



March 30, 2023

Ms. Alexia Riche  
Executive Director  
Community Sector Network of PEI

*Sent via Email*

Dear Ms. Riche

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Liberal Party's support in addressing the needs of the community sector in Prince Edward Island.

The Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island believes that non-profit and community organizations provide critical supports to Islanders in diverse industries; from social services to arts, education and sport. Supporting these organizations and the important work they do removes barriers for individuals. Direct access to grassroots organizations, when these organizations are properly supported by government, can create better service delivery outcomes.

1. *What specific plans does your party have to support and strengthen the community sector in PEI?*

The community sector is strongest when government listens to its needs. A Liberal government will continuously consult community organizations concerning funding, priorities, and program delivery. A Liberal government will ask the community what it needs rather than assume that government knows what is best.

2. *How will your party ensure that the community sector has a voice in policymaking, and that their perspectives and expertise are taken into account when decisions are made?*

A Liberal government will codify its engagement with community organizations. Specifically, a Liberal government will engage stakeholders and codify this engagement with regards to planning for climate-related disasters. After post-tropical storm Fiona community organizations stepped in to fill voids left by the King government's response. A Liberal government would identify how community organizations can engage with the delivery of aid in an appropriate manner, together with an appropriate government response.

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3. *What will your party do to ensure that the community sector is adequately funded and resourced to provide essential services to Islanders?*

A Liberal government will ensure community organizations have ample opportunity to inform government of their needs. Without appropriate consultation government cannot adequately understand the needs of diverse communities. In turn, a Liberal government will be better able to provide the necessary funds to community organizations undertaking important work throughout Prince Edward Island.

4. *What concrete steps will your political party take to provide support and investments for organizations serving marginalized communities and equity-seeking groups, to guarantee equitable access to resources and opportunities for all Islanders?*

The Liberal Party will invest in low-cost financing for non-profits, community organizations, and co-operatives to build new affordable housing. These organizations have already identified the needs and members of marginalized communities and advocate on their behalf. Government must be an important support to these organizations. However, providing funding for housing will empower the community sector to determine how and where the most appropriate housing will be provided.

5. *What specific measures does your party intend to implement to support and sustain the contributions of volunteers and the organizations that depend on them, and how will your party encourage and facilitate a robust culture of volunteerism throughout the province?*

Volunteerism and giving are at the heart of all Islanders. A Liberal government will continue to encourage and facilitate the spirit of giving in Prince Edward Island by creating a prosperous Island. A 2016 Statistics Canada study ([click link](#)) suggested that young people are the most likely age group to volunteer and older folks who volunteer are likely to give the most hours of their time.

Young people need jobs to stay in Prince Edward Island. The Liberal Party will implement economic incentive programs that will increase the number of young people living in Prince Edward Island.

A healthy population is more able to offer their time to community organizations. A Liberal government will prioritize healthcare for all Islanders. Time savings from community-based healthcare can translate into more volunteer support in communities.



6. *Will your party create a dedicated office or ministry for the community sector within the government of PEI to better support and collaborate with the community sector in the province?*

The Liberal government intends to require all of its Ministers to consult with the appropriate community organizations that their ministry concerns. A Liberal government would explore, in conjunction with community sector organizations, how a ministry for the community sector should be formed.

Thank you for your enquiry and interest in this issue

Sincerely,

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

Sharon Cameron,  
Leader of the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

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