

November 2, 2023

Good afternoon Mayor Meed Ward, Members of Council, City staff and the Burlington community

I'm here today on behalf of BurlingtonGreen with a two-fold request pertaining to your budget considerations and decision-making:

1. One, that you provide even greater consideration than you already are to the importance of the key function the not-for-profit community sector provides in advancing the city's strategic priorities by deepening those investments;
2. Secondly, and with consideration of this larger context, that you recognize the specific value BurlingtonGreen provides in servicing key city and community needs, by unanimously choosing to invest in our essential work going forward in a more sustained way.

To the first point: you may be aware of the recently released [Ontario Nonprofit Network report titled "A Tipping Point"](#), that presented dire findings.

The forecast includes that **by 2026:**

- *Every single nonprofit in Ontario will be experiencing an increase in demand for service.*
- *Only 17% of nonprofits will forecast financial sustainability for 12 months or more.*
- *Nonprofits will see a 131% increase in costs.*
- *There will be 63% of nonprofits knowing of similar organizations closing down and ceasing operations.*

**The loss of nonprofits and the benefits they provide will lead to less economically viable, less socially vibrant, and less connected communities.** Our sector encompasses what I refer to as the "survive and thrive" role. And thus, I respectfully ask that you do all you can with your always challenging role of making tough choices when prioritizing budget investments, to factor our sector.

And secondly, and with this in mind, in regards to BurlingtonGreen's funding proposal - I would like to emphasize that this should not be considered a hand up - instead it's a value proposition based opportunity. I won't repeat the case I outlined in my written submission. We operate leanly, nimbly, with equity, transparency, and accountability to carry out important mission-driven community based

work that directly advances and supports city priorities, addressing environmental and community needs.

On route here today I thought about two comments I heard from members of council this week and earlier today. Councilor Bentevnaga's comment about the importance of identifying and investing in "low hanging" fruit to provide what we need to address these essential needs.

And just a few hours ago, Councilor Nissan's comment that "we need to make the investments to see the change that is needed".

Investing in BurlingtonGreen speaks to both these good points. Our charity has helped to shape the Burlington we are privileged to live in today. We've contributed to those changes and will continue to do so.

From a state of the environment perspective, the stakes have never been higher. And from a community perspective, all sectors we serve need us and the services and solutions we provide.

Thank you very much,



**Amy Schnurr (She/Her)**

Co-Founder / Executive Director



Together we make a difference