

Pillar Nonprofit Network represents over 340 nonprofits in our community in London, Ontario and area who we support to strengthen their impact in our community. We believe all three pillars of nonprofit, business and government working together will transform communities.

We have over 1,800 nonprofits and charities in London and area; 55,000 nonprofits and charities in Ontario; and over 170,000 nonprofits and charities in Canada that are driving economic and social impact for Canadians. We have over 10,000 social enterprises in Ontario and 80 in London Ontario.

On behalf of our sector we are asking you to invest in nonprofits, invest in social enterprise and invest in community hubs.

Innovation Works (www.innovationworkslondon.ca) in London is a community hub that is a collaborative community of socially minded innovators dedicated to a positive transformation of our community. It is modeled after the leading edge model - Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto Ontario.

Innovation Works is for social innovators. This can include nonprofits, social enterprises as well as social purpose businesses and entrepreneurs, who care about creating vibrant communities. Pillar Nonprofit Network is the backbone for this project and it is a collaborative effort among many leaders and organizations in our community who have co-created the vision for Innovation Works.

There are various options to fit the needs of social innovators that will include flex desk packages, clusters of desks, permanent desks, private offices and community meeting space. Tenants will share their expertise and skills through shared programming and will move each other's ideas, ventures and organizations forward. Integrated service delivery, shared services, shared outcomes and transformational change for London make this a hub for community impact.

To date we have raised the capital to buy a 32,000 square foot building that will be home to Innovation Works. Members of the community responded to London's first ever Community Bond which raised \$1 million in loan investment for this project. We have raised 1.6 million to date in donations from corporations, foundations and individuals. We have a community hub project that is ready for additional infrastructure investment and we are looking to the federal government to invest in innovation in London and in community hubs across the Country.

Today we are asking that you invest in nonprofits and social enterprises to transform our economy and communities. We are asking that you invest in community hubs through your social infrastructure fund by allocating funding in the 2016 budget towards the capital costs of community hubs, including London's Innovation Works.

This investment will benefit all Canadians by sparking social innovation across our great country. These spaces provide a powerful platform for bringing people and organizations together to address the tough issues facing our communities.

Warm regards,

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