

# musicalcalgary

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CALGARY MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION - LOCAL 547 AFM

calgary musicians

## YOUR UNION NEEDS YOU!!!

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, the AFM has been working diligently lobbying the Federal Government for financial aid and we've seen successes with the CERB program and its extension. We can be proud of the work the CFM and our partnering arts organizations are doing to help support our members, especially our freelancers. As the environment in the music community changes daily, the AFM is committed to protecting and improving the lives of all working musicians.

The CMA is a membership-driven organization, we greatly depend on your membership to continue doing the work we do in safeguarding our music community.

Your membership helps to support musicians on a community level, but it also helps enable the AFM to do important lobbying work at the Federal and Provincial level. It's essential we continue working to protect the rights of our members during this unprecedented time.

The Association Executive also understands that this is an extremely difficult time financially and appreciates your continued support through annual dues renewals. If you are unable to pay for your membership in full, there are other payment options. Please contact the office to make special payment arrangements to suit your financial situation or to pay by credit/debit card. If we can be of further assistance, give the office a call.

Thank you for your continued support.

COVID-19 has changed all of our lives. We want to hear your story.

Please contact Busola Fapojuwo at [bfapojuwo@icloud.com](mailto:bfapojuwo@icloud.com) if you have something you want to share with your community of musicians. We will post on our social media platforms as well as the next newsletter.



**2020-21 ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
FEES ARE DUE  
SEP. 1<sup>ST</sup>**

See page 7 for fees and the  
Work Dues Buyout Form

**NEED TO WITHDRAW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

Then you need to 'RESIGN IN GOOD STANDING'. Resignations require a letter or email to the office prior to Sep. 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2020.

[info@calgarymusicians.org](mailto:info@calgarymusicians.org)

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**IS SCHEDULED FOR MON. SEP. 28<sup>TH</sup> @10 AM**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE BY 4 PM  
ON THURSDAY SEP. 24<sup>TH</sup> FOR ZOOM DETAILS.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEADLINE FOR TARIFF OF FEES CHANGES  
IS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

## THE \$75.00 GIG



I moved to Calgary in 1993 to join a band. It was beyond exciting to move from the small town that I grew up in and immerse myself in the music scene of the big city. There was a sense of hope knowing that I could possibly make a living playing the keyboards!

Calgary was a hotbed of live venues back then and you could go see a band 7 days a week. I immediately started doing blues gigs around town and I was very pleased to find that the going rate to do a gig was 75.00 a night. There were plenty of "back three" (Thurs, Fri, Sat) weekend gigs to be had and even the occasional 6 night run. Work was abundant, and I could easily live and pay rent and doing what I loved.

It was a different time in 1993. The average apartment rental was 600 - 850.00, minimum wage was about 7.50 an hour and gas was around 50 cents a litre. The cost to live in Calgary was arguably half of what it is now! I reflect on how times have changed, except there is one thing that has not. Musicians are still playing for 75.00 dollars a night in the freelance community. I do not want to generalize, as I know that there are some players who work for amazing recording artists or event bands who pay great money but it is a fact that musicians working in the clubs are still being offered the 75.00 rate on a regular basis. This is the standard rate to provide 2 or 3 sets at some very well known music venues. I am sure I am not the only person who is surprised by this.

Musicians are still playing for the same rates that they were almost 30 years ago - while other wages, drinks and entree expenses have increased year after year. Is anyone else seeing something wrong with this picture?

This brings me back to a point from my article earlier this year;

Know Your Value - A successful career is built on what you say no to, not saying yes to everything and being

thankful for the "opportunity". Do not undersell yourself. You are a professional and what you do has value, so don't be afraid to expect more. Here is a scenario to consider .... If the live music community decided that 30 years warranted an increase in gig pay what would happen? If as a collective - we decided on a higher rate and refused to play for less would live music stop? I don't believe so. I believe it is worth a higher value, and worth collaborating with community to make necessary changes.

In my opinion it doesn't make sense for musicians to travel, pay for gas, parking etc. to only make 75.00 a night. A \$25+ ticket price to watch an amazing band is not unreasonable. This also includes private events, or during pandemic- roadside shows. To speak candidly, in my opinion- charging \$75 (or even less!) to provide a private performance, delivered to a doorstep, erodes the overall music community's ability to charge more than a rate that is 3 decades old.

