Heidi Jakop  
President  
Administrators of Volunteer Resources British Columbia (AVRBC)  
Tel: (604)990-4799 Email: president@avrbc.com  
Web: http://avrbc.com/  

From: VBGA Volunteer Engagement  
Sent: November 2, 2018 4:50 PM  
To: Pittman, Kevin  
Subject: Your voice matters: Challenges and opportunities facing Canada’s charities and non-profit organizations  

I am the volunteer president of the Administrators of Volunteer Resources of BC, the provincial professional association supporting 165 volunteer engagement leaders in almost as many non-profit and social service organizations leading tens of thousands of volunteers who help these non-profits and charities serve the communities and deliver on mission. I am also the Director, Volunteer Engagement at the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association leading a team of 950 volunteers. I have spent the last decade also leading at the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. I teach volunteer management at college and nationally and internationally at conferences, workshops and webinars. I share this to give you perspective to my invitation and following message.  

Yesterday, on November 1, I led AVRBC members to dissolve the 50+ year old provincial professional association and become a regional chapter of Volunteer Management Professionals of Canada due to capacity and engagement challenges. In my work leading up to this decision, I consulted with wise leaders in the sector for guidance and perspective. Here is what I learned:  

- From speaking with the President of Volunteer BC who is also the former chair of Volunteer Canada (and other volunteer centre leaders), volunteer centres across Canada are under tremendous pressure, many forced to close and those who went through significant transformation to try to better deliver to meet the needs of Canadians are in many cases still struggling. I also learned that our national guiding bodies such and Volunteer Canada and Imagine Canada are also under pressure.  
- From speaking with fellow leaders of our volunteer management professional associations, both provincial and national, many of these non-profit associations are also struggling significantly and may be forced to take severe action. These professional associations provide training, networking and supports to equip I would estimate well over 1000 volunteer managers across Canada to lead hundreds of thousands of volunteers in their organizations, so they can provide mission focused service delivery in every facet of the charitable sector, serving Canadians.  
- From speaking with national volunteer management sector leaders in the US professional association, they too are encountering the same challenges.  
- Speaking with former leaders in the sector, the challenges have been escalating over the last decade.
I understand the non-profit sector is in a time of crisis. Volunteer centers who support community leaders and prospective volunteers, volunteer management professional associations who equip leaders to meaningfully engage volunteers to be the force for change and mission delivery in non-profits, and our sector guiding bodies are crucial to each and every charity, non-profit, and social service organization being able to meet their mission and serve Canadians. Without new immigrant serving organizations, food banks, after school sports programs, seniors support services, and environmental protection agencies we would not have the Canada you and I both love and are proud to call home. Without these organizations, poverty, isolation, youth crime, arts, and environmental issues will all suffer, the cost to the government to combat these issues would increase, and the fabric of Canada would be compromised.