



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Summary of Discussion for the Community

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**  
Board Meeting

**In Attendance:** Kevin Barwin, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Jessica Greenberg, Jeff Laks, Karen Palayew, Michael Polowin, Victor Rabinovitch, Nikki Shapiro, Ian Sherman, Hartley Stern, Danya Vered.

**Staff:** Sarah Beutel, Pauline Colwin, Andrea Freedman, Micah Garten, Kara Goodwin, Leslie Kaufman, Susan Lee.

**Recorder:** Cibele Rosa.

**I: Welcome – Michael Polowin**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.

Michael began the meeting by mentioned the success of the new Facebook page: Ottawa Jewish Helps, with more than 600 people registered in less than 24 hours. Board member Nikki Shapiro and Federation staff were thanked for doing a great job managing the site.

**II: Emergency Fund**

While the COVID crisis is in its nascent stages and still evolving, it is clear that emergency funds (in excess of the \$75,000 already allocated by the board from Federation's reserve), will be necessary. After careful analysis, the following additional sources of funds are being recommended by management:

- Reallocate \$105K from the Jewish Journeys Strategic fund (RFP process was launched, but not yet complete);
- \$30K remaining from the Security Strategic Fund;
- Strategic grants were just announced for the Caring for the Vulnerable envelope. Those who have received a grant will be asked to consider repurposing these funds for emergency purposes for their organizations;
- Allocate an additional \$75K from the Federation reserve fund (total \$150,000);
- Repurpose \$20,000 from Federation's budget (e.g. P2G meetings cancelled, EG events no longer taking place);
- Reduce overall allocations to JAFI and JDC by withholding payment for April and May - \$48,575.

Depending on what happens with funds from strategic funding for the vulnerable, this would be an emergency fund of at least \$360,000.

The board was concerned about reducing funds for Israel and whether or not this may entail reputational harm for Ottawa and how our partners will manage with fewer dollars. Prior to the current crisis, several other Canadian communities had not been meeting their fair share allocations and yet Ottawa has always taken pride in paying our fair share. At this critical moment, local needs must be prioritized.

Michael thanked Andrea and asked for a motion to approve the creation of an emergency fund with a minimum of \$350,000 based on repurposed funds and an allocation from the reserve.

**Moved:** Danya Vered

**Second:** Stacy Goldstein

**Motion carried**

### **III: Emergency Campaign**

In consultation with Federation's 3 largest donors, management is recommending that an emergency campaign be delayed. In this challenging fundraising environment, it will be critical to have a greater understanding of the case for giving and a more precise understanding of the needs, which are just evolving. It is almost a certainty that an emergency campaign will be required.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.