

- Securing base operational investments for PSH is a critical step in our community's journey to ending homelessness. Capital development processes are also underway for all projects, led by the building proponents.
- Partners recently submitted a \$2.7 M operating funding proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's "Back to Home" funding envelope, endorsed by the Mayor's Task Force partners, and the Guelph and Area OHT. In addition to our request, the proposal also highlighted over \$1M in in-kind operating resources from across multiple organizations and sectors.
- At this time, we are pursuing multiple avenues to support our operating costs, with the assumption that municipal investments will be necessary to support ongoing operating costs. We expect to have greater clarity on our needs in the coming months, at which time we will be making an informed request for funding to both the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington.

Supported Recovery Room

- In the winter of 2017, the need for a Supported Recovery Room (SRR) was identified in our community, with unanimous prioritization by the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy, Toward Common Ground, and Poverty Task Force coalitions. The purpose of this program was to provide care and stabilization following crises related to substance use and mental health issues for residents of the community deemed too ill for shelter, yet not requiring hospital care.
- In 2018, a pilot model was tested, which proved promising on many levels including, but not limited to, emergency room diversion and hospitalization avoidance and the ability to provide client-centred options for those experiencing crisis within the community. Perhaps most importantly, a multitude of client stories of recovery emerged from those who received care at the SRR.

- In October 2019, we launched an adapted model of SRR, with 5 beds located on the second floor of the Welcome In Drop-In Centre. The integrated staffing model for the program includes 24-7 support staff provided by Wyndham House, working alongside integrated addiction/concurrent clinical staff from Stonehenge Therapeutic Community and nursing staff from the Guelph CHC.
- Amid the pandemic, partners have flexibly adapted the program in integrated ways within the supported isolation centre and emergency Covid shelter supports.
- Through our planning, we know that many of the unmet needs and corresponding crises that precipitated the need for SRR services will be met through our comprehensive implementation of PSH programming.

SRR Funding:

- **The annualized costs for the SRR program is \$625K** to support a five bed program.
- Partners have sufficient funding to support the program for the 2020/2021 year.
- For the 2021/2022 year, partners commit to applying the \$150K in base Ministry of Health funding to support 1-2 ongoing SRR beds within our existing homelessness programming.
- Therefore, at this time, we are requesting no further investments to support the SRR program. **Rather, we are focusing our targeted energy on securing the foundational operating funds to implement PSH - such that we are addressing the root cause issue - homelessness.**



Police Records Checks for Volunteers



"Volunteering is a fundamental act of good citizenship. It's also essential in our society." - Volunteer Canada

At PIN, we believe:

- that everyone has something to contribute to our community
- volunteers are integral to the Community Benefit Sector
- volunteerism builds connections and community
- solid volunteer engagement practices are essential to support

Volunteerism is resource to be nurtured and cultivated in a planful and foundational way to preserve, grow and harvest.

Community Benefit Sector

170,000+ nonprofits and charities in Canada. 8.1% of the total GDP.
Employs 2+ million people. 12 million volunteers

55,000+ organizations which together generate some \$67 billion in revenues and serve multiple missions that contribute to communities across Ontario.

Volunteering is a common thread:

Health. Sports. Faith. Community. Children. Youth. Seniors. Poverty.



1 in 5 NFP in Ontario could close

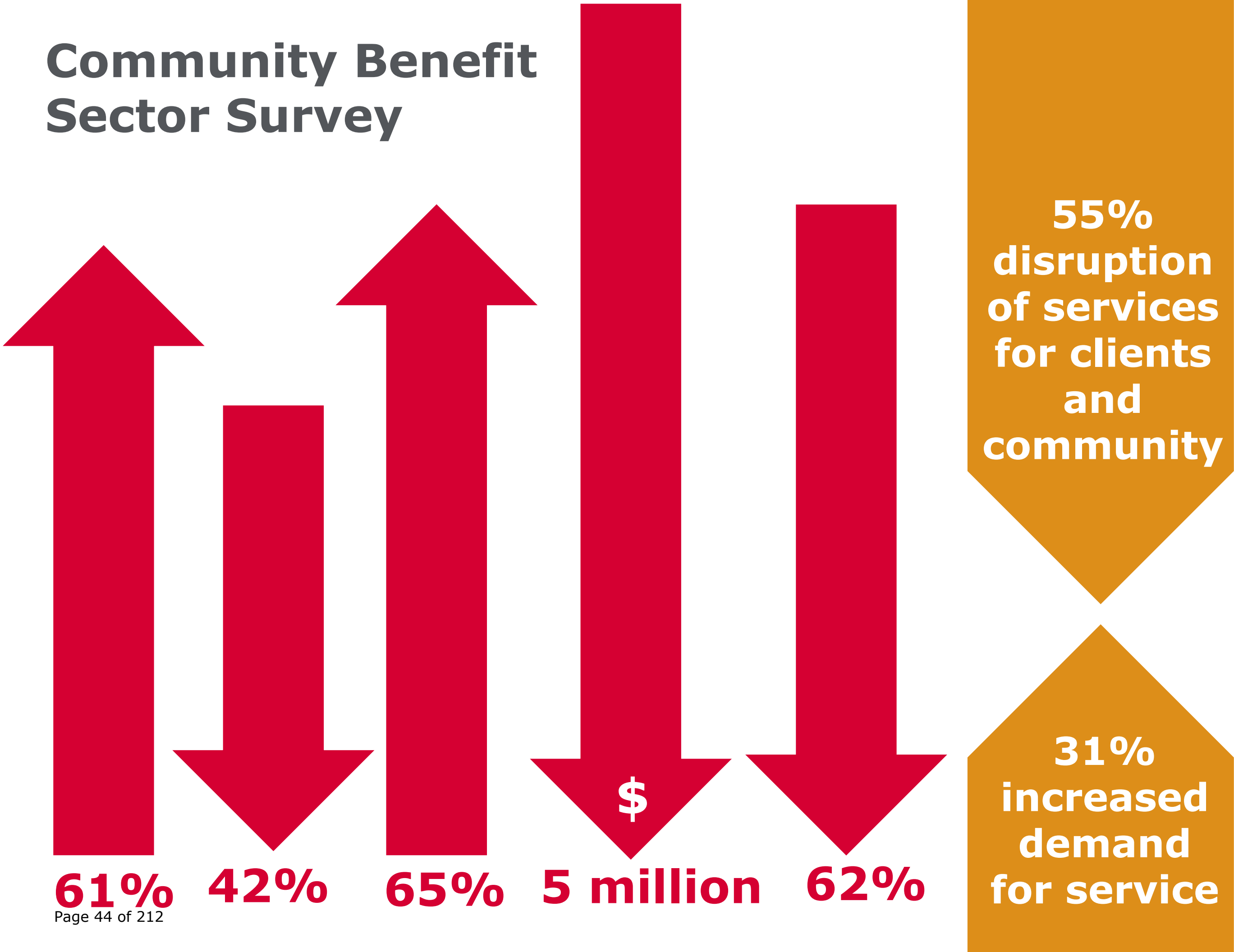
Ontario Nonprofit Network recent survey findings 20% of NFP may close by end of the year. Another quarter said that 2021 will likely be a greater financial struggle than this year.



What is the impact in Guelph?

PIN led a Community Benefit Sector Survey Sept – October
Result? More demand, less revenue, limited reserves
COVID impact leaning well into 9 months to 1 – 2 years.

Community Benefit Sector Survey



Why Are We Here?



The impacts of the end of the Guelph Police Services legacy agreement to waive the fees of Police Records Checks (PRC) for volunteers coupled with mounting impacts of COVID on the community benefit sector has a one-two combo impact.

Of the PRC that PIN had approved, they centre around:

Community Supports 46%

Includes organizations supporting issues of:

Poverty, Homelessness, Food Insecurity, Drug Addiction

Special note to add: 27%

(Faith groups also provide ***food pantries, clothing cupboards, transportation to appointments***)

'The ethos of volunteerism is infused with values such as solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, belonging and empowerment, all of which contribute significantly to quality of life.'

– United Nations Volunteers

The background of the slide is decorated with several thick, colorful felt strips. These strips, in shades of yellow, magenta, black, blue, green, and red, are arranged in a way that they cross each other and form a complex, multi-colored knot on the right side of the slide. The strips enter from the left and top-left, and their paths converge into the knot structure.

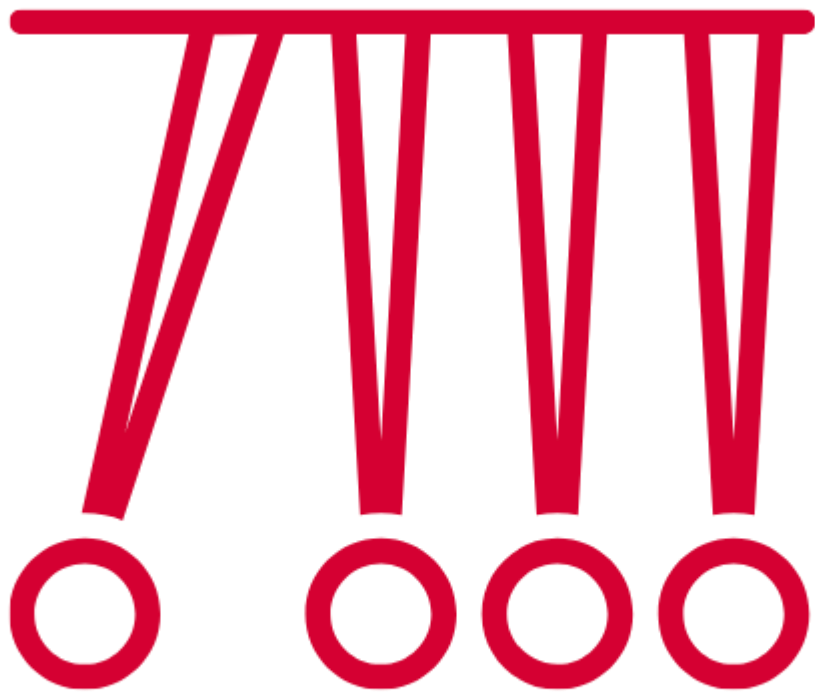
**'Guelph is regularly ranked
as one of Canada's best
places to live, work and play'**

44% of Canadians volunteer formally
= 59,608 volunteer in Guelph

Building our Future

Make strategic investments that
nurture social well-being, provide
landmark beauty and offer a safe
place where everyone belongs.

The Impact:



- *Loss of nonprofits and charities is a social crisis*
 - Imagine 20% of nonprofits in Guelph are closed.
 - In Downtown Guelph alone - no HOPE House, no Chalmers as example.
- *Decrease in volunteerism has impact*
 - Tutoring your children to read. Mentors for our youth. Driving your sister for her cancer appointment. Delivering a meal to your Dad.
 - These are roles that would require a Police Records Check.

The Community Benefit Sector is a vital core to our community.

The Investment in the Sector and Volunteerism:

Request that the City of Guelph invest \$150,000 to fund the cost of Police Records Checks for volunteers in 2021



Kim Cusimano
Executive Director
kim@PINnetwork.ca
(519) 822-0912 ext. 229

We provide connections and leadership in Guelph and Wellington County to support the development of individuals and organizations. We help people navigate essential community services, provide a hub for volunteer opportunities and engagement, and enable best practices and continuous learning for professionals in the non-profit sector. PINnetwork.ca



November 18, 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph
and City Councillors

I am writing in support of PIN – The People and Information Network’s delegation to Guelph City Council requesting a one-time fund of \$150,000 be applied to Police Records Checks for volunteers who require this clearance in 2021.

HOPE House Guelph has been a member of PIN and a participant in the BestMatch program for 7 years. Through this resource, we have:

- Engaged with over **1,400** volunteers who as of September 17th, 2020 have helped **5,400** unique individuals in the Guelph community escape the effects of poverty and move forward toward independence.
- Have a risk management structure in place including the requirement for Police Records Checks.

Pre COVID-19, **60% of the volunteers in our daily programming are clients**. Since the majority of these clients are not receiving income or are on either OW or ODSP due to physical or mental health challenges, they are not able to afford the \$30 cost of a police check. Our volunteer program moves people forward toward independence. As a result, on average, **2 volunteers a month find employment through our volunteer program** (pre-COVID 19) by learning soft and hard skills and making connections with other individual/corporate volunteers and by obtaining references that lead them to employment. See testimony below:

“I have been volunteering at Hope House since October of 2017. This has been made possible because of the BestMatch program. I am on ODSP so I would not be able to pay for the police check for myself. Through volunteering I have been able to get my self-esteem back and practice my hard skills which has led me to work again. Because of mental and emotional abuse from my mother I doubted I had the ability to hold a job of any kind. I started off in the food market but with my health I couldn’t be on my feet that long. With reluctance I asked to be trained on reception. I have now been in that position for 2 years and I am rocking it. I have improved my vocabulary and spelling, I relearned my computer skills and have learned how to interact with community members and how to determine what I could help them with and when to involve other staff. I was uncertain if I could do the multitasking that is needed and the efficiency needed. I am

now training a new receptionist on the protocols of HOPE House. I believe I could start applying for part time reception jobs. Through Hope House and the belief in myself I have gained a part time job as a custodian. Not only has this position improved my self-esteem, it has impacted a lot of our community members as well."

In conclusion:

We are a 100% community funded charity. We do not have an additional \$6,000 per year to fund police checks. Eliminating this program means that, once again, the most vulnerable in our community will be the ones to suffer the most, especially during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. **As of September 30, 2020 HOPE House has had more new households sign up for food market services in the last 6 months (April through September) than in the entire year last year.**

In light of the liability insurance coverage HOPE House has and the vulnerable sector we work with, police checks are considered a mandatory part of our screening process, in order to maintain this liability coverage.

Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable. This highly valuable service is a leading innovation in the voluntary sector; one that makes a significant impact here in our community. Guelph is known for its innovation and collaboration.

Name: Stacy Bailey

Role: Volunteer Coordinator

Organization: HOPE House Guelph

Contact information: volunteers@lakesidehopehouse.ca, 226-821-0987



November 18, 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph
and City Councillors

On behalf of Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County (FCSGW), I am writing in support of PIN – The People and Information Network's delegation to Guelph City Council requesting a one-time fund of \$150,000 be applied to Police Records Checks for volunteers who require this clearance in 2021.

In a recent Community Benefit Sector Survey led by PIN, clear results emerged that have, and will continue to have, impact on our community.

- 42% have had decreased budgets with 65% increase in costs due to COVID
- Loss of budgeted revenue of over \$5 million due to cancellation of events, fundraisers
- 55% disruption of services for clients and community coupled with 31% increased demand for service

With the realities of COVID-19 and the end of the legacy agreement with Guelph Police Services, there are significant financial impacts facing nonprofits and charities in Guelph.

Volunteers are integral to our mission and to ensure our due diligence in protecting the vulnerable we serve; Police Records Checks are an important component of best practices in volunteer screening.

FCSGW provides support and services for families to ensure that children and youth are protected from physical and emotional abuse or neglect. Our organization currently has close to 80 volunteers and prior to the pandemic, we recruited approx. 50 volunteers annually. These volunteers dedicate their time as Mentors, Tutors, Parent Aides, Childcare Assistance, Volunteer drivers. In addition, many of these volunteers step up and assist with tasks and projects such as; grocery shopping or making meals for a family where the primary caregiver is ill or overwhelmed, helping a single mother/father or family move, delivering gifts to families during the holiday season and much more.

Our organization can fulfill its mandate of keeping children safe and supporting families with the care and commitment of volunteers. Due to the risk and vulnerability of the children, youth and families that we serve, volunteers are required to have Police Records Checks. The Police Record

CONTACT US

PHONE 519-824-2410
TOLL-FREE 800-265-8300
WEB www.fcsgw.org

HEAD OFFICE

275 Eramosa Road
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3

COUNTY OFFICE

6484 Wellington Rd. 7
Unit 1
Elora, ON, N0B 1S0

SHELDALE OFFICE

20 Sheldale Crescent
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3



Checks assist in the screening process and minimizes potential risk and harm. The cost of Police Records Checks would provide significant assistance as we manage financial and human resources

moving into 2021. We believe that people in our community will be deterred from volunteering if they have the financial burden of paying for police checks. Our goal is to eliminate barriers for people who want to volunteer and having to pay for police checks creates a barrier.

Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable. This highly valuable service is a leading innovation in the voluntary sector; one that makes a significant impact in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karan Mann".

Karan Mann
Equity & Volunteer Services Manager

CC Sheila Markle; Executive Director
Bethany Comeau; Director of Human Resources and Property

|

CONTACT US
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Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3

Alzheimer Society

WATERLOO WELLINGTON

November 18, 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph
and City Councillors

I am writing in support of PIN – The People and Information Network's delegation to Guelph City Council requesting a one-time fund of \$150,000 be applied to Police Records Checks for volunteers who require this clearance in 2021.

In a recent Community Benefit Sector Survey led by PIN, clear results emerged that have, and will continue to have, impact on our community.

- 42% have had decreased budgets with 65% increase in costs due to COVID
- Loss of budgeted revenue of over \$5 million due to cancellation of events, fundraisers
- 55% disruption of services for clients and community coupled with 31% increased demand for service

With the realities of COVID-19 and the end of the legacy agreement with Guelph Police Services, there are significant financial impacts facing nonprofits and charities in Guelph. Volunteers are integral to our mission and to ensure our due diligence in protecting the vulnerable we serve; Police Records Checks are an important component of best practices in volunteer screening.

Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington provides person-centred, high quality and responsive programming for those living in our community with Alzheimer's or dementia. Our Society is supported by over 100 volunteers who not only assist with these core services and programs, they also support us through governance, fundraising and office administration.

Volunteers who support our mission, financial support to cover the cost of Police Records Checks would provide significant assistance as we manage financial and human resources moving into 2021.

Cambridge 1145 Concession Rd. N3H 4L5 P/TTY: 519-650-1628 Fb.com/alzcanca	Guelph 69 Huron Street N1E 5L6 P/TTY: 519-836-7672 www.alzheimerww.ca	Kitchener 831 Frederick St. N2B 2B4 P/TTY: 519-742-1422 F: 519-742-1862 @alzcanww
--	--	--

Alzheimer Society

WATERLOO WELLINGTON

Because our volunteers directly support those in the vulnerable sector, all volunteers are carefully screened, including the need for a police check, as they engage with our clients.

Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable.

Barb Eastman-Lewin

Barb Eastman-Lewin
Events & Volunteer Coordinator
Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington
519 742 1422
barbeastmanlewin@alzheimerww.ca

Cambridge 1145 Concession Rd. N3H 4L5 P/TTY: 519-850-1828	Guelph 69 Huron Street N1E 5L6 P/TTY: 519-836-7672	Kitchener 831 Frederick St. N2B 2B4 P/TTY: 519-742-1422 F: 519-742-1862
Fb.com/alzoooww	www.alzheimerww.ca	@alzoooww



Date: November 19, 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph
and City Councillors

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With the realities of COVID-19 and the end of the legacy agreement with Guelph Police Services, there are significant financial impacts facing non-profits and charities in Guelph.

Volunteers are integral to our mission and to ensure our due diligence in protecting the vulnerable we serve; Police Records Checks are an important component of best practices in volunteer screening.

Transition Guelph (TG) engages with over 100 volunteers, some of who interact with a broad range of the general public in both private and public settings. For TG, the clients we serve and the volunteers who support our mission, financial support to cover the cost of Police Records Checks would provide meaningful assistance as we manage financial and human resources moving into 2021.

TG’s mission is about strengthening local resilience through positive visioning and projects. This covers a wide spectrum of activities ranging from engaging single individuals to large public

events. TG's risk policy requires volunteer screening that can include a Police Records Check appropriate to the nature and circumstances of the volunteer's role.

In conclusion: Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable.

Name: Steve Tedesco
Chair of the TG Board
Transition Guelph
info@transitionguelph.org
42 Carden St. Guelph, ON, N1H 3A2



St. Andrew's
GUELPH

161 Norfolk Street
Guelph, ON N1H 4J8

(519) 822-4772

www.standrewsguelph.com

mailbox@standrewsguelph.com

|

November 18, 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph
and City Councillors

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Volunteers are integral to our mission and to ensure our due diligence in protecting the vulnerable we serve; Police Records Checks are an important component of best practices in volunteer screening.

St. Andrew's Guelph engages with many volunteers who provide various supports for our ministries to children, youth, and seniors. We also partner with other organizations who provide support to those citizens who are most vulnerable – those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. For our organization, the congregation we serve and the volunteers who support our mission, financial support to cover the cost of Police Records Checks would

provide significant assistance as we manage financial and human resources moving into 2021.

The decision of the GPS Board to no longer offer free Police Checks to organizations like ours will be impactful. It will add another financial burden to already stretched resources as we determine if we will add this additional cost to our congregation supported budget or to download that cost to our individual members who are willing to volunteer for us. It is difficult enough to engage volunteers in our community without adding a fee for the privilege. The Presbyterian Church in Canada requires all our volunteers to have a Police Records Check and I'm certain it is the same in many other faith communities. This won't be something that we can choose to opt out of.

Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable.

Yours in community service,



Rev. John Borthwick
Minister | St. Andrew's Guelph
revjohn@standrewsguelph.com



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

409 Paisley Road, Guelph, ON N1H 2R4

Phone: 519-822-4614

Website: www.stjosephguelph.ca

e-mail: stjosephguelph@rogers.com

His Worship Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph
and City Councillors

I am writing in support of PIN – The People and Information Network's delegation to Guelph City Council requesting a one-time fund of \$150,000 be applied to Police Records Checks for volunteers who require this clearance in 2021.

In a recent Community Benefit Sector Survey led by PIN, clear results emerged that have, and will continue to have, impact on our community.

- 42% have had decreased budgets with 65% increase in costs due to COVID
- Loss of budgeted revenue of over \$5 million due to cancellation of events, fundraisers
- 55% disruption of services for clients and community coupled with 31% increased demand for service

With the realities of COVID-19 and the end of the legacy agreement with Guelph Police Services, there are significant financial impacts facing charities in Guelph.

Volunteers are integral to our mission and to ensure our due diligence in protecting the vulnerable we serve; Police Records Checks are an important component of best practices in volunteer screening.

St. Joseph Catholic Parish engages with over **200** volunteers who support our many groups and activities within our parish. For our organization, the parishioners we serve and the volunteers who support our work and activities, financial support to cover the cost of Police Records Checks would provide significant assistance as we manage financial and human resources moving into 2021.

We are mandated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton to have all volunteers properly screened including Police Records Checks.

Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

Very Reverend Jeff Bergsma
Pastor
St. Joseph Catholic Parish

November 18, 2020



November 19, 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie, Mayor, City of Guelph
Guelph City Councillors

I am writing in support of PIN – The People and Information Network's delegation to Guelph City Council requesting a one-time fund of \$150,000 be applied to Police Records Checks for volunteers who require this clearance in 2021.

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With the realities of COVID-19 and the end of the legacy agreement with Guelph Police Services, there are significant financial impacts facing nonprofits and charities in Guelph.

Volunteers are integral to our mission and to ensure our due diligence in protecting the vulnerable we serve; Police Records Checks are an important component of best practices in volunteer screening.

FC\$GW engages with 100+ volunteers. In addition to our Board of Directors, we operate Distress Line and TeleConnect.

Distress Line: 1-888-821-3780 - Trained volunteers provide emotional support through active listening and empathy at times when you may feel stressed, overwhelmed, and hopeless. This service is anonymous, confidential, and free to all residents.

TeleConnect Line

A unique service where local community members can improve their social connection by receiving a daily phone call from a trained volunteer. Calls may focus on providing emotional support, casual conversation, or establishing reminders and prompts that support the needs of the individual. No referral required. This is a free service and enrollment is voluntary for all residents of the Guelph-Wellington community.

Hours of Operation for both services:
8am-10pm, 7 days a week

...2

We acquired the agency which provided these services on January 1 of this year. They came with 4 active volunteers a few hundred calls per month. All of our TeleConnect calls are to seniors for the purpose of friendly calling, med reminders and wellness checks. This program allows seniors to remain safely in their homes with dignity and independence and many of our clients have been referred by local health agencies. All ages call our Distress Line with depression, anxiety and more. We have saved lives, literally, referred residents and beyond.

The funding for this program comes from the United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin only and is not sufficient to cover the costs of the program. We are currently working at a level of 1500-200 calls per month.

For our organization, the clients we serve and the volunteers who support our mission, vision and values, financial support to cover the cost of Police Records Checks would provide significant assistance as we manage financial and human resources moving into 2021.

Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable.

Yours in servicing our community,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Young Evans', with a horizontal line underneath.

Joanne Young Evans, CAE
Executive Director

19 November 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph
and City Councillors

I am writing in support of PIN – The People and Information Network’s delegation to Guelph City Council requesting a one-time fund of \$150,000 be applied to Police Records Checks for volunteers who require this clearance in 2021.