Having said this, performers must step up as well, spend the time honing their craft and investing in their own marketing and business strategies. This needs to happen to raise the overall value - and support venues and the quality of musicianship in our community in exchange.

Perhaps stepping back and taking a break from live music, given the circumstances the community is facing amid the pandemic- is an opportunity. Perhaps with collaboration and consensus- musicians and venues can both healthily return to a vibrant scene - with a higher degree of value.

Ultimately we are stronger together. If we stand together we can invoke change. This is something as a community we need to talk about and I am hoping to start the conversation.

**MIKE LITTLE, PRESIDENT**  
mikelittleproducer@gmail.com

CALGARYMUSICIANSASSOCIATION MUSICALGARY EDITORS  
#5 - 606 Meredith Rd NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 5A8  
Doug Kuss/Karen Martin

TOLL FREE: 1.888.796.8742  
24 hr/fax 403.264.6610 / 261.0783  
info@calgarymusicians.org  
www.calgarymusicians.org  
ASSOCIATION HOURS  
9am - 4pm Monday-Friday

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
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www.ma-me-o.com miles@ma-me-o.com  
780-361-3684

## AFM'S JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT: ONLINE CONTENT MUST BE PROTECTED

The new reality of COVID-19 has seen more musicians offer their performances online as physical venues are shut down. But self-produced online content must still be protected, and AFM has developed the Joint Venture Agreement specifically for that purpose.

The Joint Venture Agreement evolved from AFM's "Bandstand Records" guidelines, which allow independent bands to self-produce their own recordings with key union protections when no wages are paid and in the absence of an employer. Originally developed for audio recordings, the Joint Venture Agreement now has a video component. This makes protecting self-produced online media a breeze for musicians.

"As gigging freelance musicians, we want to share our music in every way we can," says Nate Omdal of Local 76-493 (Seattle, WA). "As it becomes easier for all of us to put music online, it is even more important to have our work covered by a union contract. Even if we aren't getting paid today, who knows what will happen down the road? The Joint Venture Agreement protects everyone's contribution, whether they are a solo artist or part of a band."

Since Joint Venture Agreements are filed locally, it is important that local officers get the word out to their members. "This is a simple and straightforward agreement," explained AFM EMSD Director Pat Varriale. "It captures the basic information needed on a form that is part of the agreement itself to ensure that all musicians who perform will share in future sales or uses of the product, whether audio or video content."

Local 369 (Las Vegas, NV) members recently used the Joint Venture Agreement to stay united through music, even as the pandemic has silenced their traditional performance spaces. Members created their own "Musical Moments," which were then shared on social media.

To ensure the Joint Venture Agreement is used properly, AFM's Electronic Media Services Division has established the following guidelines:

- Recordings may be solicited for exhibition over the internet, as long as all musicians on the recording consent to that exhibition.
- The member(s) involved in the recording(s) must maintain control and ownership of the product.

The Joint Venture Agreement is the simplest of all AFM agreements, yet it offers vital protections to musicians who create their own media when that media is monetized later. You can find the Joint Venture Agreement in the Document Library on the AFM.org website or through your Local.

As we all well know, the live music industry has pretty much been destroyed for the moment and perhaps we could be at rock bottom. Online and recorded music is fine, but for me it pales in comparison to experiencing music live. This could also be the opportunity we've been looking for to rebuild the music industry in a fashion that truly represents and benefits musicians. That means a concerted effort on everyone's behalf as well as the work needed to bring that to fruition. That also means plenty of discussion, a plan and the labour that follows. I welcome your ideas.



I would draw your attention to some recent lobbying efforts by the AFM Canadian office. They've signed on to the Arts Basic Income initiative. The letter to the Federal government endorsed by 75,000 artists and arts organizations is in this newsletter or available at <https://cfmusicians.afm.org/news/75-000-canadian-artists-unite-it-s-time-for-a-basic-income> The Canadian office has also submitted a Federal pre-budget submission on behalf of the music community that is also summarized in the newsletter with the complete submission available at: <http://cfmusicians.org/uploads/file/2020.07.28%20-%20Pre-Budget%20Consultation%20Submissions.pdf>

The news release at: <https://cfmusicians.afm.org/news/written-submission-for-the-pre-budget-consultations>

The Canadian Conference of Locals will be held by Zoom teleconferencing on September 14, 16 and 18 at 11:30 a.m. Anyone who is interested in the abbreviated Conference should contact me prior to those dates for the meeting coordinates.

