

A statement from the Honourable Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth:

*We believe in the power of young people to create positive change in their communities. The Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) is a new, innovative program that seeks to connect post-secondary students and recent graduates who want to help with their communities' COVID-19 response with thousands of high quality volunteering opportunities with not-for-profits, including charities.*

*Given the scope and scale of the program, and the urgent need to deliver this new program that engages and supports not-for-profits and students, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) recommended that a third party administer the CSSG; it was their recommendation that this third party be WE Charity Canada.*

*While WE Charity launched the program and saw over 35,000 applications within the first week, including 64% of applicants identifying as visible minorities, 23% from rural Canada, and 10% individuals from LGBTQ2 communities, moving forward they will not be managing the program.*

*This is a mutually agreed upon decision. The Government of Canada and WE Charity will work together to ensure that the volunteers who have applied and been placed won't be adversely affected. WE Charity has also decided to return any funds that had already been received.*

*Our government's objective remains to connect the skills and abilities of young people with service opportunities to help heal their communities.*

*We will work with the organization to ensure an expedited transition and are examining all options to ensure students, not-for-profits, and communities continue to be supported throughout the pandemic.*