In a recent Community Benefit Sector Survey led by PIN, clear results emerged that have, and will continue to have, impact upon our community.

- 42% have had decreased budgets with 65% increase in costs due to COVID
- Loss of budgeted revenue of over \$5 million due to cancellation of events, fundraisers
- 55% disruption of services for clients and community coupled with 31% increased demand for service

With the realities of COVID-19 and the end of the legacy agreement with Guelph Police Services, there are significant financial impacts facing nonprofits and charities in Guelph.

Many years ago, the City of Guelph was named the most caring community in Canada. (See: <https://mayorsblog.guelph.ca/2008/08/28/macleans-names-guelph-canadas-most-caring-community/>)

One of the key indicators of this was volunteerism. A strong volunteer force is good for our city. It builds stronger communities and connects people in valued and engaged ways.

Community Living Guelph Wellington believes we must honour the kindness and generosity of volunteers.

More than ever before, now is the time to show compassion and do everything possible to reduce people’s stress levels. The fact that people believe volunteerism is important during a pandemic (even if done virtually) says a great deal about the human spirit.

Simply stated: **Volunteers** reflect everything that is good about Guelph. The idea of adding a further financial burden during a pandemic, when many in our community have reduced or no income, is simply unacceptable.

Additional reasons why requiring volunteers to pay for their own Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Screening Checks is NOT a good idea:

- Many of our volunteers are on fixed incomes themselves (seniors, post-secondary students, part-time workers, low-income wage earners). This would be a barrier to many, impacting their decision to volunteer (or not).

Leading to...

- The potential for reduced volunteer numbers. This would be an additional barrier to service.

Leading to...

- Diminished opportunities for the people we support, to be active and valued members in the Guelph community.

Volunteer recruitment can be challenging at the best of times. Adding a cost to volunteers would add another layer of difficulty.

Understandably, dedicated Police Service Staff managing all the Volunteer Police Record Checks is costly, both in dollars and time. Could (even part of) this job be completed by a volunteer, reducing the strain on PD staff? No doubt, there are inherent challenges involved, including a confidentiality piece. Yet is there a way to work together on this – especially during COVID?

Quite honestly, the cost of the new Police Service Building, combined with newspaper articles citing the request for Police Service pay raises, makes the recommendation to waive fees for Police Record Checks a particularly bitter pill to swallow.

We believe in Guelph and are proud to be a member of the People's Information Network (PIN). We truly are in this together. Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable.

Sincerely,


Karen A. Calzonetti

Volunteer Engagement Coordinator



Guelph Tool Library
55 Unit T8, Wyndham St N
Guelph, ON N1H 7T8

Date: Friday November 20, 2020

His Worship Cam Guthrie

Mayor, City of Guelph

and City Councillors

I am writing in support of PIN – The People and Information Network’s delegation to Guelph City Council requesting a one-time fund of \$150,000 be applied to Police Records Checks for volunteers who require this clearance in 2021.

In a recent Community Benefit Sector Survey led by PIN, clear results emerged that have, and will continue to have, impact on our community.

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- 55% disruption of services for clients and community coupled with 31% increased demand for service

With the realities of COVID-19 and the end of the legacy agreement with Guelph Police Services, there are significant financial impacts facing nonprofits and charities in Guelph.

Volunteers are integral to our mission and to ensure our due diligence in protecting the vulnerable we serve; Police Records Checks are an important component of best practices in volunteer screening.

The Guelph Tool Library engages with over 100 volunteers every year who take on roles such as Librarians, Fixers at Repair Cafes, and sit on our Board and Steering Committee. For our organization, the clients we serve and the volunteers who support our mission, financial support to cover the cost of Police Records Checks would provide significant assistance as we manage financial and human resources moving into 2021.

The Guelph Tool Library set up a program called Sew on the Go in September 2019. The program is a free service that goes to Seniors’ Centres and Retirement Homes doing sewing repairs in Guelph. The program is to address the issue of cost or ability for some seniors to



complete their own clothing repairs. They are left seeking alternative options such as dry cleaners or sewing services which have transportation and/or affordability issues. The program was at full capacity just before the pandemic shut everything down and we were about to recruit new volunteers to expand this service. As all volunteers for this free program are required to have Police Checks, this new cost for Police Checks adds an additional burden on our organization to meet this basic need of seniors In Guelph.

In conclusion: Along with our peers in the Community Benefit Sector, we respectfully request a one-time fund to cover the costs of Police Records Check fee for volunteers in the City of Guelph for approved roles supporting our most vulnerable.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dennis".

John Dennis
Chair - Guelph Tool Library

This links to letters of support provided to Guelph Police Services for the October 15 Board Meeting.

Those letters of support can be found on page 58 - 84 on the agenda listed on this link
- <https://events.guelphpolice.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-10-15-1430-October-15-2020>

Kim Cusimano
Executive Director



Formerly the **Volunteer Centre of Guelph-Wellington**

t 519-822-0912 x 229 • 1-866-693-3318
55 Wyndham Street North, Unit 4A
Guelph, Ontario N1H 7T8
w PINnetwork.ca



MISSION

We support Neighbourhood Groups that are inclusive, engaging, responsive, and build a sense of belonging.

VISION

A healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home.

City funding of community organizations bring 'tremendous' returns

\$1.81 million given to 15 initiatives in 2019

Oct 29, 2020 10:00 AM By: Richard Vivian



Staff from Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition summer camps, one of those that benefit from the city's Community Benefit Agreement program, strike a pose in 2019. Tony Saxon/GuelphToday file photo

Since Last Delegation

5 Reasons to Vote “Yes”

1. The City has grown and so has the GNSC



2. An increased minimum wage for program staff



3. A Staff position for our youth/camp programs



4. Growth in the Coalition



- 3 new NGs to date & more waiting to join
- Increased activity and participation in the GNSC

5. GNSC's increased contributions to city-wide actions

- Poverty Alleviation/Reduction, Food Insecurity
- City Community Plan



THE FOOD WORK WE ARE DOING



FOOD CUPBOARDS/PANTRIES

- **8 NG's** run non-perishable and frozen food cupboards



COMMUNITY GARDENS

- **12 NG's** host communal gardens with plots for community members
- Food growing, skill sharing



FOOD SKILLS

- **8 NG's** run collective kitchen and other cooking programs
- eg: Brant Avenue NG preps 5000 snacks per month for their after school snack program



FOOD SHARING

- We share food between NG's through all of our programs
- We share resources and food between organization
- Community events, suppers, and gatherings.



COMMUNITY MARKETS

- Weekly fresh food markets run in **3 NG's**
- Two are no-cost and one is a sliding scale model



“The SEED would not exist if not for the GNSC's vision and leadership ...”

- Gavin Dandy, Director

Food Insecurity

GNSC plays a role in larger projects and collaborations as advocates and system navigators.



A Smart Cities Challenge initiative

- Part of the **Steering Committee** for the successful Smart Cities grant
- Member of the Nutritious Food Stream Committee of **Our Food Future**



- One of the **Co-founders of The SEED**
- Member of **Steering Committee** since its inception



- Co-chair of **Steering Committee**
- Partnering on **Decent Work project** together

FOOD INSECURITY DURING COVID-19

GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY

VitalFocus.

*Stats below from VitalFocus®

According to a Statistics Canada Study* conducted between May 4 -10, 2020, food insecurity has increased and is significantly higher during COVID-19 compared to the 2017-2018 reference period. This study also found:



Almost 1 in 7 (15%) of Canadians reported living in a food insecure household.



Canadians living in household with children were more likely to be food insecure (19%) compared to those with no children (12%).



Canadians who were absent from work due to COVID-19 (because of business closure, layoff or personal circumstances) were almost three times more likely to be food insecure than those who worked.



- We changed to a delivery model



- Added cost of PPE and sanitizer



- On average, each NG has doubled their emergency supports (food, diapers, toilet paper)
- \$6,000 per NG per year
- Added cost of PPE and sanitizer

Anti-Racism & Equity

“They are an example that equity and values work because they are accountable, caring, and ensure that everyone's voices are heard.”

-Dayami Ramirez, Immigrant Services GW

- GNSC has played and will continue to play a large role in the big issues facing our community (Community Plan, Housing & Homelessness, ACEs Coalition GW).
- We bring needed community voice, advocacy, & values to every room.
“Not Us Without Us”
- Our work is rooted in community voice and collaboration.
- We have done a lot of work but have not had a sustainable, dedicated role to ensure progress and continuity.

Fresh Insights @fresh_insights · Jan 27

HUGE shoutout to Sonali Menezes @GuelphNSC for bringing together this Equity Conference: Starting the Conversation!! Deeply grateful! ❤️



“The sincere and authentic GNSC approach to inclusion is something we worked to emulate in our city-wide engagement efforts... They are a tremendous partner and resource for our community”

- Stewart McDonough, City of Guelph

Anti-Racism & Equity

Timeline and Key Actions

1. Community Connections Coordinator (2014/2015)
2. People of Good Will (2014/2015)
3. Equity Coordinator (2015 – 2017)
4. Storytelling Series (2016)
5. ‘Hidden Histories’ Neighbourhood Storytelling through Documentary (2016)
6. Transported: Stories of Immigration and Significant Objects (2017)
7. Equity Conference (2018)
8. GNSC Values (2018 – Current)
9. Continuing the Conversation (2019)
10. Tools for a Supportive Professional (2019/2020)
11. Indigenous Cultural Safety Program (2020)

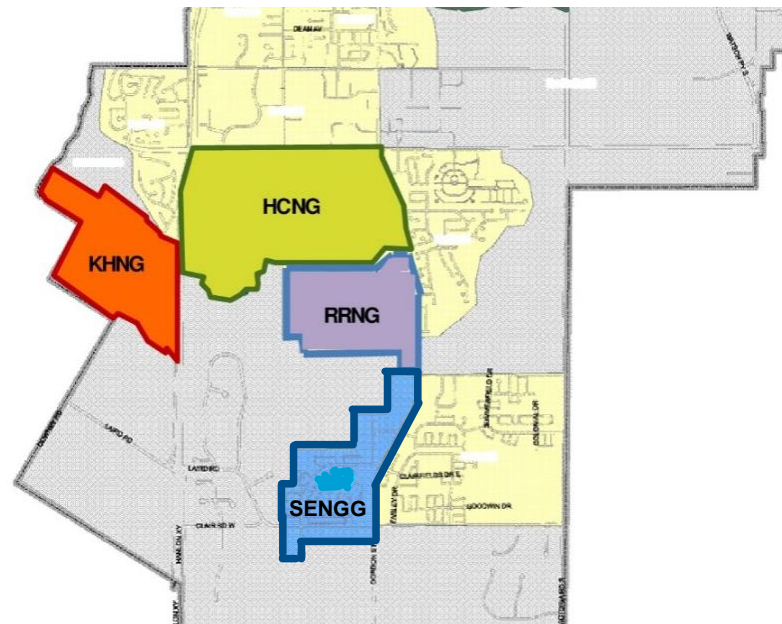
“...the innovative conference on centering equity, is work that drew from within and outside of our community and neighbourhoods, planting the seed for work that is being undertaken now. “

- Marva Wisdom

Growth

South End

- **10-15%** of calls for support to PGNG, OWNG, GHENG and TRNG are coming from the South End
- **North End Harvest Market - 22%** of deliveries and **5%** of the drive-thru pick ups are for South End community members
- **KHNG** is developing plans to open a food cupboard in 2021
- We have 4 South End NGs, 2 of which are new and growing. We hope to help build at least 2 more in the coming 3 years.



COVID-19

- **NEHM** has seen a **250%** increase in marketers
- **PGNG** has seen a **150%** increase in calls for support



- On average, each NG has doubled their emergency supports (food, diapers, toilet paper)
- \$6,000 per NG per year
- Added cost of PPE and sanitizer

Growth

STAFF

- As the **GNSC and City has grown**, the need for more staff hours has grown (most notably in priority communities) and the need for new staff opportunities in emerging Neighbourhood Groups has also grown (especially in the South End).
- The GNSC along with the PTF has been partnering on a **Decent Work** project in Guelph. We are changing our policies and practices to create decent work in our coalition. We are also sharing the principals across the city with peer trained individuals.



2017 - 2019 NUMBERS

980 PROGRAMS



189,246 PARTICIPANTS



3,460 VOLUNTEERS



111,660 HOURS





City Support
\$550,188.00



Partner Support
(Cash + In-Kind)



\$250,000.00



Grants and Donations



\$258,691.00

Volunteer Hours

*(*from The Conference Board of Canada Report 2018)*



\$1,042,713



\$1,551,404

\$1,551,404

GNSC

Return On Investment

A Tale of Two Cities

	CAMBRIDGE	GUELPH
# of Neighbourhood Groups	8	15
City Investment (2019)	1,185,000.00	\$550,188.00
Return on Investment (\$ leveraged for \$ invested)	\$1.74	\$2.82
Population (2016 Census)	129,920	131,794

4 Reasons to Vote **Yes**

1. FOOD INSECURITY & EMERGENCY SUPPORT (\$100,000)

- Our food security work such as the North End Harvest Market is key to the health and wellbeing of 1000s of community members.
- Over the next 3 years, the GNSC will play an important role in supporting our most vulnerable friends during the pandemic and recovery period
- All of the NG paths to raising funds (events, raffles, newsletters) have been lost

2. ANTI-RACISM, EQUITY, & ADVOCACY (\$70,000)

- GNSC has played and will continue to play a large role in the big issues facing our community (Community Plan, Housing & Homelessness, ACEs Coalition GW).
- We bring needed community voice, advocacy, & values to every room. **“Not Us Without Us”**

3. GROWTH (\$50,000)

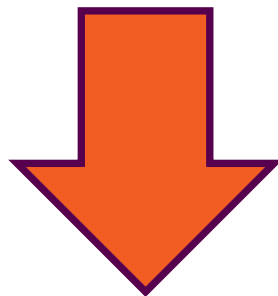
- GNSC continues to grow and add to the scope of our city-wide work
- We will continue to add new Neighbourhood Groups.

4. RETURN on INVESTMENT (ROI)

- Every **\$1** of support the City provides brings in **\$2.82** of additional support

Our Ask

\$220,000 increase to our Community
Benefit Agreement



~0.085% 2020 City Budget
(tax supported budget)

“COVID-19 has hit our communities hard & those that have relied on these connections & services have found themselves more isolated then ever. The Coalition continues to be a light & life line for our community in this dark time.”

- Maryann Sly-Kensley, Parent Outreach Worker, GCHC



Huge Gratitude and Thank You



GNSC Letters of Support

Name	Neighbourhood Group/Organization
1. Gavin Dandy	Director, The SEED
2. Dan Gillis	Professor, University of Guelph
3. Lloyd Longfield	MP
4. John Borthwick	Pastor, St. Andrew's Church
5. Brad McInerney	Kazoo!
6. Emmalia Bortolon-Vettor	Girls Rock Camp
7. Barb McPhee	GNSC Board Member
8. Barb McPhee	North End Harvest Market (NEHM) Manager
9. Hayley Kellet	The Making Box
10. Caroline McCullough	NSW, North Riverside Neighbourhood Group
11. Jessica Barrie & Chris Willard	Guelph Community Foundation
12. Judi Gough	Community Member, NEHM
13. Sharon Henriques	Community Member, NEHM
14. Tara Secor	Volunteer, Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group
15. Jaya James	Executive Director, HOPE House
16. Patricia Tersigni	Director, University of Guelph & United Way
17. Lynne Kloostra	Parent Outreach Worker, Guelph Community Health Centre
18. Kelly Royea	Volunteer, NEHM
19. Joy Sammy	Volunteer, The Junction NG
20. Ryan Waller	Onward Willow NG Volunteer, GNSC Board Member
21. Samantha Blostein	CESI, University of Guelph
22. Leone Schadenburg	NSW, Kortright Hills NG
23. Leen Al-Habash	Project Director, G-W Local Immigration Partnership
24. Heather Chesney	Trinity United Church
25. Maryann Sly-Kensley	POW, Guelph Community Health Centre
26. Kim Cusimano	Executive Director, PIN
27. John Dennis	Chair, Guelph Tool Library
28. Carol Tyler	Nookomis
29. Margaret Penner	Manager, Lutherwood
30. Michelle Wall	Volunteer, Hanlon Creek NG
31. Kevin Sutton	Black Lives Matter, Threshold
32. Noor Aqsa	PGNG
33. Dianna Gamble	PGNG
34. Emma Roger	Executive Director, Children's Foundation of Guelph
35. Lisa Maslove	Community Member
36. John Benham	Pastor, Trinity United Church
37. Joanna Goode	Executive Director, Facilitation Wellington Dufferin
38. Sarah Stubbs	Director, Life Gears Academy
39. Dayamai Ramirez	Immigrant Services G-W

40. Gord Cobey	Chief, Police
41. Adrienne Crowder	Director, WGDS
42. Naomi McLeod	Volunteer, SGPNG
43. Helen Fishburn	Executive Director, CMHA WW
44. Shawn Van Sluys	Executive Director, Musagetes
45. Marva Wisdom	Community Member, PGNG
46. Mike Anderson	UGDSB
47. Dr. Laura Brown	Director, The Nightingale Centre
48. Ellyn Lusi	Exhibition Park NG
49. Dunja Lukic	OWNG and Ontario Works
50. Esmani	NEHM Participant
51. Kim Gadoury	SUPER Volunteer
52. Vanessa Lodge	Active Scholars
53. Vanessa Lodge	Guelph Youth Basketball Association
54. Eleni Hughes	Guelph Public Library
55. Glen Soderholm	Reverend, Two Rivers Church
56. Michelle Peek	Executive Director, Art Not Shame
57. Debbie Bentley-Lauzon	Executive Director, Wyndham House
58. Kevin Nguyen	Youth Worker
59. Sly Castaldi	Executive Director, Women in Crisis
60. Anne Toner Fung	Executive Director, Innovation Guelph
61. Jennifer Antler	Manager, Indigenous Healing & Wellness program WW
62. Jenny Mitchell	Volunteer and Mobile Studio Coordinator, CFRU
63. Karen Bechard	Volunteer, Hanlon Creek NG
64. Kim Davids Mandar	Founder and Volunteer, Rickson Ridge NG
65. Katie Ewald	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
66. Julianna Stephens	Silvercreek Community Market
67. Sarah Haanstra	Manager, Toward Common Ground
68. Gail Hoekstra	Executive Director, The Welcome Drop In Centre
69. Staff Team	CFRU
70. Bry Webb	Community member, Two Rivers NG
71. Donna Haskett	Volunteer, Onward Willow NG
72. Peter Gill	Executive Director, Chalmers Community Services Centre
73. Yesenia and Juan Monterroza	Grange Hill East NG
74. Chris Robb	Volunteer, Kortright Hills NG
75. Nicki Hammond	Neighbourhood Support Worker, Brant Avenue NG
76. Tracy McLennan	Associate Director, WCDSB
77. Aimee Copping	Executive Director, Blackball
78. Molly Roberts	Guelph Wellington Seniors Association
79. Bryan Gilmore	Executive Director, Onside Athletics
80. Dominica McPherson	Director, Poverty Task Force
81. Kate Vsetula	Director, Guelph Community Health Centre
82. Andrew Seagram	Community Use of Schools Coordinator, UGDSB

83. Jennifer MacLeod	Manager, WDG Public Health
84. Geetha Van den Daele	Volunteer, GNSC
85. Erin Harvey	Director of Service, Family & Children's Services GW
86. Nathan Lawr	Operations Manager, Guelph Film Festival
87. Charlene Downey	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
88. Rick Rocher	Playtime Coordinator
89. Mark Linesman	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
90. Emily Stahl	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
91. Adrian Iacovino	Two Rivers NG
92. Pranay Bhatia	International Student Volunteer, Grange Hill East NG
93. Bronwen Buck	Neighbourhood Support Worker, Grange Hill East NG



COLLEGE of ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

October 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am an Associate Professor & Statistician in the School of Computer Science at the University of Guelph, and **I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.**

I have had the pleasure of working with and learning from the GNSC for the past 8 years. In particular, the GNSC has graciously offered their time to support the students in computer science - through numerous community-engaged software design projects. GNSC members have offered their time to guide student understanding, and inform the development of tools that have helped organizations such as The SEED grow their various programs. Beyond this, they have given the students in my courses the opportunity to become more active citizens, by highlighting the challenges in our own backyard. In a world that often sees students disillusioned and disconnected, the GNSC has offered my students a way to see themselves as part of the solution to the challenges we face. This is invaluable.

Outside of the work with the students in my class, I have served on numerous steering committees and projects with members of the GNSC. Without a doubt, they represent the voices of those who often are not heard. They stand for those who might not have the opportunity or space to stand for themselves. Without the work of the GNSC, so many organizations and community projects that currently work to improve the lives of so many of our neighbours would not exist.

I absolutely support and recommend that the City of Guelph invest in the GNSC by increasing their funding, particularly at this time when so many more of our fellow citizens are suffering due to the effects of COVID-19. We will get through the pandemic, but only if we ensure that each and every one of our neighbours has the support they need to thrive.

The GNSC offers these supports, and has proven time and time again their value and importance to the City of Guelph. I have no doubt that the GNSC will continue to be a leader in this time of crisis, and a voice for those who are most vulnerable in our community. I am proud to live in a City that supports the work of an organization such as the GNSC, and I hope you will find a way to support their request for increased funding.

Sincerely

Dan Gillis, PhD Statistics
Associate Professor, School of Computer Science
1.519.824.4120 ext 52951
dgillis@uoguelph.ca



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Active Scholars has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for **3** years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their work, particularly pertaining to the following areas:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community

Active Scholars has worked with the GNSC on a variety of programs to help forge a great partnership that we hope to continue to run in the future. Through our partnership, they have shown they are an integral part of our community. Through Covid-19, the GNSC has had a great impact on our organization through supporting initiatives and offering administrative help. Due to their assistance, our organization has a greater chance of surviving during Covid-19.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Thank you kindly,

Vanessa Lodge

Active Scholars –Guelph Manager

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group's Wild in the Ward program. As an instructor for this program, let my direct experience with the families involved tell the story of uplifting benefits that I notice in the young people that I work with in the neighborhood.

Today one of the kids went home with an uncontrollable toothy grin bursting with stories from her experiences exploring the river and meeting a tree. Another one walked off with his guardian telling them about finding a bird's nest for the first time ever. The quiet kid that doesn't say much, smiled and greeted me briefly before running over to a climbing tree and spending the next 15 minutes by himself (within eyesight) before coming over to the group and joining in our game. Four and a half year old today that is still growing into his "paws" walked across a log today without falling chanting "I belieb [sic] in myself". These kids in the Ward always needed this program - and the pandemic has only amplified this need.

Exploring the banks of the Eramosa river, climbing trees, running through the garden space, searching for feathers, bones, and homes of wildlife, noticing incremental changes in the seasons, and doing this in a small cohort of mixed aged kids is what makes Wild in the Ward uniquely meaningful for the neighborhood. Young people learn how to take care of themselves in small ways like packing and unpacking a knapsack, staying hydrated, and learning how to appreciate and manage being entirely outside for 3 hours in any weather condition. We transform the wild spaces into gaming arenas where we engage our imagination and become hawks and mice; an enclosure of trees becomes a storytelling amphitheater; and we act as guests as we enter the homes of wildlife neighbours along the riverbanks of the Eramosa. As an instructor for the Guelph Outdoor School and a nature connection mentor for a multitude of different projects throughout Southern Ontario I have not experienced levels of anxiety in children and parents as I have observed in the past 5 months. Out of my 7 years of working with kids in public parks, community gardens, and riverside properties in Southern Ontario, this is the year that we need it most.

Wild in the Ward's nature immersion program supports kids in emotional regulation by spending time breathing fresh air (maskless when safe), getting varied exercise by using their bodies on naturally uneven ground, and by engaging the full range of senses as smelling, touch, balance, and listening skills are meaningfully activated.

This program is a crucial lifeline for young people to socialize during these times of physical distancing requirements. By creating a space for young people in the neighbourhood to be listened to by their instructors (adults) and peers (children aged 4-13), each afternoon kids are invited to share their name, a piece of gratitude, and a story from the week. This promotes self-worth, appreciation for others, and confidence in public speaking. As always, conflict arises between participants, and caring adults are there to support and work through disagreements in a positive and safe way.

I offer my support for the TwoRivers' Wild in the Ward program because I see how foundational these weekly programs are in establishing healthy routines, relationships, and recognition of natural spaces.

With Gratitude,
Adrian Iacovino



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to support the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council to request increased funding for their organization.

The WGDS has great appreciation for the important, grass roots, social-justice focused community development that the GNSC undertakes. Their "boots on the ground" service model has shown its value in many ways:

- The GNSC collaborates with other community leaders to address key community needs. For instance during the early days of the pandemic, while other organizations were reorganizing their services, the GNSC was actively distributing food hampers to the City's marginalized and economically challenged residents.
- The GNSC has a history of piloting, promoting, and mentoring new ideas/programs such as Pet Protect Guelph, and the North End Harvest Market...
- The GNSC plays a key role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city such as The SEED and the ACEs Coalition GW. The active support of these new projects is essential to their growth and development.
- The GNSC is a champion for social equity and inclusive values. They lead by example in our community, and encourage and support other organizations to follow suit.