Stay tuned, stay well and stay engaged!!!

**DOUG KUSS, SECRETARY TREASURER**  
**info@calgarymusicians.org**  
**403.264.6610**

  
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 banff@wilderdavis.com www.wilderdavis.com



Leader	Location	Date	#Mscn
Karen Mackie Chris Morrison	Auburn Heights Seiors	Jun 19, Sep 17	2
	Lougheed House	Aug 15	5

The Local's allocation for the next fiscal year (May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021) is \$10,236.00, just about double from our allocation last year. Once we get the okay to present concerts, Requests for Project Funding (RFPF) will be accepted for the new MPTF allocation year. If you have a project that you think qualifies, please contact the Sec-Treasurer (S.T.) with the details and to submit requests. Requests are considered on a first come, first served basis and require proper timelines for approval. MPTF projects must be free and open to the public and will be funded at 100% of scale wages for approved projects until further notice.

MPTF now has 3 separate FUNDS available for access:

1. Regular Funding: these applications are made through the S.T. and are deducted from the Local's allocation.
  - a. You can apply for events such as Communities, Education, and Medical Facilities.
  - b. All of these are at 50% co-sponsorship.
2. MusicianFest: This program is for single musicians who perform in Seniors' facilities. These applications are made through the S.T. and are fully funded by MPTF. MPTF also requests a letter or email from the facility authorizing the performance and how the seniors would view the performance.  
<https://musicpf.org/musicianfest/>
3. Educational Initiative Program: You must submit a proposal first before being approved. Send proposals to the S.T. for processing. Please note that this MPTF fully funded program has limited resources and your proposal should include the following:
  - MISSION
  - NUMBER OF CONCERTS
  - AGE GROUP TARGET
  - ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS
  - NUMBER OF MUSICIANS
  - TYPE OF MUSIC
  - COST DETAILS (MUSICIANS, CARTAGE, ETC)
  - APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC
  - GOAL: WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO ACCOMPLISH FROM THIS PERFORMANCE?

<https://musicpf.org/music-in-schools/>

\*Important - MPTF needs promotional photos of your performances for their website and Facebook page.

welcome new  
members

► **Daniel Brown** (vla) – received his Bachelor of Music from the University of Michigan where he studied with Yizhak Schotten, and performed with the University Symphony Orchestra, including the recording of Milhaud's L'Orestie d'Eschyle Triology, nominated for a GRAMMY award. Further studies include a year at Stanford University, where he worked with the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Daniel has performed professionally with the Syracuse Symphony, Michigan Philharmonic, and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. As a student, he served as the principal violist of the Orford Academy Orchestra in 2013 and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada's international tour in 2011. In addition to performing, he teaches strings and Social Studies full time at William Aberhart High School.

## THERE IS MONEY IN MUSIC, LET MROC SHOW YOU WHERE

The Musicians' Rights Organization Canada (MROC) is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that distributes neighbouring rights and private copying royalties to musicians and vocalists. These royalties flow from the commercial use of sound recordings and are based on various tariffs approved by the Copyright Board of Canada.

PHONE: 416-510-0279  
TOLL FREE: 1-855-510-0279  
INFO@MUSICIANSRIGHTS.CA  
WWW.MUSICIANSRIGHTS.CA

@MROC\_CANADA

FACEBOOK.COM/MUSICIANSRIGHTSORGANIZATIONCANADA



## ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

On July 31, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced that it is now accepting applications for the Alberta Artist in Residence / Arts Ambassador grant program. [Read the news release.](#)

Alberta based artists are encouraged to apply to this grant program to become Alberta's Artist in Residence / Arts Ambassador for a one-year term.

Through this grant, the successful artist will:

- Work with communities across Alberta as an Arts Ambassador to promote the importance of Alberta artists and the arts.
- Communicate and share personal perspectives on the artistic process, the role of artists, and the contributions that artists make to Alberta.
- Act as an advocate for greater understanding of the realities of artists and the communities in which they work.
- Complete an art project that promotes the value of the arts in Alberta.

This program was introduced in 2019 and is unique in Canada. It is designed to showcase Alberta-based talent while raising awareness of the value and contributions of artists in the province.

### Quick facts

- Alberta's Artist in Residence will be announced in September, as part of Month of the Artist in the province.
- The selected artist will receive a grant of up to \$50,000 to support the art project and related activities.
- The program is open to artists that practice any artistic discipline.

