

Two Ways Chambers Can Support Community During Covid-19

Supporting our community has never been more important, and despite the struggles and uncertainties, Alberta business and nonprofits are collaborating and getting creative in how they help each other today and as we move into recovery.

Chambers can act as a conduit to help guide this collaboration and sharing of ideas. Here are two ways Chamber's can help connect businesses and nonprofits during this time:

1. **Consider helping match your community businesses with nonprofits.**

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations has created [Skill Share & Volunteer](#), a way for businesses who have under-utilized staff to connect with nonprofits that need support. Opportunities can range from making calls to lending management expertise — and commitments vary from a couple of hours, to multiple days, to secondments.

This type of partnership may work in your community, too! Learn more about how you can bring this program to your Chamber by contacting Scott at schannon@edmontonchamber.com or 780-409-2141.

2. **Share *Ways Businesses Can Help Nonprofits & Charities* with your business community.**

Many businesses want to help, but don't know how. Alberta Nonprofits Network (ABNN) has shared a [letter to Alberta businesses](#) with three simple messages of how businesses can help nonprofits and charities continue to do their important work. **Consider sharing these messages with your members!**

Ways Businesses Can Help Nonprofits & Charities:

1. **Talk to them.** Give a nonprofit organization a call - communicate both good and the bad news, and explore how you can help one another in this current situation. If you can't give what you gave last year, that's completely understandable. Nonprofits simply ask that you communicate with them so they can plan accordingly.
2. **Give to the best of your ability.** Frontline nonprofits are seeing increased demand for their services, while social distancing is causing operational and funding challenges (such as lost registration fee and event revenue) across all types of charities. Whether you typically give to the food bank or the community soccer team, nonprofits need funds to maintain their services and/or sustain. Please give what you can.
3. **Think beyond dollars.** Many companies are getting creative in how they give. Bakeries are donating bread, tech shops are donating old laptops and professional firms are donating their expertise. What creative ways can your business can give?
4. **Support volunteering.** Covid-19 is not stopping Albertans from giving their time, in fact Alberta has seen an increase in volunteering. Encourage your employees to give their time either virtually or in physically-distanced ways (collecting food, calling community seniors, donating blood). Visit [VolunteerConnector.org](https://volunteerconnector.org) or contact your [local Volunteer Centre](#).