From the WGDS perspective, the services that the GNSC offers and the relationships that it has built in the City of Guelph's priority neighbourhoods are foundational to creating community and individual health. By delivering services that provide essential social determinants of health, the GNSC increases community health and wellbeing. The accessible, engaging programs that they offer in a hyper-local way provide community members with resources and support that would not be available otherwise. These services have a major impact on the wellbeing of the families and individual who receive them.

The WGDS enthusiastically supports providing increased funding for the GNSC because it has demonstrated its ability to lead needed social change in our community.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Crowder
Manager, WGDS



UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Andrew Seagram

Coordinator, Community Use of Schools

Board Office: 500 Victoria Road N. Guelph, ON N1E 6K2

Email: Andrew.Seagram@ugdsb.on.ca

Tel: 519-822-4420 ext. 800 or Toll Free: 1-800-321-4025

November 13, 2020

Mayor Guthrie and City Councilors
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Upper Grand District School Board's Community Use of School's Department has been working with the GNSC since its inception and with the City's Neighbourhood Groups for many years before that. Since the founding of the GNSC the UGDSB has worked as a partner and built up a strong relationship to support our mutual communities of students, parents and community members. Our work together has seen GNSC staff work within schools, create community gardens, and offer mutually supportive programming; the GNSC has been a great partner over the years.

The work the GNSC does for Guelph in leveling the playing field for all Guelphites to participate in the social, political and community aspects of the life in our city is immeasurable. The lifting up of people; the skills building so that all people can understand, and speak to the important issues in their community without fear or shame is creating a City that is stronger, more vital and a wellspring of personal and social awareness. Guelph is a stronger City because of the GNSC.

During COVID the UGDSB has been working with the GNSC to ensure continuity of programming, particularly in our schools. We continue to support and ensure food is delivered to hundreds of families through the North End Harvest Market and provide space for the North Riverside Neighbourhood Group, at Waverley Drive Public School. We are working to continue programming at a number of UGDSB schools.

The UGDSB and the GNSC have worked together to provide equity training and the GNSC has led the entire community in inclusive and equitable practices. The GNSC is a leader in Guelph

Upper Grand District School Board

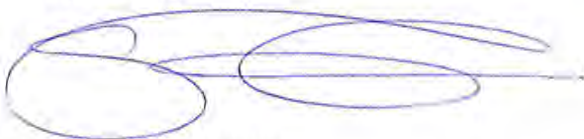
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|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • Martha MacNeil; Chair | • Mark Bailey | • Jolly Bedi | • Linda Busuttil | • Gail Campbell |
| • Barbara Lustgarten Evoy; Vice-Chair | • Jen Edwards | • Mike Foley | • Robin Ross | • Lynn Topping |

in ensuring that all people and communities can be participants in the governance of the GNSC no matter who they are and what their circumstances are. The great gift of the GNSC is its community mentorship: lifting up and believing in people so that they may lead and fulfill their lives.

The UGDSB greatly appreciates it's work with the GNSC and supports its many programs throughout the summer, winter and March breaks, by ensuring space for camps and innovative programming, like the Girls Rock Camp. The Girls Rock Camp is a wonderful program where girls and young woman have the opportunity to play music amongst their peers and perform in front of a crowd. It is an inspirational program that allows the participants to pursue artistic dreams in a safe and nurturing environment.

The UGDSB's Community Use of Schools Program supports the request for increased funding by the GNSC. The UGDSB charges only an Admin Fee (\$39.95) per school use of all our facilities. All bookings are free of charge (including custodial costs) and are supported by the Community Use of Schools Grant. We want to see the continued growth of the GNSC and its important programming throughout Guelph and the UGDSB will continue to support he GNSC through free bookings of school space.

Sincerely,



Andrew Seagram

Upper Grand District School Board

• Linda Busuttill; Chair
• Mike Foley

• Mark Bailey; Vice-Chair
• Barbara Lustgarten Evoy

• Jolly Bedi
• Martha MacNeil

• Gail Campbell
• Robin Ross

• Jen Edwards
• Lynn Topping



November 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Innovation Guelph is writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Innovation Guelph has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for three years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their support of camps for girls with the focus of improving the self-confidence of our young women and engaging them in STEM education. The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition has been instrumental to the following initiatives:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- Helping to nurture many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition, Rhyze on the Road
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Innovation Guelph initially partnered with GNSC to deliver our Rhyze on the Road summer camps initiative and they had the grass-roots relationship with the youth targeted for this program. In subsequent years, GNSC delivered this trademarked program for Innovation Guelph, leveraging their front-line knowledge of the issues faced by at-risk young women in our community. With this lived experience to bring to the curriculum and available facilities to host the camps, having GNSC deliver the program on our behalf was a logical extension of the partnership and we were confident they would maintain the objectives of our Rhyze on the Road program. Nurturing confidence and providing options for our young women is essential to their healthy development and their ability to make good choices. We hope to serve these young women in the future as entrepreneurs who create positive change in the world.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Toner Fung".

Anne Toner Fung, CEO
Innovation Guelph

InnovationGuelph.ca • 519-265-4495 • 361 Southgate Drive, Guelph, ON N1G 3M5



Barb McPhee

October 5th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization,

I have volunteering and working with the GNSC for the past 20ish years. I have been with the GNSC for this long as I respect their work and how deeply they respect the work of the community, especially in making them feel like family with their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.

The Coalition centres on the community voice in decision making and helping community to become leaders in their neighbourhoods as well as leaders in organizations in the bigger community. They teach wonderful equity – equality – caring and fun in all areas of their work.

I have sat at tables and volunteered for organizations that the GNSC also supports and takes part in such as the Poverty Task Force, The Seed, The Pod, Aces, Pet Protect where they are just as nurturing and supportive. I have worked in 5 neighbourhood groups over the years and felt so supported and loved how they in their nurturing way treat their staff to learn and grow in a way that helps their work in neighbourhoods. How they make this happen is because of the trust and relations they have built and nurtured.

I sit on the Board of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition as well as chair the Neighbourhood Panel and have been with the Coalition through all of its stages of development and I have never felt unheard or ignored and have always been impressed with how the community voice is brought to the forefront of all the discussion and decisions.

Also being the market manager for the NEHM – the GNSC has been most supportive in helping us to reach and support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community with helping to get fresh produce on their tables. They have pitched in to help with deliveries – when drivers cancel or find volunteers to help out as well as finding the much needed dollars for safety items and a tripled budget – which we would not have been able to do on our.

I enthusiastically and totally support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven community leader, dedicated collaborator with community and agency and an agent of change in our community using values built and created by themselves and the community. They have certainly – personally and professionally helped me to enhance my life with supports – training – mentoring and teaching me how to be a better leader and able to have a better quality of life and having the courage to share what I learned with other community members and for that I am eternally grateful.

Barb McPhee



Monday 5 October 2020

Dear Mayor, City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I've had the good fortune to work with the GNSC for the last two and a half years. I continue to be impressed by the work of this organization and their readiness to pilot, promote and support new programs like ours.

Blackball is a federally incorporated non-profit that teaches electronic music free of charge to marginalized community members. Originally launched in downtown Toronto, the program relocated to Guelph at the beginning of 2018. Thanks to the diligence, creativity and dedication the Coalition, I was able to start delivering programming just a few months later.

The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community, and I enthusiastically support increased funding for this vitally important organization.

Aimee Copping

ED, founder

Blackball





The Friendship Place
35 Algonquin Drive
Guelph, Ontario N1E 3P2
Phone: 519-821-9243 Fax: 519-821-7519
Email: brant.ave.ng@gmail.com

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Brant Ave Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 27 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability and openness to collaborate with individuals and organizations that are directly solicited by neighbourhoods.

The model the GNSC follows allows for neighbourhoods within Guelph to directly connect with the services and supports that individual residents and community members request access too, and show interest in. This makes for an empowered, connected and active community, who not only live together, but grow together.

In my short period of time with the organization, I have seen single mothers go back to school and start careers, with community computer training lighting the flame. I have seen parents form strong healthy relationships with their children, with the help, and coaching, of positive parenting groups. I have seen people start careers, by making employment services accessible. I have seen community members form safety nets around at risk families and help pull them out of darkness, and most recently I have seen a life saved by providing access to Naloxone training.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Thank you,

Nicole Hammond-Breese



"neighbours connecting with neighbours passionate about building a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community"

November 19, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC's) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Joining as a Neighbourhood Support Worker in November 2019, I worked with a dedicated volunteer team to develop, oversee and promote neighbourhood programs and events. These serve to cultivate future leaders, decrease isolation, and foster a sense of community and place.

With the onset of the pandemic, food security and helping families in crises quickly became top priority. Our group operates a small emergency food pantry. In a typical month, this resource serves fifteen to twenty families experiencing food insecurity. But, by the height of the pandemic, we were delivering weekly hampers to over 35 families (100+ people) in need of assistance.

Our pantry is normally stocked with donated items and food purchased through a meager \$200.00 monthly budget. By the end of March, our shelves were almost bare. **Without GNSC's support, many within our community would have gone hungry during this time.** Sudden job-loss, fear of going out, and the compound stresses imposed by the lockdown, heavily affected many of our neighbours.

GNSC played a critical funding and coordinating role that allowed our volunteers to reach out and help those in need. Our community members were able to access food from The Seed Market, the North End Harvest Market and other sources.

Our patrons reported feeling hugely relieved as a result. As one client put it, "You are not only helping to feed people, you are giving us hope and some sunshine we desperately need by caring."

GNSC has stepped up and increased the capability of a number of Neighbourhood Groups to address food insecurity during unprecedented times. **One of its finest strengths is that the Coalition supports the engagement of community members, including those who are vulnerable and marginalized, in a meaningful way.** This, in turn, builds a network of trusted volunteers who are invaluable in reaching and connecting with others, especially during crises.

As we adjust to this "new normal" we know that the pandemic will have long-lasting effects. I support increased funding for the GNSC, as it means we will be able to increase access to the supports, services and resources needed to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Yours sincerely,

Bronwen Buck,
Neighbourhood Support Worker, Grange Hill E.

November 12, 2020

Re: Increasing Funding for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

To the Mayor of Guelph, and our City Councillors,

I'm writing to voice my support for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding to reflect the growing need for their work in our city.

As a professional touring musician of over twenty years, I have lived in Montreal, Toronto, London, and spent a substantial amount of time connecting with people in cities large and small, all over Canada, the US, and Europe. Ten years ago, when my wife and I decided to start a family, we chose Guelph as the place we wanted to call home. One of the primary reasons for this was our perception of Guelph as a socially progressive community, often supporting creative initiatives to help its most vulnerable citizens. Living here over the last decade, I have seen those values most directly and substantially manifested in the work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition.

Though I have spent years visiting different communities and looking into the ways they are supporting their most marginalized and vulnerable groups, the GNSC's model is one of the most inspiring I've ever encountered. Their advocacy for resource allocation to allow groups and individuals to empower themselves with creative and needs-based programming and services is everything community leadership should be. Advocacy often takes the form of well-intentioned, well-to-do folks telling those with less privilege what is needed and how to get it. The GNSC model flips that dynamic, and cultivates support relationships based on trust, openness, and listening. Those are three of the most important values in any successful community initiative.

In the COVID-19 era, we have come to understand the need for community and human connection more clearly. The value of listening to, communicating with, and caring for everyone in our locality are central factors in our own mental and physical health, whatever our socio-economic standing. In order to ensure Guelph is able to maintain a level of support and care needed for everyone living here, please give increased funding to the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition. It is our responsibility as a city that continues to grow and develop, as their work improves the quality of life of everyone engaged in our community. It is a clear expression of the values that have continually drawn good folks to call this place home.

Sincerely,

Bry Webb



1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON
N1H 3A1

Monday, November 16, 2020

Re: *Support Increased Funding for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition*

Dear Mayor, Cam Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have been connected and involved in some capacity with GNSC since it's inception, serving as a committee member, volunteer, and community leader. Through my role at Onside Athletics we have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 5+ years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. The GNSC provides much needed services to our communities and city, including day camps, North End Harvest Market, and leadership development for youth.

Together we have worked to provide affordable, recreational sports programs for families in primarily three neighbourhoods: Grange Hill East, Brant and Waverley. The GNSC is an important part of our community that works to serve many families in need. The City of Guelph is a better community with the work of GNSC.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Bryan Gillmore

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Gillmore".

Executive Director, Onside Athletics

Onside Athletics
519.546.8765
info@onsideathletics.ca
onsideathletics.ca

Mailing Address | P.O. Box 26014 Guelph, ON, N1E 6W1
Office Location | Orchard Park, Unit 253 - 5420 ON-6, Guelph, ON, N1H 6J2



Aaniin Boozhoo Mino gizheb Mayor and City Councillors,

Warmest welcome, Good morning

As an Anishinaabekwe nookomis [Anishinaabe grandmother] grateful to live with All Our Relations on this land in this place, I am using my voice to support the vision, values and actions of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition.

The GNSC people with the energy of their many strong relationships, petition you, the City Councillors and Council, to once again gift even more generously financial resources during the second wave of Covid-19 to meet the growing basic food needs of those people in this City who are marginalized by our community's inequities.

As one of Guelph-Wellington's 30,000 First Nations, Metis, Inuit, I have been walking with and holding much regard for the work of the GNSC and how that work is done responsibly and respectfully, with reciprocal non-judging, trusting relationships. I have had the opportunity to participate in this journey well before the pre-incorporation stage of GNSC.

Grassroots initiatives, driven and led by volunteers with lived experience have witnessed the GNSC as holding space and place in a good way, as ready to walk with them, to work consistently at being authentic allies with integrity, and bringing into the mix a wide array of resources that nurture many unique 'firsts' for Guelph.

A few examples are advocacy for living wage, food insecurity, inclusivity, and programming and/or administrative supports for Back Packs, The SEED, The POD, Pet Protect Guelph, Poverty Elimination Task Force, the First Nations Métis Inuit Circle, and the North End Harvest Market.

Ancestral teachings guided our community to gather/harvest no more than that which is needed, that there be no waste, and that no one is left behind. I am a personal witness to GNSC people as proven community leaders guiding with open hearts and clear minds, dedicated to respectful reciprocal relationships and sustainable interdependence, and inspired to walk with change for the greater good.

This GNSC petition is brought to Council with these Anishinaabeg ancestral teachings held in many hearts....

With gratitude and humility
All Our Relations
In Unity

~nookomis

Carol Tyler

[Redacted signature block]



November 12, 2020

Re: Increasing Funding for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

To the Mayor of Guelph, and our City Councillors,

We, the staff of Guelph's campus and community radio station, CFRU 93.3 FM, are writing to express our support for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding to continue and enhance their profoundly important work in our city.

As a media organization operating in Guelph for over forty years, we have documented the culture, politics, growth, development, struggles and needs of Guelph and surrounding communities in great detail. We have partnered with many organizations to promote engagement between campus and the community at large, and support initiatives that enhance the lives of the people who live here. One of the most impactful collaborations in CFRU's history has been our involvement with the GNSC over the last six years. It was clear from the beginning of this relationship that the GNSC's work is integral to the health and wellbeing of Guelph and its people. They continue to advocate for, and help generate access to, a better quality of life for the most vulnerable people in this city.

As can be heard in hundreds of hours of archived CFRU programming, through the GNSC our staff and volunteers have had deeply enriching involvement in community enhancement initiatives that have helped shape how we connect with the world, ongoing. The wide variety of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Broadcasts from the North End Harvest Market (a free fruit and vegetable market intended to support low income families and individuals to meet healthy food needs)
- After-school student media-making projects
- Participation in the Community Kitchen collaborative cooking initiative
- Promoting and documenting Women's Self Defence Training classes and Women's Empowerment Groups
- Promoting Onward Willow's refurbishing and re-distributing of computers to low-income families

- Live broadcast of a Neighbourhood Group's Halloween Haunted House
- 600 new local voices and stories on the air, from vulnerable and often marginalized groups
- Documenting and supporting the Guelph Community Food Drive
- Documenting the development and successes of the 10C Shared Space Project
- Broadcasting live from many neighbourhood arts & music events
- Media Literacy and Communication Skills development projects in many local public schools

This list is truly the tip of the iceberg, but gives some idea of the amount of work being supported by the GNSC on a daily basis. Perhaps most illuminating and inspiring is the GNSC's advocacy for allocation of resources to allow neighbourhoods, groups, and individuals to come together and develop ways of sustaining and improving our own lives. This is true leadership.

Guelph has grown and developed exponentially over the last decade. In this important time of transition for the city, we have the privilege and opportunity to direct more funding and resources to support the incredibly valuable work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, to ensure *everyone's* quality of life is supported and enhanced. Please increase funding for the GNSC, and show the people of Guelph that you are looking after us all.

"The true measure of a society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."
– Mahatma Gandhi

Sincerely,

Christopher Currie, Ian McDiarmid, Jenny Mitchell, Alex Rimmington, and Bryan Webb
Staff of CFRU 93.3 FM Radio and Media Centre

CFRU 93.3 FM

U.C. Level 2, University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
N1G2W1

E: outreach@cfru.ca

Greetings Council and Staff,

It has been brought to my attention that my wonderful neighbourhood group, Two Rivers, and the other neighbourhood groups in our beautiful city are struggling as many are during this pandemic. The Guelph Neighbourhood Group Coalition, is the lifeblood, that binds our communities together during a regular season, but now it really is a vital service that has come to represent so much more. We have all come to rely on our neighbours for connection during this unprecedented time and the GNGC has stepped up, going beyond the call, providing food, deliveries, online support, all while losing income. No camps or pay what you can programs, to help lighten the financial load. No fundraising events to keep them in the red.

The GNGC requires additional funding to continue providing for those who have fallen through the system. They know who have not been able to leave their house due to a compromised system. They know which families need extra food because a parent (or both) have lost jobs due to the pandemic. The GNGC know their names, they know our names, they are the front line workers of our neighbourhoods and they need your support to continue to make sure we all come through this pandemic together.

Volunteering with Two Rivers these last 2 years has reinforced my belief that the GNGC is really the last line of defense for many individuals and families in Guelph. They are a connection point to resources and community, building up our neighbourhoods on a one-to-one level. A common ground where individuals from all walks of life can interact and support each other. The GNGC is a connection point that **MUST NOT** be allowed to falter! Support the GNGC and you support the people of Guelph.

Sincerely,

Charlene Downey



Guelph Police Service

15 Wyndham Street S., Guelph, Ontario N1H 4C6
(519) 824-1212
TTY (519) 824-1466

October 22, 2020

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
42 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A2

Re: Support for ongoing work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

Dear Chair Holmes,

The Guelph Police Service is proud to partner with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) in carrying out its sustainable neighbourhood engagement framework. The GNSC's mandate of fostering resilient communities aligns directly with our Service's Community Policing and Diversity Committee priorities. Accessibility, diversity and inclusivity are the goals of both of our organizations. We are grateful for the valuable work the GNSC does and we look forward to continuing and expanding the work we do together to support our community.

With this in mind, the Guelph Police Service wishes to re-affirm its commitment to supporting the GNSC in our continued work to foster a strong sense of community across our various city neighbourhoods. I am pleased to advise that Staff Sergeant Jeimy Karavelus has been identified as our liaison with the GNSC. Jeimy is looking forward to working together with the GNSC to ensure our joint goal of building strong community-centric relationships based on trust and collaboration continues into the future. He can be reached at (519)824-1212 ext. 7192.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Cobey".

Gord Cobey,
Chief of Police



October 13, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since its inception. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition, their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, and their readiness and resources to pilot, promote and mentor new ideas/programs.

Our work together includes partnership and collaboration on many programs of the foundation including Adopt-A-Family, Food & Friends, and Free to Grow.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful, and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Rogers".

Emma Rogers, CEO

Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington
87 Waterloo Ave, Guelph, ON. N1H 3H6
emma@childrensfoundation.org
519-829-0353
www.childrensfoundation.org

Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group
23 Ptarmigan Drive, Guelph



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.

We have a very small core group of volunteers that work hard to bring our community together. The events have become a tradition to our community for the 8th, 9th, 10th ... year in a row. Whether it be a Halloween Boonanza or an Easter Eggstravaganza, these particular events have created formative memories to all that attend instilling what Community is all about; people of all diversities coming together to celebrate. To take a break from the day to day grind.

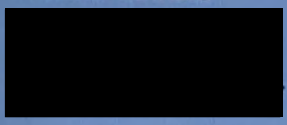
Without the dedicated support and leadership our Neighbourhood Group would not be as viable as it is today. The funding provided to put together engaging events within our community would not be possible without the GNSC.

Due to the recent Covid-19 pandemic, community engagement with social events have been non-existent. Our core members have continued to communicate through social media and our website extending that lifeline to our KHNG Neighbours. With the encouragement of the GNSC we have been afforded the ability to continue our mission of "Creating a Village in the City".

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Chris Robb

Dianna Gamble



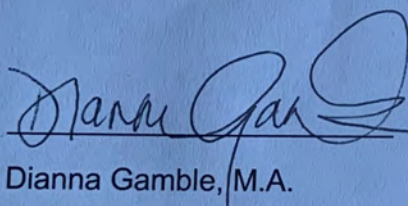
Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Parkwood Gardens Neighborhood Group (PGNG) has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for **many** years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.

I worked with PGNG this spring and summer to deliver food hampers to food insecure families in our neighborhood here in the West End with the input of the GNSC. I am proud of the dedication of the GNSC and neighborhood groups such as PGNG in reaching and supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized members in our community.

I therefore enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.



Dianna Gamble, M.A.

Registered Psychologist

To:
City of Guelph
Mayor & Councillors

Re:
The Guelph
Neighbourhood
Support Coalition's
funding request

Date:
November 17, 2020

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting an increase in funding for their organization.

As many of you know, the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination works collaboratively, informed by diverse voices of experience, to take local action and advocate for system and policy change to address the root causes of poverty. Our work is strengthened because of our strong ties to the GNSC.

As an organization, the GNSC is represented at the PTF Member Committee and the PTF Steering Committee. As an engaged partner, the GNSC enriches discussions and informs actions by sharing the unique perspectives and experiences of community members from across our city.

The GNSC acts as a key champion on important community issues, playing the difficult yet pivotal role of supporting vital emergency responses while also pushing for policy change that addresses the root causes. This includes the GNSC playing a critical leadership role in household food insecurity as part of nurturing The Seed and in supporting fair wages and working conditions as a recognized living wage employer and partner on the PTF's decent work project.

The GNSC has a solid reputation for building trust-based relationships and supporting efforts to build an inclusive community. The strength of this work is especially prominent within the context of the pandemic where the GNSC has been quick to adapt, connect and respond to the needs of some of our community's most vulnerable and marginalized members.

The PTF strongly recommends that the GNSC be considered for increased funding opportunities from the City of Guelph in order to support their powerful and impactful work in our community.

Sincerely,



Dominica McPherson
Poverty Task Force Coordinator

November 12th, 2020

To the Guelph Mayor, and City councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Over the past 8 years that I have volunteered in the Onward Willow neighbourhood, I have come to realize how important it is for marginalized communities to have a strong voice in their community. The OWN centre has gone through so many challenging times and changes of leadership; but through it all, one thing has remained the same; the strength and perseverance of the GNSC to find someone who truly supports, and understands the needs of our impoverished community!

The sense of security that a neighbour who is struggling to make ends meet feels from a centre such as this one, is irreplaceable, and the benefits to one's life are impossible to measure. They have provided supports in our community such as: access to free healthy food in the kitchen, free clothing, toys, books, and furniture for those in need at the OWN centre. They have provided opportunities for community members to improve their computer skills, through holding on-site courses for upgrading, with Action Read at the OWN centre. They have implemented a "wish list" for those who are in need of very specific items of life, such as beds, dressers, appliances etc... It is truly a place to serve our neighbourhood needs, and wouldn't be such, without the support of the GNSC.

Ours is a very challenging low-income neighbourhood; but at the end of the day what really matters is that there are people behind the scenes, who you can trust to find a path that supports those families in need or crisis, and listens and responds to their needs, giving them a voice, such as the many new immigrants, single parents and residents here, who suffer from disabilities.

Based on the above testimonial, I support increased funding for the GNSC. **Everyone**, including marginalized neighbourhoods, should have a voice that is included in requests, plans and accessibility of the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC has given our community that opportunity through supporting of the OWNC.

Thank-you,

Donna Haskett

October 26, 2020

Dear Mayor Cam Guthrie and Guelph City Councillors:

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

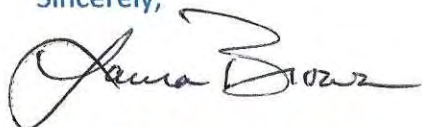
I am the founder and executive director of the Nightingale Centre for Grieving Children, Youth and Families. We are a relatively new non-profit organization who has been in business for just less than two years. We provide grief and bereavement services to children and families in Guelph and Wellington County who have experienced, or are anticipating experiencing, the death of a family member.

