

Alberta Party

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Alberta Party will strengthen Alberta's 25,000 non-profit organizations by reducing bureaucracy and creating sustainable funding.

April 9, 2019 -Calgary, AB- Lana Bentley, Alberta Party candidate for Calgary-Acadia, announced this morning an Alberta Party government would improve the ability of Alberta's non-profit organizations to collaboratively develop and sustain programs to respond to the needs of Alberta's communities.

Lana Bentley, Alberta Party Candidate Calgary-Acadia:

"Not for profit agencies improve the lives of Albertans everyday. With more resources and innovative thinking they can do even more to build stronger communities. It's time to take concrete steps to improve their ability to deliver critical programming to Albertans."

Stephen Mandel, Leader of the Alberta Party:

"Alberta's non-profit sector is critical to the overall health of our province. Non-profits should not live in fear of reliving the decade-long cuts to funding for community and cultural organizations that characterized the federal Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism."

The Alberta Party is committed to proposing innovative and practical solutions that improve the lives of Albertans.

For more information or to arrange an interview:

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Backgrounder

An Alberta Party government will take a series of actions to strengthen the sustainability of non-profit organizations in the province. These include:

- **Doubling the maximum program funding periods from 30 months to five years** under the Community Initiatives Program (CIP). This will give non-profit organizations greater certainty of funding over longer time periods, which will better enable them to plan and deliver services. Where non-profits are partners in the delivery of public services, contracts will be structured to prevent politically-motivated changes to the funding of multi-year programs.
- **Creating a single window for applications under various funding streams.** This will reduce the administrative burden on non-profits. Discussions will be opened with the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and community funders such as Edmonton Community Foundation and Calgary Foundation, to also participate. As part of this, we would:
 - Change the intake of applications from three times per year to a continuous intake allowing organizations to develop and submit funding applications when they are ready to do so instead of an arbitrary deadline.
 - Explore new models to enable rural organizations to apply for the same kinds of funding that are available to urban organizations.
- Removing administrative barriers at Culture and Tourism, and at AGLC, that currently discourage or prevent collaboration amongst non-profit organizations to pursue common objectives.
- Introduce a requirement for Alberta's non-profit organizations to complete training on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and assist in this program delivery.
- Enabling increased opportunities for non-profit organizations to complete Gender-Based Analysis+ (GBA+) training for their staff.
- Providing non-profit cultural groups more latitude to offer scholarships toward educating young people in ways that strengthen international languages and international relations.
- Allowing communities to apply for Community Initiatives Program (CIP) and Community Facilities Enhancement Program (CFEP) funds to build broadband Internet infrastructure, lease dark fibre, and pay for upstream connectivity services.
- Increasing capacity development funding so that non-profits can write better annual reports and business plans, demonstrate strong and sustainable governance structures, and measure and evaluate outcomes to be more competitive for national funding. As part of this we would:
 - Require and support all non-profits seeking public funds to develop and implement diversity and inclusion policies and training for their teams.
 - Reduce wait times for board development training from 6-12 months to 3 months.
 - Incentivize collaboration amongst organizations providing related services.
- Extend the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) for non-profits so students can gain experience at any time of year, not just summer or agriculture season.