



October 25, 2023

To, The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities,

Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback regarding the Summer Jobs Grant program. The Cranston Residents Association has been very fortunate to be a recipient of the Summer Jobs Grant in previous years. This grant has helped the association offer a variety of seasonal student positions, in turn providing additional services and resources for our community residents. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful for the past two years, which has made it difficult for our community to be provided with the same services and programs as they once had.

The Cranston Residents Association represents a large community in south-east Calgary, home to over 20,000 residents. Our role is to foster engaging, social and collaborative programs and services to support an increased quality of life for those that live here. Grants like the Summer Jobs Grant are essential to our operations and have a huge community impact both from employing students, but also in the programs we can provide our community by having those additional positions.

We can appreciate the large amount of applications this program receives on an annually basis, and the work it takes to distribute funds. As all grants, we understand that funding is not guaranteed and that the amount of funding can vary year to year. What has been a frustrating and challenging process for the association is the lack of understanding on where our application sits among the rest, as well as what we could work on or do, to better position ourselves for future application years. When we have asked for clarification in the process, and feedback about our applications, we have been disappointed to receive nothing in return.

There are many Resident Associations, Homeowner Associations and other not-for-profits that are in neighbouring communities to ours. We all operate very similar to one another, and all apply for the Summer Jobs Grant program with similar applications (length of time, pay rates, positions available etc). For the past two years the same association in our area has received funding, where the rest of the associations have received nothing.

Our ask and/or suggestion would be to somehow look at an option to continue to award not-for-profits funding, but with a better shared model. Instead of awarding a single organization 100% of their application ask, is there a model where perhaps 50% could be awarded, and more associations/organizations would receive some funding versus no funding at all.

Our second suggestion would be to review the points system that is used to determine successful applications and the communication surrounding this system. Not all organizations, from my understanding and specifically in our area, are aware of the points systems, nor how they are awarded. We are not provided with how many points we received for our applications and we are not able to see where we lacked points, which would help us for future applications. I don't believe there is a good



understanding of how many points is required to receive funding, though I can appreciate this may change annually based upon how much funding is available to support the program.

Programs like the Summer Jobs Grant are so important to small community not-for profits, especially in the years coming out of Covid-19, but also due to the rising costs in Canada. Without support from programs such as this one, Residents Associations like ours, are unable to offer work placements for students and affordable, seasonal community programs for residents.

Thank-you,

Stacy Marks

General Manager, Cranston Residents Association