The GNSC has been enormously supportive in helping us to get launched as an organization as well as supporting our mandate of providing outreach and education about grieving children to communities in Guelph. Our presence in the community was launched through two free education events for community members about how to support grieving children and how to talk with grieving family members. The St George's Park Neighbourhood Group was indispensable to us in hosting these events, providing us with space in J.F. Ross C.V.I., childcare, set up and take down assistance, and refreshments, as well as promoting the events within their Neighbourhood Group and others. In both cases we had well over 100 people in attendance.

In addition to the education events, the GNSC was instrumental in helping the Nightingale Centre find space to host a week-long training event to teach professionals working with children about how to support grieving children and families. They connected us with a senior manager at Family and Children's Services and we worked out an agreement to use their space for the entirety of the course. The GNSC has also helped the Nightingale Centre to connect with individual grieving families within Neighbourhood Groups and provide grief support as we work hand-in-hand with other members of the support community for vulnerable families.

The Nightingale Centre is so grateful to the GNSC for their assistance as we work to become an integral part of the network of support for Guelph families. We strongly believe that everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live meaningful and connected lives and have great respect for GNSC's efforts in this regard. The families of Guelph and organizations supporting them are lucky to have the GNSC working on their behalf and providing leadership in our community to create the network they need.

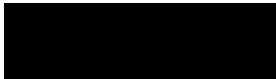
Sincerely,



Dr. Laura Brown, C. Psych.

laura@nightingalecentre.org | Tel: 519-820-7400 | www.nightingalecentre.org

Dunja Lukic



October 28, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

RE: Support for GNSC's Request for Increased Funding

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I know that my neighbourhood group, Onward Willow, has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for a number of years. My family and I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to grassroots community development in the city of Guelph. You are likely already aware of the GNSC's ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, as well as their role in nurturing many programs and programs in our city, including the SEED, and piloting programs that have become community mainstays, such as the North End Harvest Market.

I am writing this letter to you as a community member and resident of Guelph, but in my current professional role at Ontario Works, I see first hand the impact of the GNSC on the lives of the people we serve. This includes providing supports that are responsive, relevant, and agile as only a grassroots organization can because of the personal connections the GNSC builds on the ground. I also deeply value the community-building that results in the work that the GNSC and Onward Willow do that allows all of us from all of our diverse backgrounds to feel like we belong to the same neighbourhood. Just this summer, my family and I organized a group of families on our street and we put together backpacks for Onward Willow's back to school drive. Doing so helped us foster a sense of belonging and connection to where we live and to other families in our neighbourhood. In these unpredictable times where we need supports and connections more than ever, and needs are greater than ever, the GNSC has a proven track record of serving our community and should have the capacity to continue doing so.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Dunja Lukić



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. I have been living in Guelph for more than 13 years now, most of which I have spent being a proud member of the EPNG (Exhibition Park Neighbourhood Group). It started out with fun and free things we, (as parents in the community), could run in Exhibition Park - things our kids would want to be a part of. Our ideas got bigger and we noticed we were able to connect with a much larger population of our neighbourhood. We would see different families at different events each time, new faces which we are always proud to greet and support. Our legendary **Family Dance** Parties bring in 100+ people for a daytime dance together, our **Creativity Picnic's** bring 400+ people for a free day of Creative fun outside, and our free Pick-up Soccer (for both kids and adults) connect people from all over Guelph.

COVID-19 has changed a great deal of this. We've had to cancel family dances this year and our Creativity Picnic. We are forging ahead with our popular **Living Advent Calendar** in our neighbourhood and have reached out to the Downtown Business Association with the hopes that they would like to participate. *We always look for ways to support our local community and share that message in our neighbourhood.* Though we've all had to pivot in this new normal, we still look for ways to be together as a neighbourhood (while safely apart), and offer any support to our neighbours during this very difficult time.

To me, this is what living in Guelph is. It is one big neighbourhood, full of neighbours helping each other out. **We could not do ANY of this without the help and support of the GNSC over the years.** They are always happy to support, collaborate and supply safe spaces whenever we've asked. Not only that, but they have always happily attended our events. *The GNSC is the heart of our community and the neighbourhood we call 'Guelph'.*

I know they are an integral part of MANY other community programs in other neighbourhoods. They also have nurtured programs like The SEED, ACE's, North End Harvest Market and are our community's voice for larger projects like Smart Cities.

At a time like this, we as a community *need community organizations to keep us together.* To find ways to **pivot** and **new** ways to **connect**, so that we all come out of this time safer, healthy and together.

I'd like to ask as a member, as a parent and as a neighbour in Guelph, that you please **increase funding** for the GNSC and the important work they do. *Every city should be as lucky to have such an organization to keep meaningful connections alive, neighbourhoods activated and communities engaged.*

We are all just neighbours after all.

Thank you.

Ellyn Lusis RGD
EPNG Member since 2007

Dear Mayor and Councillors;

The Two Rivers neighbourhood group is one of the reasons why we re-located in the City to the Ward. As a long term resident of Guelph, I have had the opportunity to work with many neighbourhood groups. Their dedication to their community goes beyond their 9-5 duties.

Two Rivers has provided my family a sustainable way to eat healthier, live lighter, become more resilient and create friendships with neighbours I would have not met otherwise. Their community programs such as the food market and PB&J have provided me with the feeling of "normality" in this uncertain time. For example, the food market has allowed us to safely purchase local food to feed and nourish our bodies while being busy with a new baby. He is now also enjoying this food as well. Although I consider myself wealthy, but we are not untouched by Covid. As being on maternity leave has drastically reduced our budget and my husband not being able to find work during this time, we rely on this market to provide our weekly produce knowing we are getting quality goods at a fair price.

PB&J drop ins have allowed me to experience what a new mom should experience in building a community. Having the safe space of the community garden allows for my little guy to watch other kids and learn from them, getting social time without a screen. We love hearing the stories and playing in the space weekly. Also I am making connections with new mom neighbours which I have looked forward to since I became pregnant last year. This has ensured me a space to get outside and make connections which has contributed to me feeling healthy and okay during this anxious time of bringing a new life into the world.

Please support the neighbourhood group with their ask for additional funding. Their programming is amazing and truly adds value beyond what can be calculated to us, the neighbourhood and the larger community.

Thank-you for your time and consideration,
Emily Stahl



November 16, 2020.

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of Family & Children's Services (F&CS) to give our wholehearted backing to the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

F&CS has been working (in partnership with the City) alongside the GNSC since it's inception – over 25 years. The GNSC does something that no other organization can do – it elevates the voices of citizens to build community, to take action on very local issues, to take care of each other and each other's children, to form friendships, to celebrate life. All the things that we, as public services could never hope to achieve but which have lifelong benefits across all health and wellbeing domains.

The importance of relationships in a person's life cannot be understated. Neuroscience research has been coming out over the past 20 years or so revealing that the number and quality of relationships in a person's life (most importantly in a child's life) is critical in all domains of health and wellbeing. This is most crucial during periods of life when the brain is developing – the early years and the adolescent years. The GNSC should be seen as an important investment in the present generation and even more importantly, with the kinds of partnerships and programs the GNSC has that directly target children, parents, and families... a vital investment in the next generation.

If we do this right as a community, we will actually be able to respond to things like calls to defund the police, because people will be healthier and happier because they live in strong, caring, engaged communities that support kids and families who struggle. When that happens, those struggles will be far less likely to turn into bigger problems like crime, addictions, and mental health issues. When there are less of those things, there is less need for a police response to community problems. We will have prevented the problems upstream rather than patch them with very temporary band-aids downstream.

F&CS sees, first hand, what happens when families and kids don't have strong networks of support around them. When we get involved with a family who's children are at risk of being harmed, the first thing we try to do is find networks of support. We are seeing incredible results when we get intentional about that. If we could do that at a population level, you might just put us out of business... or at least really reduce the need for a child welfare response to families

CONTACT US

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Elora, ON, N0B 1S0
F 519-846-1005

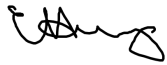
SHELDALE OFFICE

20 Shelldale Crescent
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that struggle, because neighbourhoods are all over it just by being who they are when they have nurturing and structure offered by Neighbourhood Groups. They can become the village that raises the child. It doesn't happen by itself though. It happens with skilled community development and strategic partnerships and programming. That's what the GNSC does.

F&CS enthusiastically supports increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to meaningful connections that naturally provide encouragement, support, programs, connections and also links to services and resources they need to live and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Harvey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Harvey, MSW, RSW
Director of Service, Family & Children's Services
Chair, GNSC Partner Panel

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

October 28th, 2020

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

My name is Esmani and I live in the South End Neighbourhood.

I have 2 children and am expecting another child and at the moment am a single mother. I was referred to the North End Harvest Market by my mid wife and when I called – it was a very good experience. I was put at ease right away as I was a bit leary of calling.

I was set up with a delivery every two weeks and they usually have the same person deliver, so it is nice to see a friendly face at least every two weeks. They call to let me know they are on their way and I meet them downstairs with a smile and a friendly wave and a few nice words.

The market was doing a virtual bingo where they put a bingo card in our produce bags and they called so many numbers a week. We won a couple of lines and they made sure that our prizes were put in our delivery bags . It was so nice to receive those gifts and the kids said it was just like Christmas. They also put treats in the bags for the kids for Halloween. Such a nice gesture.

If we did not have the opportunity to receive these fresh vegetables, and once a month nice bread, we would have to back to not eating healthy and the kids are just getting use to fresh fruits and vegetables and have so much fun now preparing salads and dressing. The market had sent us a really simple recipe for salad dressing that even the kids can make and they love it.

Please consider giving some extra support to the market.

Esmani

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

October 14, 2020

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Facilitation Wellington Dufferin has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to community development and empowerment, their collaborative spirit and willingness to work in partnership with individuals, organizations, and leaders in Guelph for the benefit of our shared community.

As an organization who supports people who experience disability to take up full citizenship, we value the work that GNCS does to make our community accessible, welcoming and appreciative of the contributions of each member. We have worked collaboratively on a number of training and outreach events, and routinely look to the GNSC for resources and opportunities for people that we support to become more engaged members of their communities. In particular, we recognize GNSC's commitment to making all of their initiatives open to the most marginalized members of our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.



Joanna Goode
Executive Director
Facilitation Wellington Dufferin
joanna@facilitationwd.com



November 12/20

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Welcome In Drop In Centre has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their connection to individuals and families in local neighbourhoods that need support. The Welcome In Drop In Centre has partnered with the GNSC when they come across a situation in which an individual or family that are experiencing a financial crisis which might become at threat to their ability to maintain housing. At the Welcome In Drop In Centre we support these families through our Diversion Program. Our Diversion Program supports individuals and families to stay housed despite a financial crisis so that they do not become homeless. We appreciate the GNSC for their social reach into neighbourhoods and their connection to vulnerable people in those neighbourhoods.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Gail Hoekstra MSW

Executive Director

Welcome In Drop IN Centre



October 5, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

We are writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Community Foundation (GCF) has been proudly funding and collaborating with the GNSC for the past 19 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in many neighbourhood spaces throughout the City of Guelph.

The GNSC has become an increasingly important service provider in our community.

- They help the Foundation's dollars reach many of our most vulnerable citizens and neighbourhoods
- They intimately know and understand our current resource challenges
- They offer everyone in the community access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.
- The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

It is worth noting that over the past six months they've demonstrated their readiness and ability to pilot, promote, and mentor new programs, as illustrated through their grant applications and reporting during the pandemic. They lead with their heart and connect to so many in our community who need extra support. They have proven time and time again to our Grants Committee, Board of Directors and staff they can execute programs that provide significant support to many of our most vulnerable, and they do it in a safe, respectful and honest way—services and programs nobody else provides.

Further, the GNSC is facing a significant increase in demand and need for their services. The volume of requests and support needed has increased - we know the North End Harvest Market is experiencing double the weekly traffic they normally plan for. Children and youth need additional mentorship and supportive programming, and they've stepped up and partnered with other charities to supply food hampers and supplies. They are respected leaders in our community.

On behalf of GCF, we enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Thank you for your consideration.



Chris Willard
Executive Director
The Guelph Community Foundation
cwillard@guelphcf.ca



Jessica Barrie
Operations & Community Engagement Manager
The Guelph Community Foundation
jbarrie@guelphcf.ca



Geetha Van den Daele, CE

5 Edinburgh S, Guelph ON N1G 4Y3

Community Consultant

Evaluation | Research | Engagement

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www.freshinsights.ca

November 17, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. It is very much needed to support the kind of programming and leadership this organization provides, as it lends itself to creating healthy, resilient, safe, and thriving individuals and communities.

I have been a volunteer of the GNSC for over 5 years. My two children see the GNSC as family and an organization that supports connection, kindness, and love. By allowing me to participate, along with my kids, my children have grown a stronger sense of connection to the community and an understanding of how beautiful and wonderful community can be and the importance of community. The organization has made a profound influence on my life and the life of my kids; I honestly can't imagine how I would have made it through challenging life moments without their support.

While the GNSC deserves and has received formal credit on the many things they have achieved and continue to achieve, I want to take the opportunity to speak about how they approach the work that they do. Which is significant. An organization that works to put community-first, people-first, and one that works on dismantling and reducing the barriers to accessibility is one that is greatly needed in our community. For others to learn and model the approaches that the GNSC is taking and work together to address systemic issues.

Why does this matter? Community matters. Connection matters. For individuals and families to thrive, safe, supportive, and meaningful connections are vital. They make all the difference in the world. I encourage you to watch this TED Talk, mentioned to me by a woman who was living in a shelter that I had the opportunity to connect with:

https://www.ted.com/talks/johann_hari_everything_you_think_you_know_about_addiction_is_wrong#t-202527. One of the most striking quotes, and I believe is true, is "the

opposite of addiction is not sobriety, the opposition of addiction is [human] connection."

The GNSC helps foster and nurture real, authentic, human connection and places and spaces to support these connections.

Unfortunately, this is not easy work; it requires time, trust, resources, and a strong ability to carry the pressing issues and weight that individuals and families face in our community. Supporting individuals and families on the ground while also addressing and dismantling systemic barriers, the GNSC works on both by sitting on various tables, taking part in cross-sector initiatives, being action-oriented while taking the very precious and vital time to address real-time issues that surface for individuals and families. To do this work, takes resources. To sustain this work, takes resources. I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. **Everyone** should have access to the supports, people, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely, Geetha



Friday, October 2nd 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

We are writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Girls Rock Camp Guelph has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for five years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas and programs.

The early conceptualization of Girls Rock Camp Guelph was embraced by Brendan Johnson and Dan Evans, where they helped us with grant applications, recruitment, school bookings, resource sharing, and so much more. Our first year of camp would not have happened without the knowledge and support enthusiastically provided to us from the GNSC. The GNSC continues to significantly aid Girls Rock Camp Guelph by supplying aid to venue rentals, insurance, and expertise in organizational growth and grant processes. The GNSC are fundamental to connecting and growing community initiatives such as ours. After the first two years of our camp's existence, we were able to grow the camp to sustain itself as financially independent. This leap in growth would not have happened without the aid of the GNSC. Above all, the GNSC has helped us develop important skills in developing an organization with values in functional community relationships and respect.

The GNSC is an invaluable asset to the City of Guelph.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Emmalia Bortolon-Vettor
Girls Rock Camp Guelph Co-Founder

Oct. 29th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have previously been a member, and Convenor, of the Downtown Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors. I have always appreciated the vision of the GNSC in promoting human flourishing and the common good in our Guelph neighbourhoods. This aligns well with my role as pastor of Two Rivers Church. We as a church we want to collaborate with community groups that care about the social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of community members, and believe that the GNSC fits that description.

We are particularly grateful for the support of the Downtown Community Garden (in which we are involved) which has been supported by the GNSC, it is a thriving project which benefits our neighbours in the downtown.

We affirm increased funding for the GNSC whose work has been important in sustaining healthy citizenship in Guelph.

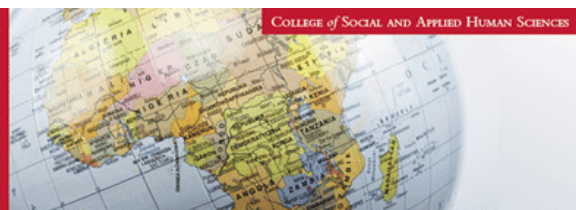
Sincerely,

Rev. Glen Soderholm
Two Rivers Church
(A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada)



COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP INSTITUTE

**GUELPH
INSTITUTE OF
DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES**



October 7, 2020

Dear Mayor and City of Guelph Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The University of Guelph Community Engaged Scholarship Institute and Guelph Institute of Development Studies have been proudly collaborating with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) for over 5 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces and the centring of community voice in their work and decision making. We admire and appreciate their central role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city including The SEED and the ACEs Coalition GW.

I had the opportunity to work with the GNSC in my capacity as Instructor of the Engaging in Development Practice Course in the International Development Studies program at the University of Guelph.


In this community-engaged experiential learning course students work on an applied research project in partnership with a local partner organization in the community. We partnered with the GNSC on a research project to identify best practices in conducting a community-level asset mapping process to create an asset map as a tool for community empowerment.

This was an extremely valuable experience for the students as well as the University to be involved in the excellent work of the GNSC. The time spent in collaboration was a highlight for many of my students in their degree program and many have used the skills and contacts acquired in this partnership to further their academic and professional development.

The GNSC is a vital organization, making a tangible impact at the University and within the City of Guelph.

community. campus.
collaboration.

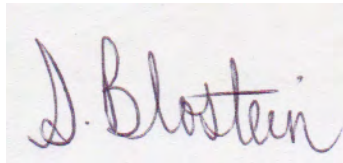
17 University Ave East
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1
T 519-824-4120 ext. 53829
cesi@uoguelph.ca
cesinstitute.ca



During the COVID-19 pandemic the GNSC has been able to help reach and support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community because of the trust and relationships they have built.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,



Samantha Blostein, M.A. | Global Community Engagement Specialist
Community Engaged Scholarship Institute / International Development Studies
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Guelph Public Library

Explore • Connect • Thrive

October 30, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Public Library has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over five years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders. They are a pivotal piece in bringing many community organizations together to work on making Guelph a great city to live in. Guelph residents are proud of their neighbourhoods and this is the result of amazing programming, innovative ideas and the wonderful staff and volunteers who bring these ideas to fruition.

The GNSC and the Guelph Public Library have worked together on a number of programs through the years. Projects such as Library Hubs Meeting Community Needs and the Digital Literacy Grant, and programs such as Bookmobile visits to GNSC summer camps and afterschool groups all help to reach out to and support our marginalized communities. Without the partnership of the Coalition, these initiatives would not have been successful.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live meaningful and connected lives. The Coalition strives to make this a priority in our community.

Sincerely,

Eleni Hughes | Bullfrog Mall Branch & Bookmobile Supervisor

380 Eramosa Road Guelph, ON N1E 6R2

T: 519 829 4401 x251

www.guelphpl.ca



Guelph Tool Library
55 Unit T8, Wyndham St N
Guelph, ON N1H 7T8

Date: Friday October 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Tool Library has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since our inception over 4 years ago. We deeply respect the work of the GNSC and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. The GNSC and its leadership team has provided guidance, mentorship, and much needed resources towards the growth and success of the Guelph Tool Library.

Our work with the GNSC has been in a number of areas. Most significantly, the GNSC facilitated the community use of space at Tytler Public School which allowed us to grow and expand our offerings to the residents of Guelph. The Guelph Tool Library saw our membership and loan activity triple in the three years we were based out of Tytler Public School. The GNSC has also hosted a number of Repair Cafes, free fixing events, around Guelph. Repair Cafes have seen over 3000 kg of waste diverted from landfill. The GNSC has also partnered with us on a number of our events including the Good Call Program, Sew North, and the Urban Sugaring Project. The GNSC's readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs has had a major impact on our organization.

Even this year with the shutdown caused by the pandemic, the GNSC was able to assist us with one of our outreach projects, the Merry Mask Makers. The Guelph Tool Library recruited nearly 100 volunteers to sew over 2000 reusable cloth masks and distribute them for free. The GNSC aided the program by helping us recruit volunteers, offering to be the designated charitable partner for grants, and distributing the masks through their network. Their assistance allowed us to protect and provide some sense of security to nearly 2000 people living in Guelph.



Finally, I would like to speak to the leadership of the GNSC. Brendan Johnson and Dan Evans are inspiring leaders and wonderful assets for everyone in the city. My dealings with them have always been thoughtful and they each possess an encyclopedic knowledge of resources and people to turn to for projects in Guelph. They have provided excellent counsel to Guelph Tool Library and other projects that I have been involved with in Guelph. Their willingness to help or provide feedback is one of the best aspects of the GNSC and the role the organization plays in the City of Guelph.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dennis".

John Dennis
Chair - Guelph Tool Library

October 7, 2020

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC)
Attn: Brendan Johnson – Executive Director
42 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A2

Re: Letter of Support for GNSC Services

Mr. Johnson,

This letter serves as an expression of our support for GNSC's request for funding through the City of Guelph. GNSC has supported and provided input on many of our programs, providing vital input on community needs to *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's* Community Consultation, kick-starting the Community Connector Initiative, and most recently, our informing and participating in our *#StrongerTogetherGW* campaign, sharing a message of solidarity by highlighting the wide diversity of individuals that continue to provide services essential to our wellbeing during COVID-19. GNSC has also proven to be a key partner in the dissemination of information to both community organizations and community members that is key to our organization's mission.

Established in 2009, the Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership is responsible for bringing community stakeholders in Guelph and Wellington County together in support of immigrant integration. A significant contributor to the activities our Council and strategic plan, GNSC has been a key contributor to our project's success. The connections to key stakeholders and perspective that GNSC staff and volunteers provide are invaluable to our organization.

More than ever, Canada needs immigrants to maintain population growth, and to sustain our community's ageing population, but key to an integrated community is a sense of belonging. Through their community driven initiatives, GNSC remains a key organization in ensuring that our communities remain inclusive and welcoming as immigration trends increase.

I look forward to our continued partnership supporting newcomers.

Sincerely,



Leen Al-Habash

Project Manager, Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Guelph Youth Basketball Association (GYBA) has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for **3** years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their work, particularly pertaining to the following areas:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community

GYBA has worked with the GNSC on basketball programs within the Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group and helped forge a great partnership that we hope to continue to run in the future. Through our partnership, they have shown they are an integral part of our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Thank you kindly,

Vanessa Lodge

GYBA VP of Development and Admin

November 5, 2020.

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighborhoods Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Wellington Seniors Association-Community Support Services (GWSA-CSS) has been delivering food to older adults living in Guelph during the coronavirus pandemic. This new model of delivering our program has been both rewarding and challenging. Our agency has been fortunate to collaborate with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition during the pandemic.

Neighbourhood Support Workers have made our work easier by offering guidance and practical food support. Our weekly produce delivery was enhanced by the provision of COBS bread from three Neighbourhood Groups including Grange Hill East, Brant and Parkwood Gardens. As our pandemic work unfolded GWSA-CSS delivered a pilot community food market at 32 Hadati Road. Bronwen, the Neighbourhood Support Worker from Grange Hill East provided pantry items, frozen meat and frozen prepared soups from the food cupboard for the pilot market. Bronwen offered safe, in-person support to these vulnerable older adults by coming to the market and making connections. Finally, the North End Harvest Market and Barb McPhee have been instrumental in helping GWSA-CSS get its food delivery model up and running. Barb has frequently shared her best practices, resources and connections to other community agencies able to help us.

The GNSC has always gone out of their way to offer tangible support and have absolutely made our work easier in a challenging time. We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.



Molly Roberts, RD
Community Eat Well Coordinator



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Waterloo Wellington

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Waterloo Wellington

October 23, 2020

Mayor Cam Guthrie and Guelph City Councillors
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Re: Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's Delegation to City Council

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

CMHA WW is the local provider for children, youth, adults and seniors in our community who require support and treatment for complex mental health and addiction issues. Given the clinical complexity we see across all ages in our community, it is essential for us to partner with many providers across numerous sectors, to effectively support the vulnerable. We have worked hard to cultivate partnerships with local community services to fully support our clients' journeys toward meaningful, healthy lives.

Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since its inception. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition, the way they centre the community voice in their work and decision making, as well as their role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city, such as The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW, and the North End Harvest Market. Many of CMHA WW's clients access these programs on a regular basis.

CMHA WW has partnered with the GNSC in creating a bridge between the informal systems created by neighbourhood support groups and the formal healthcare system. The GNSC help us ensure community members get their mental healthcare needs met, as we would not necessarily hear from or see these individuals without this vital link. CMHA WW also trains and supports Neighbourhood Support Workers to build their capacity via education like Mental Health 101 and Mental Health First Aid courses. Together, CMHA WW and the GNSC advocate for what our community needs.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Helen Fishburn, MSW

Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington
hfishburn@cmhaww.ca Cell: (519) 835-5645

October 13, 2020.

