

ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES**Monday, February 8, 2021****10:00 – 11:30am****Videoconference**

Attended:	Guests :	Regrets
James Thomson Claudine Cousins Suzanna McCarthy Lucy Gowers Kathy Manners Catherine Howes	Doug Shipley, MP	

Item		Minutes	Action
1.	Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dec 21, 2020 & Jan 18, 2021	Moved by James Thompson, seconded by Lucy Gowers, that the minutes of December 21, 2020, be approved. Moved by Suzanna McCarthy, seconded by Lucy Gowers, that the minutes of January 18, 2021, be approved.	All in favour; carried All in favour; carried
2.	Meeting with Doug Shipley, MP	Advocacy Group members introduced themselves. Claudine and Kathy reviewed the Vision/Mission/Values of Coalition, the Coalition structure and history, and the Coalition Committees. Lucy reviewed the purpose of the Advocacy Group and a mandate of reaching out to MPs and MPPs to make them aware of the issues affecting their constituents. Doug Shipley offered his assistance with Barrie City Council and politicians within Simcoe County as a route for additional advocacy channels. Mr Shipley offered his social media platform as a means to get Coalition's message out. Mr Shipley enquired about Coalition member issues, particularly as it relates to COVID. Advocacy group members highlighted basic living wage, paid sick days, mental health of employees and leadership. James Thompson highlighted the need for information regarding supports available to non-for-profits in our community and the fears around the long-	

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		<p>term survival of Coalition member organizations. Mr Shipley indicated that his office is available to provide information about supports available.</p> <p>Suzanna McCarthy provided an update on the services provided by the John Howard Society as Mr Shipley was not familiar.</p> <p>Mr Shipley indicated he would like to personally visit each of the Coalition member organizations and continue the discussion with Advocacy Group going forward.</p> <p>The Advocacy group enquired about information regarding COVID vaccine distribution plans for Simcoe County as a significant concern. Minister Shipley indicated he would continue to push for this information from the federal government. Mr Shipley and the Advocacy group discussed the importance of community education around the safety of the COVID vaccine.</p>	<p>Doug Shipley, MP indicated he would like to personally visit each of the Coalition member organizations and continue the discussion with Advocacy Group going forward.</p> <p>Determine role of the Coalition Communication Officer and possibility of leveraging the offer to utilize Minister Shipley's social media platform.</p>
3.	Digital Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter Campaign 	Not discussed.	Catherine to follow up with Fireside and bring options to next meeting
4.	Connection to Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Results Working Group/Next Steps 	Connection to Community <p><u>Survey Results</u> Kathy reported that only one additional response was received to the Connection to Community Survey.</p>	<p>Survey volunteers will be invited to the next advocacy group meeting to participate in the formation of a shared definition.</p> <p>A decision needs to be made regarding the formation of a separate workgroup with the development of ToR.</p>
5.	Next Steps	Lucy will present Advocacy Group Meeting update at EC meeting later today.	

Next Meeting: March 15, 2021, 9:30am - 11:00am