



# Community Development Halton Strategic Priorities 2023-2024

## Introduction

During the summer of 2023 Community Development Halton (CDH) sought the input of members, citizens, non-profit leaders, and community partners as the agency developed a set of strategic priorities to serve the agency through 2024. Input was collected in two ways, through a survey sent to community partners and through a series of conversations with non-profit and grassroots leaders. We are grateful to the approximately 100 individuals who took the time to provide us with their insight through this process.

## Three Themes to Guide Us

There were three themes emerging from the feedback that we will use to guide our work through 2024.

**Consistency**

**Capacity Building**

**Communication**

## Strategic Priority Summary

Information sharing for a strong non-profit sector and citizen engagement

Revitalize Communication

Opportunities for connection and collaboration in the non-profit sector

Value for Membership

# Strategic Priorities

## Information sharing for a strong non-profit sector and citizen engagement.

CDH is relied upon by the Halton community for information, including social research, non-profit/volunteer sector capacity building and volunteer opportunities. We will focus on these two pillar programs as the best way forward for CDH to provide a dependable and consistent point of connection for the information and capacity building support that our Halton community needs.

### What we will do

- Revitalize and develop consistency in CDH's social planning and research offerings, ensuring it is grounded in pressing community needs and recognizes existing and builds community capacity for local innovation in social research.
- Through research contribute to local decision-making and assist the non-profit sector to make the case for services and supports as they seek new revenue to sustain their work.
- Ensure our research is informed by and supports the work of citizen and grassroots groups, empowering them as they contribute to the quality of life in Halton.
- Take an approach that ensures research is complemented with conversation for the non-profit sector and citizen groups with the goal of moving to action.
- Strengthen the process to engage and connect volunteers to local opportunities, increasing the database functionality for those offering volunteer opportunities and volunteer seekers.
- Continue to offer a full calendar of offerings of capacity building sessions that reflect community trends and emerging issues in the non-profit sector.

## Revitalize Communication

Over the next 18 months CDH will be intentional in sharpening its communication with members and the broader community, increasing awareness of what the organization does and how the community can connect to the work and benefit from it.

### What we will do

- Re-develop the CDH websites and social media presence as a consistent source of information for Halton non-profits and grass roots leaders.
- Offer in-person connecting with the community through two new locations and in-person events.
- Ensure intentional communication of the story of community change and innovation by local grass roots groups and local agencies.

## **Opportunities for connection and collaboration in the non-profit sector**

It is critical for CDH to be present and connecting in the community. We have also heard that the non-profit sector and others in the community are making the transition from the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Through that transition there is a need for connection for sharing, collaboration and finding a sense of belonging. CDH will play a role in this through convening, creating space for innovation and raising collective voices on matters of social justice.

### **What we will do**

- Consistent community conversations will be offered drawing a wide range of non-profit representatives, community groups and citizens to digest research and create a collective understanding of how to use it and act on social justice issues.
- Provide networking opportunities where connection can flourish and spark collaboration.
- Provide an on going series of opportunities for networking and learning for our voluntary sector.

## **Value for Membership**

Review and renew CDH's membership offerings including the development of its social enterprise offerings to deepen our support for the non-profit sector and build CDHs own financial capacity. We want membership to be a point of connection, belonging and go-to access for support for Halton's non-profit agencies and citizen groups who care for and are striving for community well-being and social change in Halton.

### **What we will do**

- Develop a consistent evaluation process to assess our current offerings for members.
- Undertake research and business planning to develop CDHs own internal capacity to support members.
- Provide clear communication to the community about membership benefits.