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.


As a member organization of the GNSC Partners Panel for more than 5 years, Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC to bring our lens about the needs and work with newcomers to Canada in our community. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their dedication and commitment to ensure that access to equitable resources is available, especially to the most vulnerable members of our neighborhoods. They are an example that equity and values work because they are accountable, caring, and ensure that everyone's voices are heard. They do strive for a healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home!

ISGW and the GNSC have worked together in different projects such as the World Next Door, to celebrate the different cultural fabric of our community members and we have collaborated in delivering English conversation circles to facilitate access to English practice in the convenience of the own neighborhood of the newcomers to Guelph. Along these years, our close relationship has allowed us to even help those with challenges to access our office due to transportation or because of critical circumstances, in a one on one basis, out of the neighborhood group space. Furthermore, we have partnered to run the weekly Happy Friday Asian seniors' group at the Parkwood Gardens Neighborhood Group, which is a strong community connector for that particular demographic group in that area of our City. Without this collaboration these seniors would be isolated and would not have a safe space to feel integrated, do gentle exercises, participate in workshops of their interest and practice English. This is a unique opportunity for them to integrate in the community and learn about programs in the City.

We wholeheartedly support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Thank you for your attention and we wish for the best decision in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dayami Ramirez
Program Manager
Tel: 519-836-2222 ext 225
Email: dramirez@is-gw.ca



October 6, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization as they are representative of positive social change within our city.

HOPE House has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC on many projects and programs for 8 years. The power of working with the Coalition is that we have had the increased ability to pilot, launch, and execute new ideas and programs quickly, effectively, and with a larger reach across Guelph.

We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces as well as their ability to centre the community voice in their work and decision making. It is these strengths that have allowed us to work together to effectively deliver the Guelph Community Backpack Project for the past 8 years. Together, we supported over 1400 children and their families in the community in 2020 by ensuring they began the school year with the tools needed for success. GNSC support and work with this project has allowed this project to expand throughout the city to ensure that all families in need are able to get the support they need through this initiative.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. The GNSC's work is rooted in community and it makes the work we do together more powerful and successful. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaya James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jaya James
Executive Director, HOPE House

HOPE House | PO Box 1869 Guelph, N1H 7A1 | 519-265-4299 | hopehouseguelph.ca



Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Indigenous Healing & Wellness Program has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 3 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ongoing readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas, programs and services. One such program is the North End Harvest Market which IHWP clients utilize. The North End Harvest Market has been an invaluable food insecurity measure relied upon not only by the Indigenous community but all other community members facing food insecurity issues. The GNSC has been strong advocates on making good whole foods accessible to all in need without the stigma of poverty attached to its community members. They make their programs accessible along with giving community members a sense of dignity and autonomy. The GNSC has also played a pivotal role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city such as the with The SEED, which is another food insecurity program that was supported by the GNSC. Through these initiatives and partnerships they have the ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

GNSC's ability to help reach and support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community is because of the trust and relationships they have built in the community. That has established deep roots within each neighborhood recognized as a provider of safe and inclusive spaces for community to gather, learn and build better futures not just for themselves but their children. The Indigenous Healing & Wellness has sat at many community and organizational tables where the GNSC advocacy work around poverty, living wage and health related topics have made huge impacts to community they serve.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

In health and wellness,

Jennifer Antler
Manager, Indigenous Healing & Wellness program
Wellington Waterloo

October 6, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to recognize the excellent value that the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) brings to the city of Guelph through its many programs and initiatives. WDG Public Health intentionally maintains strong partnerships with the GNSC because the work of the GNSC elevates the well-being of the community.

Public Health works within a social determinants of health framework. Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, play, work, and age. The health and well-being of individuals depends on social, economic, and environmental factors as well as individual behaviors, and living conditions. Research has identified the negative health impacts of inequity and the importance of early experiences for children. There is strong evidence supporting the effectiveness of building strong communities to foster resilience in children.

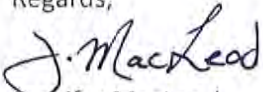
Population health assessments completed by WDG Public Health have demonstrated that some neighbourhoods in the city of Guelph are characterized by higher rates of low income, unemployment, low education, and lack of social and community support, relative to other neighborhoods in the area.

The GNSC supports community-based activities to respond to the local needs and strengths of Guelph neighbourhoods. The type of initiatives supported by the GNSC can have a profound influence on conditions that can change health and well-being outcomes. GNSC initiatives such as educational opportunities for children and adults and skill-building opportunities in areas such as leadership result in supportive, inclusive neighbourhoods with strong social support networks. These supports serve as protective factors. This work has become even more important as COVID-19 has significantly impacted the overall health and wellbeing of communities. In response to COVID-19, the GNSC pivoted their program delivery model to ensure they could continue to provide high-quality programming promoting protective factors and to address new and emerging issues caused by COVID-19. One example of this is the partnership in developing a Parenting in a Pandemic resource.

There is also a strong economic case for investing in prevention and early intervention activities. The costs associated with investing in preventing problems are typically much lower than the costs of intensive, long term interventions required to remediate complex, long lasting issues that could have been prevented. Because the work of the GNSC addresses root causes of disparity it has the potential to prevent economic and societal costs associated with inequities.

The GNSC has a long track record of successfully and meaningfully supporting neighbourhood action, amplifying community voice, and sparking community led initiatives which leads to neighbourhood groups that are inclusive, engaging, responsive and build a sense of belonging.

Regards,



Jennifer MacLeod

Manager, Health Analytics

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health



CFRU 93.3fm

Guelph's Campus and Community
Radio and media centre
celebrating 40 years on the fm dial

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I work for CFRU as the "Volunteer and Mobile Studio Coordinator" and have been running remote studio opportunities in collaboration with the GNSC for the past five years. Our remote studio aims to create a platform for folks in our community who are often marginalized or ignored in other forms of the media, to allow them to share their stories and perspectives, and learn some of the skills that go into producing radio. The GNSC has been essential in this work – the GNSC's awareness of the needs of different community groups, and how the geography and services in our city impacts those needs, has provided me with informed, honest, and thorough insight into who lives in our city, and how meaningful and respectful relationships can be built with these community members. It has not only aided in my process of deciding where to take these radio recording projects, but how I should set them up, and how I should navigate my work in these spaces.

I have learned so much from the GNSC, and their support and guidance has shaped the project in immeasurable ways. You can check out radio projects created in collaboration with the GNSC at cfrumobile.com. The project has been implemented in eight of Guelph's neighbourhoods with additional projects in schools and at neighbourhood events. As a result of our collaborations, over 600 additional Guelph voices have made it onto CFRU's airwaves. It's an amazing thing!

I strongly support increased funding for the GNSC! I think it is such a gift that Guelph has such an incredible organization to learn from, and to implement programs through. How they manage to do the work they do with the budget they have is a mystery to me, and I truly believe without them the city would spend much more funding trying to create programs and supports for our citizens, and that those programs would be far less effective. Without the groundwork and genuine relationship building the GNSC helps implement, our programs and supports would not be nearly so person-centred and would leave a lot of community members behind. So please support their request!

Sincerely,

Jenny Mitchell
volunteer@cfru.ca



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Oct 7, 2020

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have been a volunteer with the The Junction Neighbourhood Group for 4 years. Through this relationship our neighbourhood group has developed 2 community gardens, several neighbourhood events and connections with the primary school in our area. I deeply appreciate the work of the Coalition and their efforts to be an equitable, inclusive and values based organization. **The GNSC is effective because it is both grassroots and city wide.** Neighborhood volunteers and staff know their communities, the importance of these relationships can not be overstated.

In a recent conversation with an elder of the First Nations Métis and Inuit community here in Guelph the work of the North End Harvest Market came up. We were discussing how quickly marginalized communities were left behind when COVID 19 forced isolation and the closure of many emergency food providers and how quickly the colonial structure of service provision failed to reach the most vulnerable. For her community, who are members of OUR community, the North End Harvest Market and their volunteers stepped up to provide access to food and basic necessities. Going above and beyond to create safe spaces to meet vulnerable community members in ways and places that were most comfortable and accessible for them. **This work was based on relationships and trust** and this is the work of the GNSC.

I whole-heartedly support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Joy Sammy

October 5th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a strong supporter of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) because of the significant contribution it has made to the City of Guelph.

Many people in our community would not have access to the programs and resources they need without the GNSC.

I have seen first hand the impact the GNSC has on our communities through my volunteer work with the North End Harvest Market (NEHM).

I have been volunteering with the NEHM for 5 years in many aspects such as:

- Hosting the 2019 K-W Klobberfest Slo-Pitch Tournament. This was a fundraiser through my employer and the NEHM was our chosen Charity. The Tournament raised enough money that we were able to sponsor 2 weeks of the market with our donation of \$1,200.00.

- Picking up the donated bread from COBS bakery on Tuesday evenings to be included in the Wednesday distribution of food at the NEHM.

- Since the NEHM reopened in April 2020 (after having to close due to COVID-19), I have been working every week with the NEHM, organizing and packaging fresh produce for over 120 families. We have also begun to deliver throughout the City of Guelph to include people from other Neighbourhood Groups. I created a database/spreadsheet in order to organize our deliveries to those who are housebound.

The NEHM was very fortunate to be able to reopen as many other organizations were not able to do so. Because of this, the NEHM began to work with other neighbourhood groups in order to provide the fresh produce so desperately needed throughout the City of Guelph.

Some of the other Neighbourhood groups that have benefitted from being able to utilize the NEHM include:

- Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group – Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group - -North Riverside Neighbourhood Group - -Brant Avenue Neighbourhood Group and even been able to support some families in the county.

Everything I have seen and have been able to assist with would not have been possible without the support of the GNSC. Their efforts and commitment have kept the NEHM operating during a time of unprecedented uncertainty, and every week I hear many comments of appreciation for our help.

Your support is crucial in their continuing efforts and I thank you for your time and consideration.

With Kind Regards,

Judi E. Gough

[Redacted Signature]

Silvercreek Community Market
210 Silvercreek Pkwy N.
Guelph, ON
N1H 7P8



*Silvercreek Community
Market*

November 11, 2020

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization, especially in the area of food security.

The Silvercreek Community Market has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for four years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their readiness and resources to pilot, promote and mentor new ideas/programs. Our market has been modelled after the North End Harvest Market that has been providing fresh food to guests since 2014. Being able to collaborate with other community leaders in the area has greatly assisted in the success of our program. When we began in 2017 we were able to redirect many guests from the NEHM to a free fresh food market in their own community.

With Covid-19 impacting many community programs, ours included, we were able to help each other to continue to support those living in the Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group community. Our market closed down at the end of March as the church building was not accessible for community use. By mid summer the Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group (OWNG) reached out to us to use some space when it became available to run a food hamper program. The demand for food increased during the initial months of Covid-19. We were able to collaborate with them to use our facilities, provide funds for fresh food purchase, distribute canned goods on hand and provide volunteers to pack and deliver the food hampers from June-August. We also helped with the packing and distribution of school backpacks in late August. We continue to communicate with each other to provide assistance where required. If it was not for the collaboration of our initial contact with GNSC the relationship with OWNG may not have happened as easily and the support we now provide to the most vulnerable and marginalized members of the community we serve. This will not be possible without funding for GNSC and in particular during the pandemic we are living with.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Julianna Stephens

Silvercreek Community Market

TO: Mayor and City Councillors

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's Delegation to City Council

DATE: November 11, 2020

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Bechard

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council. The GNSC has requested increased funding due to an increased need associated with both Covid 19, and an increased population, and I support their request.

I have volunteered as a planning member, and active event volunteer of the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group (HCNG) since my eldest daughter (now 10) was a toddler. In that time, the HCNG, and the GNSC have always been very conscientious of making the city's dollar stretch. Our neighbourhood group, for example saves money by buying required items for craft nights on sale, sharing equipment through the GNSCs program, and by having a 100% volunteer-based group (i.e. our sub-organization has no paid staff). HCNG, and GNSC as a whole, are effective with every dollar it receives. Nothing is wasted, and many items are recycled, or shared through programs like the Clothing Closet and Food Bank projects.

The GNSC is the glue that gives Guelph a 'community' feel which many big cities struggle to maintain. Not only does the GNSC connect its members and communicate the needs of the general population to the City, it also offers non-judgemental resources and support to residents. The staff of the GNSC, particularly Dan and Brendan whom I've had the pleasure to engage with over the years, are exceptional. They lead by example in showing compassion, guaranteeing inclusivity, encouraging connectedness, and of course, being fiscally responsible. Without the GNSC, the city of Guelph would not be able to maintain the 'small town feel' that the neighbourhood groups collectively bestow to its members.

If the GNSC has requested an increase in funds, it is not a frivolous request. It is because those funds are absolutely required to continue providing the services that it excels at now, and to have the capacity to offer additional equitable and inclusive programs to bring the people of the City of Guelph together.

I strongly support the GNSCs request for funding and urge you, the Mayor and City Council, to vote in favour of this request.

Sincerely,



(Karen Bechard)
Resident of Guelph
Member of the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

November 5, 2020

The Guelph CHC strives for a community without barriers to health and wellbeing. We know that the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's work aligns with this goal, that is why we are endorsing the request for additional funding for the GNSC to do its critical work in our community.

The GNSC's has the ability to ensure that community voice is centred in decision making. They relentlessly build social capacity and bring it to the surface in neighbourhoods and our community at large. They are a nimble organization that brings equity and values work to our community. The GNSC creates a fostering environment for neighbours supporting neighbours. The Guelph CHC is deeply partnered with the GNSC through various programs and services including our Parent Outreach Worker Program, our SEED programming and through our Health Promotion Strategy.

GNSC works to build social networks, norms of reciprocity, mutual assistance and trustworthiness in neighbourhoods – all which are critically important for our city. This request is to support this continued work to make our community stronger, healthier and better positioned for the future as we all are striving for, as per the City of Guelph's community plan. We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone deserves to have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

The Guelph CHC has been an integral partner and supporter of the GNSC since its inception and long before when this work was embedded more fully in the city. We work closely on program partnerships and use a data informed approach to providing intentional supports at a neighbourhood based level. We are thankful for GNSC's leadership in the shared work we do. Please deeply consider the opportunity to support this essential organization.

Respectfully,



Kate Vsetula
Director of Community and Organizational Development
kvsetula@guelphchc.ca
519-821-6638 ex 335

"A possibility is brought into being in the act of declaring it" Peter Block

Katie Ewald



November 11, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

As a citizen of Guelph *and* as very active member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee at Ecole King George's Parent Council I have found help, support and council when I need it. When we needed Racial Justice training in our Parent Council last January, they were extremely supportive by providing money and a local recommendation as to who could best provide this type of training. They also expanded this training to include the neighbourhood groups that have children in them that go to Ecole King George. What a way to listen to the needs of a citizen and a group of concerned citizens, run with, improve and support an idea!! That is true leadership!

I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. I also find deep value in their equity work. They lead by example in our community. They **walk the walk** in terms of putting resources where they say action is required. In a world where it takes courage to "put your money where your mouth is" they do JUST that. But it is beyond money and resources. It is real dedication to making this community and therefore the world a better place. And this happens in efforts in all different kinds of ways: from food insecurity to equity education and support, to living wage and back packs for kids in need.

I VERY enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

And you are lucky because YOU can be a part of that by supporting the GNSC! They need more money and you can provide this! Lucky you.

Sincerely,

Katie Ewald



Kazoo! Festival

106 Huron Street, Guelph, ON N1E 5L6

(519) 760-3628 - info@kazookazoo.ca

Friday October 2nd, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Kazoo! Festival has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 7 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with communities to enrich the lives of everyone in Guelph. The work they do is responsive to the unique needs of communities while centering the voices of people in their work and decision making.

Over the years we have worked alongside the GNSC on a number of unique community based projects. Our first project with the GNSC was in partnership with Musagetes in 2013 entitled "All Over the Map" which was a multi-venue moving festival showcasing music performances in schools, parks, and community spaces throughout the city. We also worked with the GNSC to help assist with the creation of Girls Rock Camp Guelph, a vitally important program encouraging the participation of young women and gender non-conforming youth in the local music scene. In addition to these initiatives, the GNSC has helped us bring our concerts and events to unique spaces in Guelph by helping us navigate relationships with school boards and community groups.

The work that the GNSC do in our community is invaluable and has helped Kazoo! grow as an organization. Their organizational mentorship has been invaluable in helping us plan and host more inclusive and culturally diverse events.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Brad McInerney
Festival Director - Kazoo! Festival

October 5th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization,

I grew up in the Onward Willow neighbourhood just as the neighbourhood group was being formed well over 25 years ago. My mom encouraged me and my sister to take advantage of the programs and events that were being offered and we did. Soon after we became Camp Leaders and Youth Council Members and I was lucky enough to be the youth representative on the Management Board. Because of all this training and community supports, I was also chosen as young women of distinction in 1998. I was able to follow the Onward Willow journey as it became a member of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition where I was able to find opportunities to work at Brant and Waverley Neighbourhood Groups using the trainings I got from Onward Willow. After High School – I went off to college and am so full of gratitude for the teachings, mentoring and community spirit that I gained. The GNSC helped me to build trusting and nurturing relations and partnerships and courage to do what I needed to improve my life.

The GNSC centres on the community voice in decision making and helping community to become leaders in their neighbourhoods as well as leaders in organizations in the bigger community and this is certainly true for children – youth and adults.

So many years later – I was voluntold by my mom (Barb McPhee) to come and help out at the North End Harvest Market – but because of all I gained from my GNSC experiences – I was volunteering on my own – she did not have to ask me. In fact – I used to take my daughter Madison – who at 6 years of age - worked on the produce line giving out bread and has been continuing to help out when she can – she is now 12. I now pick up the Cobs Bread each week and help out at all of the fundraising events for the North End Harvest Market and have attended some of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition Events with my children and it has been awesome.

I totally support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.. They have certainly – personally and professionally made a huge difference in my life.

Kelly Royea

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

October 10th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for five years. I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their support of community leadership, spirit of collaboration, commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and earned reputation in the community as the focal point for meaningful community engagement, as well as being the catalyst and support system that enables numerous ongoing essential community projects and programs.

I have worked with the GNSC as a part of the Equity Conference. I have delivered multiple Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshop series', and completed a youth-engagement framework for the Guelph neighbourhood groups. The GNSC has also provided critical support for the formation of Black Lives Matter Guelph, of which I am a co-founder, in helping us process our donations so we can put the funds to work in the Black community. The GNSC has also provided support for Second Wind Solutions, of which I am a partner, in our organizational development so that we can begin work participating meaningfully in the reimagining of Guelph's systems of community care through community-engaged research and consulting for the City and community stakeholders.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sutton

Threshold: Thriving with Change DEI consulting

Partner at Second Wind Solutions

Co-founder of Black Lives Matter Guelph

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to support the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Grange Hill East (GHENG) and Brant Avenue (BANG) Neighbourhood Groups have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the Coalition's work and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces to create safe and expressive spaces for the local youth to enjoy themselves freely.

A community is a sense of belonging and feeling together, no matter your background or history. This is one of the values the GNSC upholds greatly and demonstrates it during an unprecedented time. With the GNSC's excellent coordination, both GHENG and BANG were able to run summer camp programs in July and August of this year. With Covid-19 guidelines provided from the school board and public health. The summer camp programs were able to create that sense of community with the local youth and truly help them through this difficult time. But without the precise work and dedication from the GNSC, many local youths from Grange and Brant wouldn't meet new friends and enjoy genuine laughter from camp. Allowing the youth to be together once again and create everlasting bonds was nothing short of amazing.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Yours Truly,
Kevin Nguyen, Youth Worker



October 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

On behalf of the Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group (KHNG), I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Formed in February 2007 as an offshoot from Kortright Hills Community Association Inc. (KHCA Inc.), the Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group has been committed to "creating a village in the city" for all our community members. We want to build a healthy, vibrant community spirit, while at the same time having fun. We are eager to continue to grow and be a strong, safe and unique community within our beautiful City of Guelph. We are committed to continuing to develop ongoing partnerships around and within our community and have been a part of the GNSC since it was formed.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition offers tremendous potential to create real change and address issues of access and equity in neighbourhoods across the city. The structure of the organization creates amazing opportunities for inclusion and engagement. The community leaders, working for change in their neighbourhoods, share space and power with the partner organizations who deliver services to their constituents. The result of this structure is accountability and more appropriate, unique and responsive delivery of services even during 2020 uncertain times.

For KHNG, the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition provides us with the organizational structure to address the needs of our unique neighbourhood including after-school club programs, community events, workshops and providing space for other organized programs to meet. It is because of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition that our neighbourhood is able to create village in the city. The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition is vital to our on-going success.

KHNG is a dedicated and passionate supporter of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition. We are proud to be part of this organization and see the potential for civic engagement, through this collaborative organization, as limitless.

Thank you,

Leone Schadenberg
Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group
Neighbourhood Support Worker



RICKSON RIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

November 11, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Thank you for the valuable work you continue to offer and steward on behalf of the citizens of Guelph. We benefit from the historical efforts of those who lived on this land before we did. On this Remembrance Day, we recall, also, those whose sacrifices enable us to pursue lives in which we can build a democratically equitable community, with increasingly greater levels of widespread participation. As we attempt to keep this in mind and make choices that will resonate positively for generations to come, I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Rickson Ridge Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition for their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. They assist in the essential social justice work of Guelph by bringing all parties to a collaborative table, with wisdom, insight and productive action. They have an empowering approach to leadership that gives local citizens both the support and ongoing opportunity to offer organically relevant services in their respective neighbourhoods. The GNSC's readiness to pilot, promote, and mentor new programs continues to assist us in our young, yet steadily expanding experience.

In our neighbourhood in Guelph's growing south end, for example, we have been building a community hub that is dedicated to inclusion and active service. Whereas traditional Guelph narratives tend to centre the downtown core as the "real Guelph" and relegate the south end to "commuters" and "newcomers" who don't espouse the same core values that mark Guelph as a leader in agriculture, conservation, the arts, service and education, forming RRNG has provided a hub through which these stereotypes are being challenged. Through the GNSC, we are exploring the emergence of an inclusive and growing network of engaged citizens who are learning how to become protagonists in their own material and social evolution within the broader vision of our city. We are also, by definition, more deeply connected to our sister neighbourhoods through the GNSC commitment to sharing resources and learning.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Yours in Service,

Kim D. Mandar

Kim Davids Mandar

Co-Founder, RRNG

The GNSC

RE: Profound Impact that a Neighbourhood Support Coalition has

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kim Gadoury and I once described the GNSC as a “Hot bath” on a Sunday night; I believe I included a piece about a good book being with it, however I digress. *The recording is available if interested and can be provided; I’m at about the 20 minute mark, if I remember correctly, and it was myself as a delegate seeking an additional outreach worker, whereby the Guelph Police themselves offered up the budget dollars, that one council member questioned the location of, within the City’s budget.*

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition is an entity that encompasses all that is required within ANY City/Township to properly and **respectfully** address mental health ALONG WITH poverty and the basic needs of families.

Through the various Outreach Programs this Organization fulfills the role of confidante and access to support systems, both Provincial and Federal programs, day to day food needs, meal programs for children, whether school age or not, and mental health empowerment.

For me, I see it as Poverty doesn’t make me “stupid” or ignorant, but rather builds barriers to my voice. Through the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, I have been able to accomplish many personal and professional goals and continue to build DOORS to open up those barriers built, including, but not limited to HAVING that Voice!

Just last week I found a lady passing out in the street, possibly overdosing, and drove her to the Guelph General Hospital and it was Brendan Johnson, of the GNSC, that met me at the Hospital to support ME in getting this person the help they needed at the time; nevermind the “doing everything” within his power to get HER the necessary help.

Knowing that I had that support, it ENABLED me to feel that making the RIGHT choice was in fact an option!

Throughout the City of Guelph the people at the GNSC and ALL Neighbourhood Groups, including, but not limited to, the Brant Neighbourhood Group, Waverly, North End Harvest Market, the Junction, Grange Hill, Two Rivers, Onward Willow, (and sorry if I missed any) have ALL dedicated their lives to the well-being of those in need; ANY need. It’s about unconditional help, no judgments and no expectations, and above all TRUST.

As we know TRUST is integral to the human spirit and the GNSC BREEDS trust.

In conclusion, the GNSC really is like a Hot Bath on a Sunday Night. Where you can relax, share your worries, THINK, ponder and DEVELOP strategies for a better quality of life. I know that’s what they’ve done for ME.

With all of my respect and admiration...and maybe a lot of Love,

To all of those who Give,

Kimberley D. Gadoury



10/7/2020

Ryan Waller

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces

- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Onward Willow NG plays a key role in the Willow neighbourhood. From annual initiatives such as the back-to-school clothing drive, tax clinics, homework club, science workshops and winter coat drive, ONWG acts as a hub and "safe place" for many people in the area. Whether people visit for clothing, food, advice or just someone to talk to, OWNG plays a valuable role in the physical and mental health of its area.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely,

Ryan Waller

October 15, 2020

Sarah Stubbs
Director and Founder of Life Gears Academy
519-766-3030



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Life Gears Academy has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for three years to provide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs for youth and families. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to enrich the community by supporting local dreams to come to life.

As a female entrepreneur at the age of 25, I don't know how I could have launched my STEM education organization without being introduced to the GNSC and the inspiring people who work there. I was a teacher with a dream of making STEM education more engaging and accessible to youth, but I couldn't find space that allowed us to offer affordable programs. The neighbourhood groups at the GNSC worked with Life Gears to offer STEM programs in 7 different locations for thousands of youth since 2018. Through our partnership, we have been able to expand into offering STEM, Business, and Art programs free of charge for underprivileged youth and young women, and we are planning more programs to come.

On a more personal level, the GNSC has developed my understanding of local needs in Guelph and the difference that we can make in our own neighbourhoods. During the pandemic, I lost my job and lost my ability to make a difference in my usual ways and working with the GNSC really helped me to regain that sense of purpose that I was desperately needing.

Life Gears Academy and myself enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Stubbs".

Sarah Stubbs

October 14, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC)'s delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Neighbourhood Groups fill a vital role in our City in helping to bring support and services to people who need them. Their work is especially needed as we weather and "build back" from the impacts of COVID-19.

I have long admired GNSC for taking a leading role in equity conversations in our community. Their strong reputation for authentic, high-quality community engagement means they are well-suited to continue these initiatives as Guelph, like all communities in Canada, grapples with issues of systemic racism.

In many ways, the work of the Coalition aligns with the goal of inclusive prosperity, which is at the heart of Guelph's Community Plan vision.

There are few organizations in our community that reach so many people in such important ways as the Coalition does. Everyone should have access to the supports they need to live productive, meaningful lives. For this reason, I support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lisa', followed by a horizontal line.

Lisa Maslove





Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Lutherwood has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 10 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. We appreciate how GNSC is connected to multiple not-for-profit organizations, investing in bringing communities together, earning a reputation as the go-to organization for community engagement. GNSC utilizes centring of community voice in their work and decision making.

Lutherwood has had much success in working together with GNSC in supporting individuals in overcoming their barriers to employment. GNSC provides placement opportunities for our unemployed individuals to gain meaningful work experiences within the community. We also value the chance to provide employment services on site at GNSC, working in partnership to help our community members.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Margaret Penner
Manager, Employment Services
Lutherwood

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Guelph CHC has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 8 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city such as The SEED and ACEs Coalition GW. They always show willingness and are able to provide resources to promote, and mentor new and existing programs that will benefit those in the community such as Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market, Children's Foundation, Community Gardens, the backpack project and many more. Their ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members has given so many the experience, support, training and tools to thrive, succeed, and even get a hand up.

The Guelph CHC and the GNSC work together in so many areas that immensely support and strengthen those in our community. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, they have really gone above and beyond to do everything they can to support the most vulnerable in our community. They were able to access grants, collaborate with the SEED program and acquire food, supplies and funds from many different sources because of the trust and relationships they have built in so many areas. During these challenging times, they could be seen working on the ground in many ways to be sure everyone but especially the marginalized community members were supported.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Regards,

Lynne Kloostra
Parent Outreach Worker
lkloostra@guelphchc.ca
Cell: 519-803-9072

To City Of Guelph Councillors;

My name is Mark Linseman and I have been volunteering with the GNSC Two Rivers neighbourhood group for the past several months. I have been helping out at their community market, and also helping to deliver food boxes to people in the neighbourhood.

This initiative not only supports local farmers, but it also helps to provide fresh, high-quality produce and staples to families and individuals who could not otherwise afford it.

This is especially important during the COVID pandemic since times like these often makes things tougher for those who are already struggling. I think there should be more of this going on in Guelph - everyone should have access to fresh, healthy and delicious produce and staple foods, and this program ensures that is true for more people.

Thanks,

Mark Linseman, MSc

Triathlon Coach, [Loaring Personal Coaching \(LPC\)](#)

Marva Wisdom

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and centring of community voice in their work and decision making.

There are many examples of work needed to continue as lead by GNSC, including the North-end Harvest Market, and other work that provides opportunities for the broader community to creatively engage on issues with impact in all our lives.

Having a robust organization that strengthens leadership at the neighbourhood level and co-ordinates activities – learning from best practices is a good way to build resilience within places and spaces that need this support.

One further example is the innovative conference on centering equity, is work that drew from within and outside of our community and neighbourhoods, planting the seed for work that is being undertaken now.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful, and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

Marva Wisdom,
Community member
Senior Leadership, Equity and Inclusion Practitioner



121 Wyndham St N, Unit 201 | Guelph, ON, N1H 4E9

www.artnotshame.org | info@artnotshame.org

519-265-7278

October 31, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Art Not Shame is a relatively new and emergent charitable arts organization in Guelph. Founded in 2017, our mission is to use the arts to build community, deepen access to creativity, increase well-being and create the conditions for inner and outer systems change.

We are thrilled to write this letter from a place of deep gratitude and respect: we would not be where we are today without the support, mentorship, guidance, and collaboration of the GNSC. The GNSC works from an empowering space of trust and belief, and has played an integral role in the growth and impact of our organization. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their tireless efforts to champion people, communities, and organizations in this City who work alongside them to deliver on our shared visions for equitable, empowered, and engaged communities.

In addition to Executive Director mentorship, over the past three years we have partnered with the GNSC on all of our core program offerings. Most recently this includes, as part of our Covid-19 response, convening 45 volunteers to sew and distribute 2800 masks to organizations in need, and *The Mural Project: Art in Hard Times*: a 6-week remote art program and creation of a massive online digital mural, that engaged 50+ people from diverse and marginalized communities in Guelph. From an independent study administered by The Research Shop at the University of Guelph's Community Engaged Scholarship Institute, 92% of *The Mural Project's* survey respondents reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that the workshops allowed them to express their feelings through art, and 76% reported that the program was helpful in reducing social isolation in some way during the Covid-19 pandemic.

What the GNSC offers is unique in the charitable sector. They embody the principles of community-engagement in their belief in people, in their commitment to collaboration, and in their leadership in creating change. With abiding respect for all that they do and all that they enable, we enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

Michelle Peek, PhD

Executive Director

Art Not Shame

Mayor Cameron Guthrie
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
N1H 3A1

October 8th, 2020

Subject: Increased funding for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I am a part of the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group, a completely volunteer group, which has proudly been collaborating with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) for many years. We deeply respect the work and collaborative nature of the Coalition, as well as their equity and values work. They are true leaders in our community.

Being a completely volunteer-run neighbourhood group, Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group relies solely on funding from the GNSC in order to run our activities; we do not have alternate funding, nor the capacity to fundraise. The funding provided by the GNSC allows us to host a variety of activities, including crafts and sports for children, basketball for adults, and information nights where we bring in people from different programs, such as by-law, the humane society, waste services, etc. in order to provide information to those in our geography. The Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood group supports an area that contains a large number of immigrants, as well low-income families. These activities allow for new connections for our community, but really help these segments of the population obtain the information and support that they need.

On a personal note, I am not a Guelph native. When I moved to Guelph in 2008, I did not know anyone in the city. It was a neighbour who reached out and advised me to become involved in the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group where I have been connected with the most amazing group of volunteers, all of whom I consider to be my good friends. This connection extends past Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group and into the collaborative community of all Neighbourhood Groups in the city, who are models of passion, understanding, and outreach. This is driven by the GNSC and the amazing leaders of that organization. They are the glue that hold the social fabric of the city together. During COVID, GNSC Executive Director Brendan Johnson has been doing outreach to Neighbourhood Group volunteers and staff in support of mental health and I can tell you that this has had an immensely positive effect on me, as someone who has had their mental health impacted during these times.

In conclusion, I would ask you to consider support for increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



Michelle Wall

Oct 25, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

While I was the principal at Brant Ave Public School for the past 4 years, we were very proud of the partnership that we developed with the GNSC. The Brant Avenue Neighbourhood Group was the single most important community partner we worked with. Our students and families benefitted immensely from the backpacks for students, snacks for students to eat, parent workshops, after-school programming, and the numerous community programs that were run.

It would be fair and accurate to say that the Brant Community critically depends on the support that is offered through the GNSC programs. I have seen firsthand how the programs have helped students and families improve their lives.

In the spring of 2019, Brant Ave PS partnered with the GNSC and the Guelph-Wellington Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) coalition to bring a new Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program into the school. Through this work, we saw a dramatic and measurable change in how our staff connected with our students and a subsequent improvement in how our students experienced success at our school.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being more prominent than the last name "Anderson".

Mike Anderson, Principal
UGDSB Elementary Remote School – Home of the Otters



Lloyd Longfield

Member of Parliament for Guelph



September 30, 2020

Mayor Guthrie and City Council
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H3A1

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Guelph City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. In my years as a Guelph resident, president of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce and now in my role as the Member of Parliament for Guelph I have seen the value and impact of the work they do to make our community a better place for everyone, but in particular for the most marginalized in our city.

The Coalition and their team of unsung heroes work in our community to create meaningful partnerships to reduce poverty while supporting engagement and community building action through their collaborative nurturing work model. Their work with the SEED, North End Market and annual summer camps make such a tremendous impact in the lives of those who access their programs. Their values of respect, inclusion and integrity are at the core of building a better community for all.

I have personally seen first-hand the value of the SEED program for those who are food insecure in our community both before and during this pandemic. The SEED project is an excellent example of community coordination between producing, storing, and distributing food. Their work with local business, not for profits, schools, farms and all levels of government is a model that all agencies should work towards. I have in fact highlighted their work and stories to Minister Hussen during a visit to Guelph and shared their model with many of my colleagues in Ottawa as an example to learn from.

I am happy to provide my support for continued and increasing funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Longfield
Member of Parliament for Guelph

Hill Office
Room 702 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 996-4758
Fax: (613) 996-9922

lloyd.longfield@parl.gc.ca

Constituency Office
111 Farquhar Street – Suite 103
Guelph, ON
N1H 3N4
Tel: (519) 837-8276
Fax: (519) 837-8443



GUELPH FILM FESTIVAL
42 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A2
www.guelphfilmfestival.ca
#LetsTalkDoc

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Film Festival has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 10 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, to consider community voices in their work and decision-making, and their role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations.

Their dedication to making a meaningful difference in the daily lives of the residents of this city is nothing short of incredible. Their effectiveness in actually achieving this makes them one of the most important organizations in this city.

They do this through humility, sensitivity, and respect to the stories and lived experience of everyone they work with. Now, more than ever, this is something to champion and support.

The city I want to live in is a city in which organizations like the GNSC get all the support they need from our municipal government. I have absolutely zero reservations about enthusiastically supporting increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

Nathan Lawr
Operations Director
Guelph Film Festival

North End Harvest Market

140 Waverley Drive – Portable #6 (Waverley Drive Public School) Guelph, Ontario, N1E 1H2



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The North End Harvest Market has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for the past 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces as well as in the spaces of community partners while recognizing the importance of the community voice guiding their work. The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition is always ready and available to provide help in finding resources while providing mentorship and most of all a listening ear to both their staff and the community members.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition matters to North End Harvest Market because of their tremendous care and consideration for making sure our most vulnerable population have access to fresh produce. How they do this is by walking along side of us to help us find funding, resources and giving us a backbone to fight for what is necessary to fulfill our mandate while recognizing that this market is for the people and run by the people and that is what community and the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition strive to accomplish in all neighbourhoods.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition matters to the City of Guelph for its sheer ability to build and nurture trusting relationships with community and community partners – especially supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community. How they do this is by creating ways to build community leaders in their own neighbourhoods – so they have the skills and abilities to maintain the best quality of life for their families and their neighbours. When you build these leaders – the City becomes a much better place to live.

When COVID-19 hit – we were forced to shut down as we are operating out of a portable in a School. With the backing and encouragement of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition – I was able to build a safety plan that I took to the Public Health Inspector and the Upper Grand District School Board and we were approved and were allowed to re-open 3 weeks later. This re-opening would not have been possible except for the support of the Coalition to help us find funding as our numbers and budget skyrocketed to triple because of the demand and need for fresh produce. The Coalition also was able to help us acquire the safety items needed to follow our public health protocol – such as gloves, sanitizer, masks and hand washing sink and gift cards that helped to make our market accessible to everyone.

The North End Harvest Market is 100% supportive of the increased funding for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, not only for what it means to the North End Harvest Market but more for what it means to for our community to support an organization that has become a proven community leadership builder, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

With much gratitude.

Barb McPhee - North End Harvest Market Manager - [REDACTED]

Noor Aqsa
Guelph, ON

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood group been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for a number of years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their dedication to the community.

During the pandemic, the Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood group worked with GNSC to deliver food to people while ensuring everyone's safety. This was very much needed at the start of the pandemic when there were a lot of uncertainties on employment and CERB did not exist. Before the pandemic, they worked to obtain and distribute bread to the community members, which was a nice treat for all. Additionally, annual backpack and school supply distributions have helped with ensuring that all children are excited and equipped to go back to school.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

Noor Aqsa
Community member



**North Riverside Neighbourhood
Group**

140 Waverley Dr. Portable #4
Guelph, ON
N1E 1H2
519-821-9677

northriversidegroup@hotmail.com
www.northriversideng.ca

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

North Riverside Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC from the beginning of their conception. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their dedication to our neighbourhood group, our community and staff that works within our group.

One of the most important components of the relationship between our neighbourhood group and the GNSC is the opportunity to build strong, healthy relationships not only to each other but to our community at large. Together we demonstrate a sincere dedication to the principles of grassroots community development. We feel very fortunate to have this level of commitment and family support offered in our community; it has helped us to make large strides towards our development as a strong and healthy community.

During these very trying times, we have been called on to help families more than ever. Through the help of the GNSC we were able to provide our community with grocery gift cards, to help with food security, and we were able to help with back to school back packs for children in need. We are here as a support to community, we have relationships with these community members making them comfortable to reach out to us. This is an example of reaching out; a community member that has just gone through a very horrific event in her life, lost her only son to tragic circumstances, just before Covid started. Most of the supports that she could access were cancelled to things being shut down. She was able to connect with us and receive some help. The GNSC with myself came up with some supports that she would be able to access. We helped her with food, a safe place to vent, gave her information on grief counselling, and other supports that were available. After connecting with her she told me that "if it wasn't for you guys I think I would have ended everything", I asked her why she came to us, she said "your my neighbourhood group, and I trust you". This is just one of many stories. Together with the GNSC we are helping our community grow.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Caroline McCullough
CMcCullough

October 6, 2020

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

As a volunteer with United Way GWD, a parent of a child who has accessed their camp programs, and community member with experience supporting the North End Harvest Market, I've been working in some capacity with the GNSC for six years. The work of GNSC is critical to the ongoing success of all members of our community, including:

- service to those experiencing food insecurity;
- creative collaboration with other not-for-profit organizations in support of marginalized community members;
- distinct role in building key programs such as the SEED;
- supporting youth across all of our neighbourhoods.

The GNSC brings an equity and values-based lens to this work in our community and neighbourhoods. They build bridges between otherwise disparate groups and ensure decision making is collaborative and community-based. Their ability to provide meaningful employment and living wages to community members is a wonderful example of how they lead through those values. They have a strong and well-deserved reputation for supporting our most vulnerable and marginalized populations with dignity. And they ensure joy and celebration of people is a key component of their program delivery.

It's been a pleasure to support their organization through fundraising with United Way GWD, but as council well knows, this funding is not nearly enough to sustain their programs or their mission. As GNSC has proven year over year, they are dedicated to the need of so many and the impacts of COVID-19 has only increased that need. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

I fully support increased funding for the GNSC. Without this, the programs they run, the people they support and the staff they employ are at risk and that is not a risk that our community can afford at this time. I would be happy to discuss my support further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tersigni
Director, University of Guelph
Campaign Cabinet Member, United Way GWD
Resident, Ward 2

[REDACTED]

November 11th, 2020



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to city council requesting increased funding for its organization.

Chalmers Community Services Centre has been collaborating with GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their involvement in so many areas of the life of our city:

- Their reputation as the go-to organization for community engagement e.g. Smart Cities
- Their work in piloting new programs such as the North End Harvest Market
- Their role in nurturing initiatives such as Pet Protect Guelph, ACEs

Chalmers has worked with GNSC on a number of initiatives relating to food insecurity in Guelph. The North End Harvest Market was a collaborative effort whereby Chalmers' food distribution model became the template for the emerging market in the underserved north-east end of the city.

Chalmers and GNSC worked closely together to bring about the creation of the SEED, a city-wide food procurement and distribution system which ensured better access to healthy food for Guelph's most marginalized citizens.

We believe Guelph is a stronger, more resilient community through the work of GNSC, even more critical in this time of Covid-19.

We wholeheartedly support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Yours faithfully,
Peter Gill
Volunteer Executive Director

MAIN: 41 Macdonell St. Guelph ON N1H 2Z4, **WEST:** 577 Willow Rd. Guelph, ON N1H 7H3

www.chalmerscentre.ca | **519 822 8778** | community@chalmerscentre.ca | volunteer@chalmerscentre.ca

Twitter: @Chalmerscentre | Facebook: /Chalmerscentre





Chalmers Community Services Centre is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and Guelph Community Foundation.

MAIN: 41 Macdonell St. Guelph ON N1H 2Z4, **WEST:** 577 Willow Rd. Guelph, ON N1H 7H3

www.chalmerscentre.ca | 519 822 8778 | community@chalmerscentre.ca | volunteer@chalmerscentre.ca
Twitter: @Chalmerscentre | Facebook: /Chalmerscentre



October 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

PIN – The People and Information Network is proud to support the work of the GNSC through our pillars of work; Volunteer Network, Community Information and Nonprofit Leadership and has been a community supporter and collaborator with the GNSC for 7+ years.

We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. Their neighborhood centric community development model empowers, engages and elevates neighbourhood led programming addressing needs.

When community members take an active role through volunteering, they are more connected. *'The impact of social isolation and loneliness on health and well-being is recognized globally as a public health issue'* – StatsCan June 2020. Through the efforts of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, neighbourhoods identify needs and work together. This creates trust through relationship building where the whole community benefits including vulnerable and marginalized members of our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

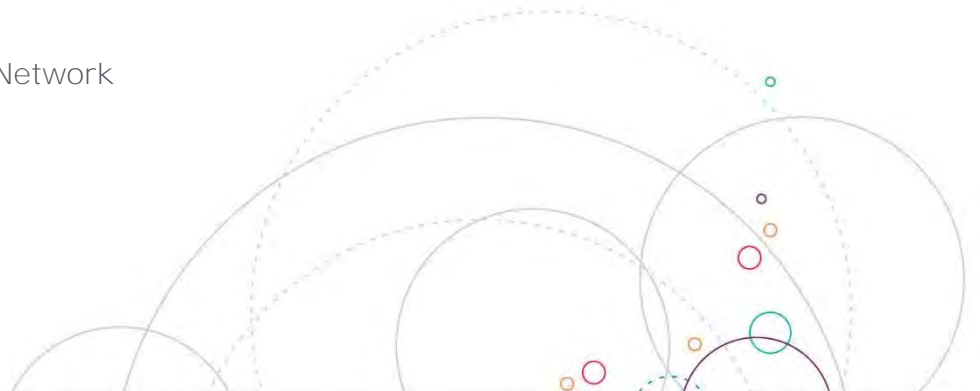
Kim Cusimano

Executive Director

PIN – The People and Information Network

kim@PINnetwork.ca

Old Quebec Street Shoppes
55 Wyndham Street North, Suite 4A
Guelph, Ontario N1H 7T8
t 519-822-0912 • 1-866-693-3318
f 519-822-1389
PINnetwork.ca



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. As a Parent Outreach Worker with the Guelph Community Health Centre, I have been working in partnership with the Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group and the GNSC for the past 8 years. Together we have created meaningful connections for isolated individuals as well as provided safe spaces for community members to gather, to build skills and to access needed supports and services. It is the leadership and creativity of the Coalition that has helped us to take ideas around how to address the unique needs of the community and make them a reality. The work of the Coalition has positively impacted many lives and I have seen this first hand in the work that I do through these spaces.

Over the years, I have assisted with connecting individuals to the neighbourhood groups to access countless programs and services that are engaging and specific to each neighbourhood's needs and strengths. I have seen clients of mine who have complex struggles access the neighbourhood groups and, over time, become valued volunteers/staff of the GNSC. This happens because the neighbourhood groups build trusting relationships, help make the right connections and also give people a sense of purpose and belonging. Part of my work is also connecting individuals to formal or clinical services across the city. For many individuals who have experienced trauma, lack of trust in these formal systems can stop people from getting the support that they need. By using the neighbourhood group spaces we are often able to help people get the support they need by bringing these formal services to the neighbourhood groups where people feel safe and are more likely to engage in a meaningful way. COVID-19 has hit our communities hard and those that have relied on these connections and services have found themselves more isolated than ever. The GNSC has been able to pivot and continue to support the community through food access and providing opportunities for outdoor connections and programming. The Coalition continues to be a light and life line for our community in this dark time.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely;
Maryann Sly-Kensley
Parent Outreach Worker
Guelph Community Health Centre - Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group

Dear Ms. Bronwen,

I had a fantastic time working with you at the Danby Public School for the backpack program and I wanted to share my personal experience with you.

I was stuck in quarantine for a long time and I was actively looking for a place where I could volunteer to help others deal with this pandemic. I was frustrated and alone and the email that you sent to students was no less than a big blessing. I signed up instantly and I was all ready to work with you. Little did I know that this was going to be one of the best experiences of my life.

When I came on the first day, I didn't know what to expect. I was a little tense, but I was glad to work and help others. The event was amazing, and I learned a lot of things through this. One of the things that I learned was that no matter where you are in life, the feeling of helping others and knowing that whatever you're doing can make someone's day is the best thing in the world. I learned by observing the kids coming in with their parents to take the backpacks that it's the little things that matter and they were so happy while getting basic things such as erasers or pencils, yet we tend to run behind materialistic things in life and depend on them to make us happy. I also learned that there are always good people in the world, and I respect every other individual out there who is helping others deal with their problems, especially in the middle of a pandemic.

My best experience of the day was when I saw a little girl just hugging me and thanking me for giving her all the supplies that she needed. I am an international student and my family lives thousands of miles away from me. I was in quarantine all the time and I felt alone living in this foreign. That hug and the warmth that I got from that child and all the parents I met that day were enough to give me the strength and made me feel that I had a family here too.

I would like to thank you Ms. Bronwen and Mr., Dan for providing me this wonderful opportunity. They have been a great influence and this whole event would not have been possible without their efforts. I am also in touch with them and I would love to work with the neighborhood group again.

Warm Regards
Pranay Bhatia

November 16, 2020

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Council Members,

My name is Rick Rocher and I am writing this letter to promote the outstanding services that the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition provides for the neighbourhood communities in the City of Guelph. It is for this reason that I support their request for increased funding from City Council.

I have worked as a Playtime facilitator in the Parkwood Gardens and Clairfields neighbourhoods for nine years and have recently joined the GNSC when eight of the Playtime programs were cancelled in 2019. With the support of many parents, grandparents and caregivers, the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition was able to keep four of the programs open with the funding that they received from the City of Guelph. These early years programs play an important role in children's learning, development, health, and well-being. There are many other neighbourhood communities that would benefit from these programs. Extra funding would help us expand these early years programs around the city.

Covid -19 has made life very difficult for individuals and families who depend on the connections, resources and services provided by the GNSC. One of my major concerns centres around children who are having adverse childhood experiences during these challenging times. The GNSC supports and understands ACEs. Children see their parents out of work and struggling to put food on the table. Current ACEs research shows that children are directly affected by anxiety, depression and negative experiences that occur around them and that these experiences can affect their mental health right up into adulthood.

GNSC data has shown an overwhelming need for increased funding from City Council. The Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group has received a 150% increase in calls for support. The North End Harvest Market has experienced a 250% increase in people coming to the market for food. As the City of Guelph grows, the GNSC has found that the South End of Guelph has an increased need for support and that many of these families are calling other neighbourhood groups for help. The GNSC wants to continue playing an important role in supporting families during the rest of this pandemic and into the recovery period. Extra funding is crucial to help them meet their goals.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's vision is to provide a healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home. The people of Guelph deserve the services and resources to help them lead the best life possible. With increased funding, the GNSC would be able to continue to be a lifeline to our community during these challenging times.

Rick Rocher



November 12, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Toward Common Ground (TCG) has partnered with the GNSC on many projects over the past 6 years. Working with the GNSC has helped us ensure that the voices and experiences of community members inform our collective action in response to community gaps and needs.

Over the past 3 years, the GNSC has been an essential partner in the development of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Coalition of Guelph & Wellington. The ACEs Coalition has a vision of a resilient community that prevents and reduces the effects of ACEs. Not only is the GNSC a critical member of the Coalition, they partnered directly with the ACEs Coalition to do a Mentally Health Schools pilot with a local Guelph school. The GNSC's neighbourhood-based relationships were critical to initiate and ensure the success of this pilot. Most recently, the GNSC made it possible for the Coalition to develop and distribute a parenting in a pandemic resource to vulnerable families across the City.

The GNSC is embedded in neighbourhoods across Guelph where they amplify the voices and leverage the strengths of residents and communities across the City. They are a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community. The GNSC staff work tirelessly alongside community volunteers and leaders to address local needs and leverage strengths across our City's neighbourhoods. They bridge the gap between community members and the services, programs and systems that are intended to meet their needs. They provide opportunities for citizen to have a voice in the decisions that affect them, their families and their communities. Their efforts drive positive change for residents, neighbourhoods and the City, as a whole.

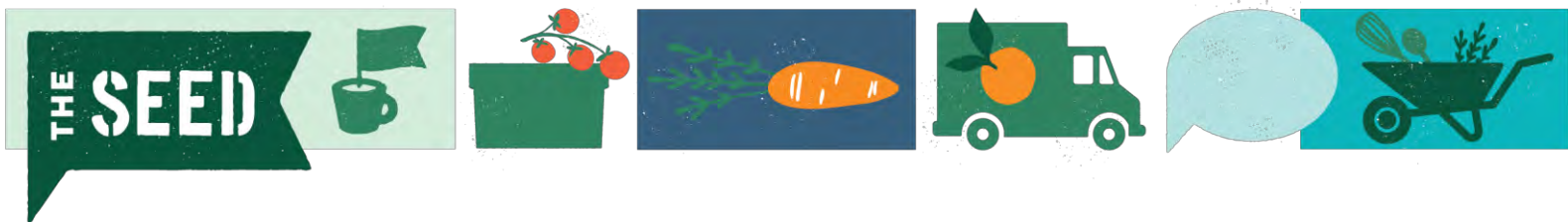
Please accept this letter as my support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for the critical work they do in communities across our City every day.



Sarah Haanstra
Manager
Toward Common Ground



Toward Common Ground



Re: Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition funding

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The SEED, a project of Guelph Community Health Centre, works closely with the GNSC. In fact, the GNSC was a founding member of The SEED in 2014 and continues to support our work to this day.

The SEED and the GNSC are aligned in our common goal to increase food access for low-income community members. The SEED looks to the GNSC to:

- Facilitate conversations and collaboration with community leaders and community members in general
- Pilot and promote new ways to increase food access in Priority Neighbourhoods
- Provide a strong voice and leadership in ensuring that equity and engagement are at the root of everything we do

The most recent example of the GNSC's impact on our food access work is the role the GNSC played in the rapid creation and scaling up of The SEED's Community Food Warehouse at 69 Huron Street. In April, when the warehouse was donated rent-free to The SEED by Susan Frasson of the Wood Development Group, the GNSC was a leader in convening a series of round-table planning discussions with other food-access organizations who needed better warehouse facilities for storing, packing, and delivering food - and with several businesses and funding agencies who wanted to help equip the space.

Thanks to the GNSC, the above round-table discussions resulted in:

- 40,000 nutritious food boxes delivered by SEED volunteers to low-income community members between April and September
- A fully equipped Community Food Warehouse that is being used by a collaboration of food-access organizations including The SEED, GNSC, Children's Foundation, and others
- Several joint-funding applications and other unique collaborative projects between The SEED and other food-provision agencies

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Warm regards,

Gavin Dandy, SEED Manager



A project of the
Guelph Community
Health Centre



WWW.THESEEDGUELPH.CA

176 WYNDHAM ST N, GUELPH, ON, N1H 8N9
519-821-3328 X317

THESEED@GUELPHCHC.CA
@SEEDGUELPH  

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

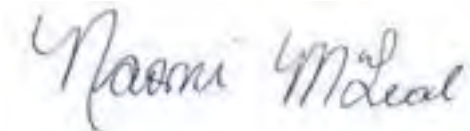
I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. St. George's Park Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to fostering engagement and healthy growth of communities in our city.

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces • centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement • readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs. Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market...
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW, Community Gardens
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Through my involvement with this group, I have been provided with the opportunity to give back to my community. There is an infrastructure, resources and support to help members directly contribute to making a difference in their own backyards. We are proud to engage with our neighbours and to have them provide insight and direction into the activities that matter to them. The events and activities that we have been involved with, have fostered a sense of belonging and provided positive examples of what can be accomplished when we all work together.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Naomi McLeal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Naomi" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "McLeal" is written in a slightly smaller, more compact script. The ink is dark and the background is white.

October 5th, 2020

This is a letter of support for all the wonderful help and support that the North End Harvest Market gives to the community through the GNSC and that the need is not only still there but there is a greater dependence on it for the basic necessities of fresh food especially during this time of crisis with Covid19.

So many people have either lost their jobs or are on reduced hours due to the pandemic so the need is even greater for families and everyone else to continue to survive and have the basic necessities of life like food. In particular fresh food which is vital to stay healthy right now with flu and covid19.

The North End Harvest Market also helps out with backpacks and school supplies along with the Christmas program for gifts is an invaluable help to countless people. I have benefited many times myself and I am so thankful this wonderful market exists. Barb McPhee and her wonderful team is so caring and compassionate to all. They have put sunshine and hope in so many lives and I feel so blessed to know them.

Please give them any support available as they are an invaluable help to the community both practical with food and supplies and also with kindness, compassion and encouragement to all who are blessed to go to the North End Harvest Market.

Sincerely,

Sharon Henriques

6 Dublin Street South
Guelph ON N1H 4L5
+1 519 546 7851
www.musagetes.ca
www.artseverywhere.ca

October 25, 2020

RE: Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's increased funding

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

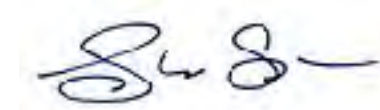
I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Musagetes Foundation has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for several years, most notably in 2013 when we did a series of artistic projects in neighbourhoods throughout Guelph. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to centring the diverse voices of those who make up our communities. They are uniquely positioned to work with the communities because they have the sensibilities necessary to do this work with respect, vitality, and selflessness.

Musagetes has been connected to GNSC since 2013 when we organized the 1mile2 project which involved artists in concerts and community-engaged projects in almost every neighbourhood in Guelph. GNSC has continued to show that it is a leading voice for the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in Guelph, many of which have very few other platforms by which to participate in civic conversations and decision-making. During this time of Covid-19, GNSC have been a lifeline to these communities.

It is vital that GNSC have the resources to continue to do this work, especially during a time of increased need. We at Musagetes enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely,



Shawn Van Sluys
Executive Director



Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis
PO Box 1451, Guelph, ON N1H 6N9
T: 519-836-1110 F: 519-836-1979
Crisis Line: 519-836-5710/1-800-265-7233
www.gwwomenincrisis.org

24-hour Crisis Line
Marianne's Place
Sexual Assault Centre
Anti Human Trafficking

Rural Women's
Support Program
Transitional & Housing
Support Program
Family Court
Support Program

November 2nd, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Women in Crisis GW has been sharing tables, committees and collaborating with the GNSC for 8 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces and for their mission to always centre community voice in their work and decision making. We have also seen their efforts to help mobilize powerful collaborative projects like The SEED and ACES Coalition GW.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. They are trusted and value partners and agents of change in our community.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sly Castaldi".

Sly Castaldi
Executive Director



St. Andrew's
G U E L P H

**161 Norfolk Street
Guelph, ON N1H 4J8
(519) 822-4772**

**www.standrewsguelph.com
mailbox@standrewsguelph.com**

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

St. Andrew's Guelph has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for years now. We have provided space for their initiatives from time to time and when needs have arisen, our community has responded generously. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their championing of the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens. They are a trusted partner who is one of our 'go-tos' when something needs to get addressed in our community. It is also extremely important to our organization that they demonstrate in their words and actions a commitment to equity, inclusion, and decent work. Guelph is better because the GNSC's commitment to service and collaboration. Partnership is hard and the GNSC has often proven that it is up to the task of breaking down walls and providing a vision of how we can achieve more together.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Yours in partnership,

Rev. John Borthwick
Minister | St. Andrew's Guelph
Volunteer Chaplain | Guelph Police Service

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces & readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.

I moved to Guelph in June 2019 & connected with the Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group. Being new to the city, they were an excellent resource to connect me with my new community. The programs & events they run are great for families.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Tara Secor



THE MAKING-BOX INC.
43 CORK ST. E GUELPH, ON
1-800-930-9892
TALKBOX@THEMAKINGBOX.CA

Monday, October 5th, 2020

Dear **Mayor and City Councillors,**

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have personally and through The Making-Box been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 4 years. I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their passion and patience for community building. They have rightfully earned a reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement. The Making-Box is all about building community, and the GNSC are awesome at it. Their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces is invaluable.

With the vast changes that have happened due to COVID-19, it is such a gift to know with certainty that the GNSC is ready to pivot, support and adapt as needed. When I was attempting to organize outdoor summer camp content Brendan Johnson was the first to offer support in finding space, resources and supplies. He's never been more than a phone call away and even though my programs didn't work out, I didn't feel like a failure. I felt like a valuable community member.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Warmly,

Hayley Kellett

Improv Incubator Director, The Making-Box

Trinity United Church.
400 Stevenson Street North,
Guelph ON N1E 5C3

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Many members of Trinity United Church have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.

My pet project is the North End Harvest Market where the GNSC is especially supportive of not only providing food for those in need, but also helping with their adaption to Canada, through the coordinator, Barbara McPhee. The space is used to allow education about ideas and recipes making use of vegetables with which Immigrants may be unfamiliar. Also each holiday, such as Thanksgiving is explained by posters, recipes, and typical foods which Canadians would use for this kind of meal. The North End Harvest Market also makes excellent use of encouraging volunteers from the community to participate each week. In addition to these members of the community, The NEHM is also a place where resources, which have been provided by the GNSC, are made available to help with any problem clients might be experiencing.

The GNSC is strongly nurturing of local community groups. They have a reputation (well deserved) of listening well and including the ideas of the people actually involved when planning new programs or supports for what is already happening. Trinity has been delighted over the past few years to collaborate with GNSC in providing back packs loaded with school supplies so that everyone can start the school year with the equipment needed for success at school.

The GNSC is able to provide various kinds of assistance because of the high level of trust which they have carefully nurtured in every area they have undertaken.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community. Guelph would indeed be a poorer place to live if it were not for the work of this organization!

Sincerely,

Heather Chesney

(representative for Trinity on the steering committee)

hchesney@sympatico.ca

519 763 6738



Trinity United Church

400 Stevenson ST N, Guelph, ON N1E 5C3

Ph 519-824-4800 | Fax 1-888-233-1862

www.trinityunitedguelph.ca info@trinityunitedguelph.ca



October 14, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Trinity United Church has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 8 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs. Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market...
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW....
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Trinity United Church is deeply concerned for the vulnerable working poor and homeless in Guelph. Our Outreach team is 100% committed to the North End Harvest Market and we do our best to support the Back Packs, and other advocacy efforts to support those who feel marginalized within our city. We see the difference NEHM is making in our neighbourhood and we hope our city leaders know how important it is to our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Rev. John Benham



November 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Wellington Catholic District School Board has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since 2013. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to the betterment of the community and the families that we serve in our schools.

- Ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.
- Centring of community voice in their work and decision making.
- Earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement.
- Readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs. Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market.
- Equity and values work. They lead by example in our community.
- Role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW.
- Ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members.
- We have collaborated with GNSC on many initiatives including the backpack program, which positively affects the families and students in our school community. In addition, we are proud to provide access to our schools for the GNSC to operate important youth and adult programs that would not be accessible without their community work.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Tracy McLennan
Associate Director, Corporate Services and Treasurer



November 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighborhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Wyndham House has been proudly working alongside with the GNSC for many years to ensure that services for our community's most vulnerable remain prioritized. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their continued ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces to nurture many needed programs and organizations such as The SEED and the ACES's Coalition of Guelph Wellington. This organization is truly unique and much needed in our community and thus continued financial support is vital moving forward.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Wyndham House very much supports the focus that everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful, and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Respectfully,

Debbie Bentley-Lauzon
Executive Director,
Wyndham House

WORKING TO PREVENT, REDUCE AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 1898 STN. MAIN
GUELPH, ON N1H 7A1

ADMIN OFFICE

106 WOOLWICH STREET
GUELPH, ON N1H 3V2

YOUTH RESOURCE HUB:

133 WOOLWICH STREET
GUELPH, ON

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS:

SUFFOLK STREET WEST
GUELPH, ON

BELLEVUE STREET
GUELPH, ON

YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER:

18 NORWICH STREET EAST
(519) 837-3892 GUELPH, ON

CRA # 11930 5217 RR0001



Yesenia and Juan Monterroza
C/O The Grange Hill East
Neighbourhood Group
525 Grange Rd.
N1E 7C4

November 5th, 2020

Guelph City Council
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor and City Councillors

We have been residents of the Grange Hill East Neighborhood for over five years. We are a family of four. Since we have moved to this neighborhood we have tried to be involved as much as possible. Now that our children are getting older, they are starting to get more involved in their community which is amazing to see. When they were younger, they completed a Home Alone Course from the Red Cross through this neighborhood group. They also had the opportunity to attend a summer camp run by this group and LIT's (Leaders in Training). When we were in need during the back to school season, we were given backpacks and school supplies for our children. One of our favorite memories from over the years was the end of summer picnic, where there was an outdoor movie and many fun activities for the kids. We have come to have a deep respect for the work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition and the work of our local neighbourhood group.

During this year, as many Canadians were suffering due to COVID-19, our family was also suffering along with many other citizens. During various scenarios like being laid off of work for a few months, the Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group has provided support and help to us, as a family, with love and kindness. The Group has supplied our family with food, and support to our kids, grandkids when we need it just by knocking or emailing us and leaving it outside our door. We followed them for many years on Facebook and when we saw that they could help us with groceries through The Seed Market we just emailed and in about a week so many volunteers had called us to pick the food up or someone delivered the food at our home. We are so blessed that in a time like this someone can do something nice for others. They always try to keep us updated on how they can help the community. Also, we are thankful to The Seed Market for providing us with help for three to four months when the pandemic had laid off people at their jobs in Guelph.

Once again, we would like to give a big thanks to Grange Hill Neighbourhood Group for keeping us in their thoughts, this unprecedented time facing COVID-19 pandemic. They continually communicated with us by having us on their lists, inviting us to things and asking if we could contribute to Workshops to increase funding and help the community in need. By sharing our own history shows how unfair life

is sometimes. People have to work with fear of being fired at work for multiple reasons but they do what they have to do.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the Grange Hill East Neighborhood Group and Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition. Everyone in the community should have access to the support, services and resources when they need to live, provide, and cover the necessities in these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,
Yesenia and Juan Monterroza

COMMUNITY

We believe that community is a grassroots voice that's heard, respected, and centred.
Not about us without us.



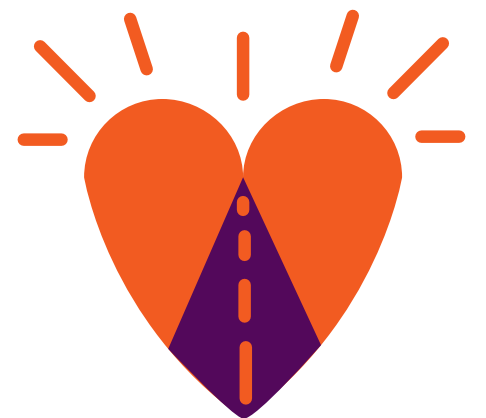
GROWING TOGETHER

We believe that recognizing and sharing everyone's gifts will make us all better.
Together we create solutions.



LOVE & KINDNESS

We believe that a compassionate heart is a powerful teacher and guide.
We lead from our hearts.



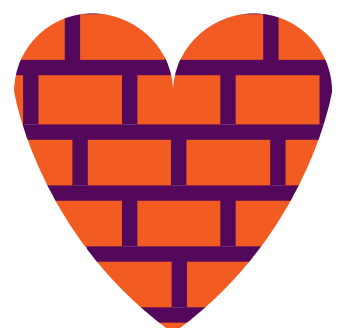
COURAGE

We believe in creating and holding space to question and challenge our assumptions and practices.
Know when to step up and step back.



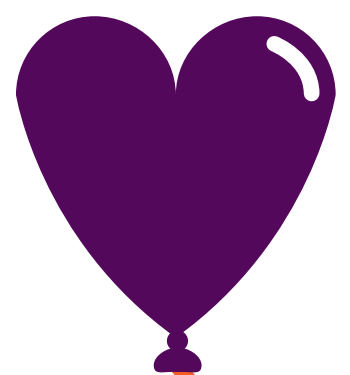
INTEGRITY

We believe in building trusting relationships based on respect and honesty.
Do the right thing.



FUN

We believe in celebrating all that we do together.
Be the fun.



valuesteam@guelphneighbourhoods.org
www.guelphneighbourhoods.org/values

City of Guelph Council
clerks@guelph.ca

November 19, 2020

Dear Mayor & Councilors,

RE: Proposed Mirco-Transit Servicing Hanlon Creek Business Park

Further to my letter of November 21, 2019 (included herewith) and my subsequent delegation on November 25th (on behalf of the Guelph Humane Society) supporting the proposed 'Route 19' bus route, I want to again reiterate how important this transit route and service is to our community organization. As you know, our new facility located at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd is scheduled to open in February 2021.

While we recognize the significant investment the City needed to make in this bus route run, coupled with the financial constraints that COVID-19 has created, we were disappointed to learn that implementation was deferred and not included in the proposed 2021 budget. This transit service will allow the residents of Guelph to access vital community infrastructure offered at the Guelph Humane Society, including the City's own animal services and pound. It will also be necessary to the approximately 35 staff and over 300 volunteers, who will utilize the bus to visit GHS 7-days a week.

We are pleased to learn about the micro-transit option presented to Council as an alternative to 'Route 19' in the Information Report dated October 30, 2020. With the opening of our new facility only months away, we are keen to secure public transit to the Hanlon Creek Business Park. The micro-transit option creates a flexible and on-demand system for our patrons, which ensures an accessible way to reach our community organization. The Guelph Humane Society wholeheartedly supports this option (especially with 7-day a week service), and we hope Council will as well.

Should Council require any further information from the Guelph Humane Society, please do hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Adrienne McBride
Executive Director
ED@guelphhumane.ca

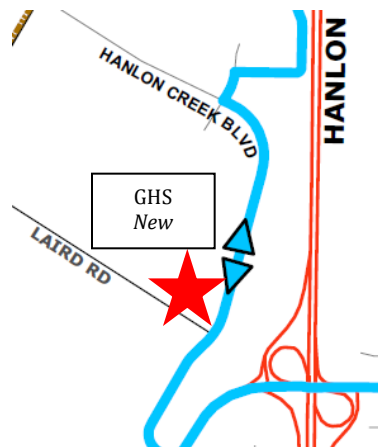
City of Guelph Council
clerks@guelph.ca

November 21, 2019

Dear Mayor & Councilors,

RE: Proposed Bus Route in Hanlon Creek Business Park

On behalf of the Guelph Humane Society, I am pleased to support the proposed 'Option 1' bus route being contemplated by Council. This route provides service through the Hanlon Creek Business Park, as well as the residential area along Teal Drive. More significantly, this proposed route will pass directly in front of the Guelph Humane Society's new location at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd., at the northwest corner of Hanlon Creek Blvd. and Laird Rd., as noted in the diagram below. Construction is underway and the new humane society facility is set to open in Fall 2020.



While we recognize the significant investment the City will make in this bus route, it will allow the residents of Guelph to access vital services and community infrastructure offered at the Guelph Humane Society, including the City's animal services and pound. It will also be important to the approximately 35 staff, who work at the humane society and may not have access to a vehicle. GHS is also fortunate to have over 300 volunteers, who support the humane society and utilize the bus to come to GHS.

I am happy to discuss the importance of this proposed bus route to our charitable organization with Council on November 25th.

Sincerely,



Adrienne McBride
Executive Director

Public Transit Operations

I have a few thoughts on transit operations. I will start with a few quotes from the Official Plan:

“Public transit will be the first priority for vehicular transportation infrastructure planning and transportation investments”

“...consider public transit as a high priority for transportation infrastructure planning, second only to active transportation;”

“...maintaining efficient transit service through improvements to travel time, reliability, overall routes and regularity of service, especially for those routes that link areas of population and employment concentrations;”

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/new-fare-policy-in-an-effort-to-increase-transit-ridership-faces-councillors>

<https://humantransit.org/basics/the-transit-ridership-recipe>

Resist cutting the system

I am concerned that the temporary drop in Guelph Transit ridership due to the Covid 19 pandemic may lead to service cutbacks and curtailments of already approved service enhancements.

In attempting to balance the budget it will be tempting to cut transit costs by reducing service. The problem with this is that reducing service will lead to those still using transit to abandon it which will trigger even further reductions in service.

This may suit those who are ideologically opposed to funding public transit in principle but it won't suit employers in Guelph who have asked for increased service in employment areas.

Keep the #19 route

In particular the recently approved #19 bus to the West Hanlon Business Park is needed, not only because it will serve a currently unserved employment zone, but because it will enhance service along the Laird Road portion of the Southgate Business Park, currently under served by the #16 route.

We should not let a temporary dip in ridership hamstring the development of an efficient transit system which we will need in the future due to our need to move away from the private automobile

as a primary means of transportation.

Let's build for the future, or at the very least, not hobble any chance of building a better future.

I urge council to work towards improving service on all routes.

Move forward with electric busses

We should continue with the already approved purchase of electric busses. If we fail to do this, older busses will need to be replaced with new diesel busses thus delaying the future uptake of electric busses and potentially jeopardizing the cities climate change goals.

Keep fares low

In April 2018, Toronto introduced a Fair Pass program that gives people with low incomes access to discounts on TTC fares. The first phase of the program was available to anyone receiving payments from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

These discounts have made a transformational difference, according to a consultant's report. Before they received the cheaper fares, just 55 per cent of people eligible for the program who were surveyed said they were able to take transit as much as they'd like. After getting and using the discounts, that number jumped to 90 per cent.

And the transit trips they're able to make now are important ones. The number of survey respondents indicating they can work or volunteer as much as they'd like leapt from 36 per cent to 72 per cent after the pass launched.

For people accessing education, training or job interviews, the number went from 35 per cent to 73 per cent, while people who said they can access their medical appointments went from 50 per cent to 84 per cent. Access to things such as grocery shopping, visits to family, and children's activities also increased.

All because transit got cheaper.

If these newly-offered cheaper fares are enabling people to get to work and school, logic suggests many past fare hikes worked to deny access to those same things.

I urge council to keep transit fares low.

Thanks for your time,

Scott Frederick



To: Mayor Guthrie, City Council and City of Guelph,

Re: 2021 City of Guelph Budget – Guelph Transit

Please find below a letter from the Transit Action Alliance of Guelph regarding the 2021 City of Guelph Budget and the impacts on Transit Services.

The traditional 5 minutes of delegation cannot sufficiently allow us to cover the Capital and Operating Budgets. We encourage Council to look at ways to allow for delegations to have additional time to speak on these important matters.

Over the last 9 months, Guelph Transit and City Hall has had to reinvent everything they do. They have had to learn quickly, make rapid decisions, keep up with the fast-changing medical advice, and engineer a substantial shift in expectations. And they are accomplishing it all while falling off a cliff. While these days are dark, we must remember that dark times always contain opportunities! We can emerge from this crisis into a better and healthier world.

It appears everyone has been asked for predictions about the recovery. From transit experts and planners, transit agencies and elected officials. And like everyone who follows the issues closely, we all have no idea or clue. We are in a “Black Swan” event. This sudden and once in a lifetime swerve in the flow of history has been challenging to say the least. There have been no recent events that can give us a guide to what is on the other side of this pandemic. Predicting, with any degree of confidence, is futile.

Yet so much of what we do, what the city does, is justified by predictions. Currently Guelph Transit is trying to conduct some Route Reviews and it is expected to predict the resulting ridership. More ominously, many projects, especially roads and highways, are built on estimates of future peak travel

demand. If large numbers of people never return to the office, will all these projects still make sense? Many certainties aren't certain anymore.

So, while we don't know the future, we do have something even better: We have goals, and we have values to go along with them. These things come from the community and are expressed through you, our elected leaders and through transit planners' convictions. In the old world of 2019 and before, predictions were sometimes used to bypass a conversation about values. Perhaps you've heard the old saying "traffic projections indicate that we have to widen the highway." That kind of statement skips a crucial step: What are we trying to achieve for our community, and what important goals might this project undermine?

For us to start telling the transit narrative in this "new world" we really need to think about the goals more clearly than ever before and discuss them more openly in our city and with other levels of government.

Clearly right now, ridership is no longer the main measure of transit's success. Too often this city, like some others, asks about ridership trends as though they measure "how transit is doing." But a 60% fall in ridership this year doesn't mean we are suddenly 60% less competent or successful. Ridership has always gone up and down for many reasons, and our communities have other goals that ridership does not quite measure.

Yes, it will be mathematically impossible to return to pre-crisis ridership until we no longer need physical distancing, masks and have a vaccine. Nobody knows how long that will be. Guelph Transit projects up to 4 years before ridership returns to "normal levels" but even then, that could be way off. This has also caused some cities to invest dramatically in walking and cycling infrastructure, to make sure there are still good alternatives to the car.

Now let us speculate for a moment. If more people start to work at home permanently and/or more students' study via online methods, and needed fewer trips to work or school, Transit ridership might go down, but its efficiency might go up. Transit might be able to offer a better all-day, all-week, or even all-night service that's critical for diverse trips, and especially for lower-income people. Of course, all of that is speculation, but we do know one thing: ridership alone doesn't measure all of these possibilities

What this crisis has revealed is that there is a strong new argument for transit, one that transit should deploy at anyone who wants to judge it on

ridership alone. Transit has kept running through the crisis as an essential service, supporting people who work in hospitals, grocery stores, utilities etc. These mostly low-income people would typically have been called “transit dependent.” But it is they who are right now holding civilization together, so we are all “transit dependent” in this sense.

Furthermore, this has constantly been true. Transit riders have always been part of the basic functioning of our city. Measuring that role solely with ridership levels would be like measuring the success of the Guelph Police Department by how many arrests they make. The purpose of the police is to provide a base level of security that people can count on. The purpose of transit is to do the same for urban mobility. Transit means that people can go places, and consequently do things, in a way that is not as harmful or expensive as driving a vehicle.

The future of funding will require new discussions of goals. Ridership matters, and many other things matter too, but let us never lose sight of what this crisis teaches. Without transit, cities do not work for anyone.

Transit Strategy and the Future

The world is changing and so is transit. That is why many Organizations and Groups like CUTA, transit experts and planners are telling cities that now is the time to set clear goals and visions for their transit networks.

The need for safe, cost-effective transport is more essential than ever for our local economy and beyond. The way transit agencies respond today—rethinking networks and fixed routes, keeping riders and drivers safe and exploring new modes of delivery, such as on demand transit—will ensure public transport remains viable for a new generation.

There are three recommendations *the November 10, 2020 Transit Strategy and Operations Campus Workshop*:

- A. *That staff be directed to develop an affordable long-term Transit Strategy of not more than one per cent annual net levy increase inclusive of operating and capital funding and addresses COVID ridership and revenue loss impacts*

B.

That staff be directed to renegotiate the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program c. Transit Stream project priorities with the primary focus of electrification of Transit fleet and related infrastructure.

C.

That staff be directed to develop a comprehensive performance metric framework that considers the varying services and routes within Guelph Transit.

- 1. In regard to Recommendation A and C, minus the one per cent annual net levy,** in many ways Recommendation C would be better as part of an overall Transit Strategy.

The Transit Strategy defines a long-term vision for transit service in Guelph. The elements of this Strategy will provide a framework to guide how transit service is delivered and how we invest in transit over the next decade.

It is imperative that the Transit Strategy be considered within the overall context of our vision for our city. While the foundational strategic plans like the City Strategic Plan, Transportation Master Plan and the Official Plan provide an overall direction, a Transit Strategy, built on the collective vision of the community, can provide the additional definition needed to chart a course for future success.

The Transportation Master Plan states “Transit service will provide travel times and traveler convenience at levels that are competitive with travel by car”.

A good transit strategy is usually built on integrating transit with community planning and design, establish a balanced approach to operating funding and fare policy, develop a market responsive approach to transit network design, improving the customer experience, and develop transit organizational capacity. Some of these actions are already in progress such as the Fare Strategy, a Route Review, proposed new routes, and additional buses for increased frequency in the Capital Budget.

Regular assessment and improvement of the performance of public transit systems are essential for transit service providers given limited funding and growing public needs. Performance evaluation can help transit identify underperforming services, plan for potential investments, justify investments, and communicate accomplishments and challenges. However, the evaluation of transit system performance is complex and challenging due to the diverse and competing goals, such as improving operational efficiency (Ridership), increasing service quality (Frequency), and providing equitable and just transit services (Coverage). To improve operational efficiency, transit agencies usually aim to achieve the highest ridership with the least operational costs; with the service quality goal, they are required to increase frequencies, reduce travel time, and improve reliability; whereas the equity objective mandates them to extend services to isolated neighborhoods with high concentration of minorities and low income residents.

First, operational efficiency, service quality and access equity are all critical to the well-being of a transit system. Second, these three goals are often at odds with each other as underperforming in costs/ridership may happen when transit is improving service quality, or achieving an important social goal of providing mobility to dependent populations, meaning that some intricate trade-off is needed to balance the efficiency of transit operations with service quality and equality. Third, efforts to explore trade-offs require specifically tailored modeling approaches. As a result, there is a need for techniques that can evaluate operational efficiency, service quality and equitable access holistically, providing a comprehensive assessment for transit system performance.

This pandemic has accelerated the need and Guelph to follow a recommendation from the Guelph Business Service Review (Page 21, 22, and 23) to determine where on the Utilization (Ridership) - Coverage spectrum we should be and set a target for the entire network.

As noted in the report, this should have done with the route review, however, based on the objectives of the route review report (Page 3: <https://pub-guelph.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=9236>), and looking at other documents, such as the ICIP Funding application (*“ICIP-GUE-01: Current Route structure, is 40, 30, 20 and 10 min frequency. In order to increase ridership we will be adding frequency in the form of more physical buses on routes. Over the*

course of 8 years, our current network of routes with 20 min or less frequency will increase to 90% from 30%” Source: <https://pub-quelph.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=8627>) it appears that Staff, and not Council and the Community have determined the direction of utilization (Ridership).

While this isn’t a terrible thing, Council and the Community have yet to understand the trade-offs and determine where on the Ridership (Utilization)-Coverage spectrum we need to have an accessible, affordable and frequent transit system. Even the Transportation Master Plan cites we want to have a Transit service that will provide travel times and traveler convenience at levels that are competitive with travel by car.

Unfortunately, in many of the reports and documents we have seen, the “goal” has already been determined by others at City Hall – they could be placeholders or actual direction – we just do not know.

Continuing the network with minor changes may or may not necessarily be going to get us an affordable and efficient transit system. Based on direction of the Route Review and other documents like the ICIP Funding report, there is a “goal” but not one determined by Council and the Community as industry standards suggest. Without having a proper understanding of how the entire future network functions, not just individual routes, we are making the system more difficult to use.

Within the Capital Budget we see a number of routes already marked for expansion and new routes proposed. The Transit Strategy will determine future networks, but it again it appears this has been determined already through Capital Budget forecasts and a limited scope Route Review.

A comprehensive route review and ridership demand analysis is required to identify future network structure options, with routes and service frequencies.

There was confusion by some councillors at the recent Transit Workshop. Some members were saying they kept seeing empty buses, and that we should be working on getting more ridership and providing coverage.

TAAG presented this during our Transit Summit last year, **these are competing goals, and (Utilization) – Coverage spectrum and we need to be on the same page as a City and Community in understanding the trade-offs.**

So before continuing engaging on things like a route review or fare strategy, there is a need for everyone to be on the same page in understanding the Ridership (Utilization)-Coverage spectrum. Then Council can at least be able to direct staff to come back with different scenarios on this spectrum for everyone to consider.

As an aside, TAAG will be holding online webinars over the next couple weeks on this exact topic and invite Councillors to join in. Details will be on our website under taaguelph.com/events

We are concerned if this isn't done first, that when it does come time to define what we want our transit system to do, some of the work would have been already done and may not fit the goal. We are worried that there will not be an appetite to do the work again and thus we will be stuck with a goal that isn't entirely doable.

We are also concerned that continuing with these plans while over 50% of the ridership is away from the system, especially students, we will not get the feedback we need. Online is an option, however, not everyone who uses transit has access to digital and this will make the input received incomplete.

When Ridership returns, after changes have been made, some may not like that they were "not consulted" and we will end up right where we were back in 2014 – meddling with the plan and adjusting over and over again.

We do not want history to repeat, however, it is highly likely it will be based on some of the decisions being made or proposed.

What are we trying to achieve for our transit system? We look at the budget, we see that there are millions of dollars committed to transit. This is great, however, with no business plan, and no goal / vision from the Community or Council, it is a lot of moving parts but no central theme to wrap itself around, it

feels like history repeating, millions could be lost, wasted or adjusted over and over. It is time we have new discussions of goals.

Ridership matters, and many other things matter too, but let us never lose sight of what this crisis teaches. Without transit, cities do not work for anyone. At the end of the day, the objective should be to provide a transit system shaped by what Guelphites want, which will encourage more citizens to choose transit.

2. In regard to Recommendation B: *“That staff be directed to renegotiate the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program c. Transit Stream project priorities with the primary focus of electrification of Transit fleet and related infrastructure.”* **and the funding of Recommendation A:** *“That staff be directed to develop an affordable long-term Transit Strategy of not more than one per cent annual net levy increase inclusive of operating and capital funding and addresses COVID ridership and revenue loss impacts*

As we mentioned above, Predicting, with any degree of confidence, is futile. To try to determine future growth and ridership is difficult but must not shut off the pipeline to these projects.

In September, a report commissioned by the American Public Transportation Association concluded that “no direct correlation” had been found between transit use and COVID transmission. Also, “an analysis of public transit ridership in multiple cities shows no correlation with the rise or fall of local COVID-19 cases.”

While the message will gradually get out there, and in places where public transit is fantastically useful and liberating, people will gradually come back because it is the logical thing for them to do, but it could take time. A University of Toronto survey published in May found that one-quarter of local transit riders wouldn’t get back on board without a vaccine.

Guelph Transit itself estimates it could take up to 4 years to restore ridership to where we were prior to March 2020.

If overall ridership remains low for the foreseeable future, that could undermine plans for some major transit projects – particularly since it remains unclear whether commuters will ultimately return.

For example Guelph is currently looking at purchasing electric buses and building a new Operations Centre, There needs to be a clear-eyed assessment of the business case for transit growth that is now in the planning stages – but TAAG doesn't believe development should stop.

These are assets that will last for many years. So, we should work hard to avoid a kind of turn-off-the-tap in the entire pipeline of projects. We feel we should slow it down and reflect, take a breath and think about it. We are convinced that people will come back to transit.

One possible effect of the coronavirus pandemic is that fewer people will commute at traditional times – if at all. That's not necessarily a bad thing for transit agencies, which have traditionally spent enormous sums to meet the peak demand of rush hour. Smoothing out those spikes and spreading service throughout the day could make it easier for transit providers to focus on making the system more useful to more citizens.

A number of agencies are already moving in that direction. Paris is building a massive subway expansion ringing the city so residents trying to access an adjacent suburb don't necessarily have to travel into the downtown core to catch an outbound train. And Metrolinx, the Toronto-region transit agency whose trains traditionally served office workers – running into downtown in the mornings and out in the evenings – has been shifting to all-day service in both directions.

There's a good argument to be made to hit pause on capital projects" primarily designed to serve commuters going downtown, according to Jarret Walker, a transit consultant. But he says city-wide transit will still need funding. "You have the everywhere-to-everywhere, all-the-time demand, especially from people who've chosen to live in the city because they don't want to depend on cars," he says. "I feel like a permanent loss of peak-of-peak demand is fantastic news for transit, because it means we have a remaining market that is so much easier to serve in terms of cost benefit."

In the end, simple geometry will help transit continue to make its case. A transit vehicle, even with physically distanced passengers, is a far more efficient use of road space than private vehicles or taxis.

With our region projected to grow to almost 200,000 people by 2031. The area is physically constrained, and we hope there is little political appetite to keep building and expanding roads. Because the laws and dynamics of highway capacity and mobility capacity are not really going to change.

We should not cap this spending, but instead try to design in around our goals and vision of a transit system. A short term delay of 6 to 12 months for some of these recommended projects can be tolerated to address COVID concerns, however, we must keep our eye on the ball to meet our Climate Targets and provide frequent, affordable, and accessible transit for all.

Microtransit

There was some initial concern voiced by members of the public regarding the Microtransit report giving to Council last month.

The report was not laid out in a way to define the differences in Microtransit and how there is a “Public” and “Private” component.

The following reports are from **Pantonium**, one of the competitors to RideCo but similar in many ways:

Microtransit vs Macrotransit

Cars still dominate transportation, especially for travel to employment. In America only 5 percent of work commuters use public transit. This statistic has largely remained unchanged for thirty years. Only in the past few years have policy makers realized that maintaining the status quo approach to transportation has not been sufficient.

Recently a new wave of technologies and commercial products have hit the global market for public transit, causing all sorts of disruption. Services like Uber and Lyft have caused concerns

of competition and declining ridership, ubiquitous smart phones, and cheap communications have contributed to the growth of a new concept called microtransit. It is already a controversial term for some public transit industry members, Jarrett Walker, a public transit consultant has made several statements on microtransit including:

“To succeed, microtransit would have to help people get around cities better, not just make them feel good about hailing a ride on a phone.” – Jarrett Walker, 2018

Last year, Streetsblog did a take down of microtransit, noting that microtransit consistently ended up performing only as well as paratransit service, which tends to be the most expensive and least efficient service model transit agencies provide. The Streetsblog piece highlighted one of the most spectacular failures attributed to microtransit, the dubious Kansas City pilot operated by Bridj, where the average cost was around \$1000 per trip.

This post also reviews the results seen from different potential solutions that address public transit used for employment travel. Specifically we compare the operational statistics generated by recent microtransit projects to Pantonium’s performance in Belleville, Ontario. Our technology suite can deliver reliable on-demand transportation in a way that is as efficient or even more efficient than fixed route bus services in some urban areas.

We call this macrotransit, the core aspects of this concept that differentiates it from microtransit, or mobility services such as dial-a-bus and ride-hailing are:

- 1. Use of large vehicles (40 foot buses)**
- 2. Use of existing public transit stop infrastructure**
- 3. Continuous global optimization**

This video and this blog post provide a detailed explanation of macrotransit. The application of this concept is simple once it is understood that the principle goal is to maximize vehicle productivity, while maintaining complete flexibility of routes. Everything else, as Mr. Walker put it, is just making people feel good about ordering trips on a smart phone, and does not contribute to improved efficiency for transit agencies. The relative

difference in results of this approach can be seen by comparing several prominent projects and their baseline ridership performance in low density areas.

Comparing Performance in Belleville and Austin to 2015 National Averages

There have been noticeable attempts by municipalities throughout North America to experiment with microtransit. Among those is Belleville, Ontario – powered by Pantonium and **Austin, Texas using Via. This section will review Austin’s performance and Belleville’s performance.**

Service Area:

- Belleville’s service area is 25 square km serving a population of approximately 20,540 riders
- Austin’s is 19.1 square km servicing a population of 24,643 riders

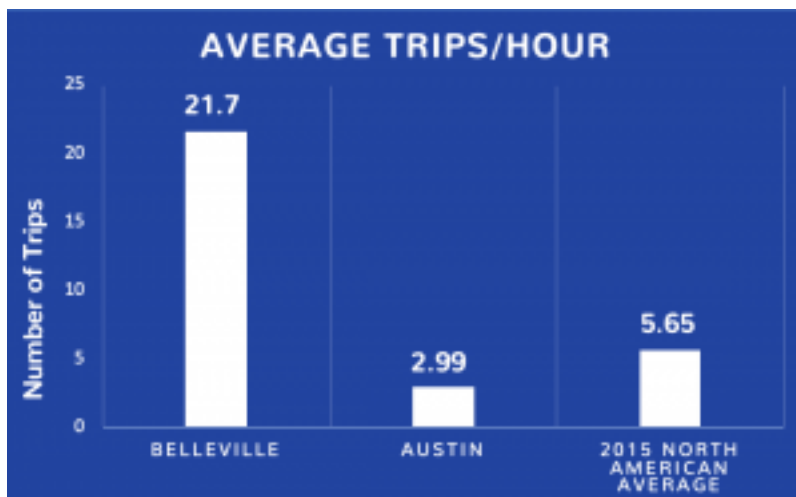
Service Hours:

- Belleville operating for 45.5 hours per week
- **Austin operating for 67 hours per week**

Cost per Trip:

- **\$21 per trip in Austin**
- **\$4.60 per trip in Belleville**
- **Austin: \$5135/week**
- **Belleville: \$3,735/week**
- **Belleville is spending on average \$1400 less per week than Austin while completing nearly three times as many rides per week**

Average Ridership



Belleville is completing an average of 812.6 rides per week compared to Austin’s 244.55

rides per week. On average, Belleville is completing roughly three times the amount of trips/week as Austin despite operating 21.5 fewer hours per week.

- Belleville: 3134.4 trips/month (peak = 4375 Jan 2019)
- Austin: 1850 trips/month (peak = 3209 June 2018) *note this is reported data from 5 operational months in Belleville vs. 11 operational months in Austin

Other Approaches to Microtransit

Results		
	2017 (May 15-Dec)	2018 (Jan-Dec)
Trips	26,688	85,943 ↑
Subsidy	\$150K	\$640K ↑
Riders	3,493	5,749 ↑
Drivers	1,393	2,203 ↑
Match Rate	17%	31% ↑
Wait Time	9:10 mins	6:10 mins ↓

See Innisfil STAFF REPORT NO: DSR-038-19 DATE: March 13, 2019

Presented here is some relevant data from the Innisfil, Ontario pilot partnership with Uber. The data presented by Innisfil and Uber jointly demonstrates what most public transit officials already know: using transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft to deliver public transit is not much different than using a taxi service, since global optimization is not achieved. The most telling statistic here is the “Match Rate” – the actual percentage of trips that were shared between two separate riders. Despite using UberPool’s algorithm, only 31 percent of trips were shared. Ironically, this outcome of 69 percent of riders taking solo trips is very similar to the overall percentage of people who drive alone during their commute in North America, which hovers around 70 percent. Essentially, Innisfil is paying Uber to maintain the status quo. Unfortunately we cannot find information on the actual hours of driver time, which would show Uber’s true productivity as they attempt to provide public transit in Innisfil. The fact that driver hours is not made publicly available suggests that Uber simply does not care about how long drivers work for, as neither Uber nor Innisfil pay for driver time (their shareholders bare this burden). What we do know is the per trip cost in Innisfil is still higher than Pantonium’s

macrotransit service in Belleville, which should be considered by any other city considering a taxi model for public transit.

The key takeaway here is that transit planners have been correct in their skepticism of a technological panacea based on the results of the four years of microtransit projects throughout North America. We have not found evidence of any project performing better than average paratransit services – except our project in Belleville. We believe that Pantonium has developed and deployed the world’s most productive and cost effective on-demand transit service. If any public or private transit operation is currently using fixed routes or microtransit services that fall below 18-30 riders per hour contact us at info@pantonium.com to find out about macrotransit.

Sources:

<https://www.apta.com/resources/statistics/Documents/FactBook/2017-APTA-Fact-Book.pdf> (1)

<https://www.surtc.org/transitfactbook/downloads/2017-rural-transit-fact-book.pdf> (2)

Austin RFP Attachments (3)

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/ntd/66011/2016-ntst.pdf> (4)

Microtransit Won’t Deliver Efficiency to Ontario Cities

Transit agencies across Ontario, still reeling from ridership that hasn’t bounced back even as cities have reopened, recently got hit with stiff news from the provincial government.

While the federal and provincial governments have earmarked some \$2 billion in funding for transit agencies to help fill their budget shortfalls, the second phase of funding due in 2021 will come with conditions.

In a letter dated August 12, Ontario Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney has suggested that cities will have to evaluate low-performing bus routes and think about replacing them with microtransit services.

Microtransit generally refers to transportation delivered by vans or minibuses that riders book trips on via mobile apps. Operating similar to UberPool or a taxi service, but riders are sometimes matched onto the same shared vehicle to complete their respective trips.

Why is the Government Suggesting Microtransit?

The provincial government says it is imposing these conditions to ensure the sustainability of public transit beyond the current term for emergency funding, due to expire March 31, 2021.

Christina Salituro, spokesperson for the Ministry of Transportation, told Daily Hive that “Microtransit, or providing right-sized transit, could be a more sustainable way to provide transit service to unserved and underserved areas across the province, hence its being a key provincial interest,”.

The province seems to believe that by shifting transit riders onto smaller vehicles running on-demand, transit agencies will be able to provide adequate service while reducing operating costs. Trying to achieve those outcomes with microtransit, which some tout to provide service more cost-effectively than fixed routes, may be a fool’s errand.

Microtransit Often Has Key Shortcomings

While the province hopes transit service can be delivered more efficiently and cost-effectively through microtransit, projects operating in other cities point to those goals being met in very specific applications.

In North America, the least productive fixed route buses achieve about 10-15 rides per service hour. In comparison, a microtransit pilot launched in Calgary, AB last year, which claimed to achieve “industry best vehicle productivity”, reported 6 rides per service hour.

This service covered a neighbourhood that had no existing public transit and dropped riders to only two transit hubs in an adjoining area, which connected riders with the wider transit system. It operates as a first-mile/last-mile service for a small rider base and covers a limited geographic area. Microtransit works in specific situations like this, but struggles to find more broad application and provide long term usefulness.

As ridership rises, microtransit would require more and more vehicles to service demand and thereby erode any previous efficiencies. If ridership recovers to sufficient levels, fixed route buses will deliver better productivity and municipalities will wisely switch back. Of all the levels of ridership that a fixed route doesn't service efficiently, microtransit is only productive on the lower end.

Looking at other microtransit services pre-COVID19, one launched in Sacramento, CA which was deemed a "success", was generating only 3.24 rides per service hour in May and June of 2018. Newark, CA which switched their fixed-route service in favour of microtransit in 2017, saw overall ridership decrease by 20%.

Whether handling ridership at current pandemic levels or ordinary volumes, when fixed routes aren't productive, there is an alternative on-demand service that delivers better productivity broadly across different ridership levels. It's called Macrotransit.

Taking up Macrotransit Brings Better Results

Macrotransit is also an on-demand service, but crucial differences from microtransit allow it to deliver better productivity and performance in a larger number of circumstances.

The essential distinction of Macrotransit is its self-adjusting system that dynamically routes buses in real-time based on rider demand. Because the entire fleet's routing is continuously being optimized for efficiency, it results in productivity levels far higher than microtransit.

Macrotransit service deployed by Pantonium in Belleville, ON achieved 30 riders per service hour, an increase in ridership of 300%, and service area expansion by 70%.

While microtransit usually requires transit agencies to use small vans or shuttles, Macrotransit delivers on-demand service using the transit agency's current bus fleet. By using full sized vehicles, Macrotransit can match fleet capacity to fluctuating ridership, and still drive efficiency across a broader spectrum of ridership.

Pre-COVID19, Belleville produced positive operational and social results (a survey indicated increased social inclusion), but when the pandemic hit, Macrotransit delivered

remarkable utility. Belleville lost most of its ridership, but, unlike other cities, it had the tools to swiftly adapt its entire transit system to go on-demand. They continued to provide ample service for essential travel, yet did so cost-effectively.

SERVICE	CITY / TOWN	RIDES / HOUR	COST PER RIDE
Pantonium	Belleville, ON	30	\$4.25 CAD
Competing Microtransit	Arlington, TX	5	\$21
Competing Microtransit	Cochrane, AB	6-7	\$13 CAD
Fixed Route Service	New York City MTA	33	\$3.60

Put plainly, Macrotransit delivers to cities performance that optimally uses their transit resources while equipping them with the versatility to provide great service in a whole array of circumstances.

The province wanting cities to pursue more sustainable methods of delivering public transit is understandable, especially in light of ongoing economic and social uncertainty. However, it is vital that civic leaders pursue solutions that allow them to do more with less. Now more than ever, cities must build transit systems that are productive, adaptable, and resilient.

TAAG Recommendation

TAAG recommends utilizing the “On Demand Bus” option using existing infrastructure and potentially purchasing half size buses. If we do need to use the “One Demand App” services or Taxis, we would recommend that Transit and

Council have an exit plan to allow for a orderly transition from this model to a Public Transit “On Demand Bus” model.

In Conclusion

There is no hard, fast and singular solution to recovery. But solutions across industries and across the country will get us where we need to be — and public transportation has a critical role to play. To emerge from the economic crisis facing our nation during this pandemic, we must focus on restoring and expanding the bus and rail networks that supports and connect us and provide access to opportunities for all. Until then, our public transportation systems are continuously readying themselves to be the better, safer and greener transportation provider of the future.

Thank you for reading our submission. Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions at taaguelph@gmail.com or at taaguelph.com

Regards,

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