The deadline to apply is **August 24, 2020 at 11:59:59 p.m.** The successful artist will be announced as part of Month of the Artist celebrations in September 2020.

To apply, and for rules and eligibility, visit the [Artist in Residence website.](#)

### Questions?

Connect with the Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Arts Branch:  
Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Phone: 780-427-6315(general)  
Phone: 780-289-3781(program staff)  
Toll free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta)  
Email: [artsbranch@gov.ab.ca](mailto:artsbranch@gov.ab.ca)

## CFM SUBMISSION FOR FEDERAL PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

- **Recommendation 1 (CERB):** That the government extend the CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit) until at least March 31, 2021, but preferably until all crowd prohibitions have been lifted and government allows live performance venues to reopen.

**OR:** That the government extend the CERB (as above) and restrict the extension to entertainment workers.

**AND:** That the government extend the CERB (under either of the above scenarios), and increase the \$1,000 monthly non-penalized earnings, with a gradual claw-back of benefits, rather than termination of the benefit if the maximum earnings are exceeded.

- **Recommendation 2 (UBI):** That the government implement a Universal Basic Income.
- **Recommendation 3 (EI Expansion):** That the government expand the Employment Insurance (EI) program to fully include the self-employed, both as contributors and recipients.
- **Recommendation 4 (EI Extension):** That the government extend EI Regular Benefits, on a temporary basis, past the maximum claim period by 4-week increments, until such time as government lifts all crowd prohibitions.
- **Recommendation 5 (RRSPs):** That the government allow Canadians with Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) accounts to make non-taxable, limited withdrawals and to repay these withdrawals over a defined period.

Respectfully,

Alan Willaert  
AFM Vice-President from Canada

Complete submission:

<https://cfmusicians.afm.org/uploads/file/2020.07.28%20-%20Pre-Budget%20Consultation%20Submissions.pdf>

News release: <https://cfmusicians.afm.org/news/written-submission-for-the-pre-budget-consultations>

## NEWS BITS

## 2020 GLOBAL MUSIC AWARD WINNER

Silver Medal Winner:

Best Album; Best Musical Group; Best Instrumentalist

**Johnny Summers** - "Baker's Dozen"**Egor Ukoloff, Kodi Hutchinson,  
Jamie Cooper, Karl Schwonik**

## 2020 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

Emerging Artists Award

**Carlos Foggin**

## YYC Music Award Nominees

## COUNTRY RECORDING OF THE YEAR

**Justine Vandergrift** - "Stay"

## BLUES RECORDING OF THE YEAR

**Devin Cooper** - "Going Down [feat. **The Flat Whites**]"

## INDUSTRY PERSON OF THE YEAR

**Pat McGannon**

## JAZZ RECORDING OF THE YEAR

**Deanne Matley** - "Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing"  
**Baritone Madness** - "Baritone Madness"

## SOLO ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**Devin Cooper** - "Going Down [Ft. **The Flat Whites**]"

## SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

**Justine Vandergrift** - "Stay"

## WORLD RECORDING OF THE YEAR

**Sandra Sutter** - "Burn-In-Me"

## VENUE/PRESENTOR OF THE YEAR

**JazzYYC**ZACKARIAH AND THE PROPHETS MEMORIAL  
AWARD**Sandra Sutter**

## GROUP OF THE YEAR

**Baritone Madness****Keith O'Rourke, Pat Belliveau, Gareth Bane,  
Kodi Hutchinson, Tyler Hornby**RICHARD COWIE SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARDED to JOSEPH MACHAK

The Calgary Musicians Association in partnership with JazzYYC have awarded the Richard Cowie memorial Scholarship to *Joseph Machak*.



Joseph is an up-and-coming trumpet player in Calgary, having graduated from Bishop Carroll High School last year. While he first picked up the instrument in junior high, Joseph first began to discover jazz when he joined his high school jazz program. From that point, Joseph would continue to develop his trumpet technique and understanding of jazz music through a multitude of musical opportunities. He has played with the Bishop Carroll Jazz Band, South City Jazz, the JazzyYYC Youth Lab Band, groups such as the Supersonic Hearts Band and The Rondel Roberts Band, as well as many performing small combos of his own and others. Joseph has also studied under André Wickenheiser, a very prominent trumpeter, composer and arranger in Calgary, and attended Ambrose University's annual Jazz Camp, allowing him to take part in masterclasses put on by trumpeters Jon Day, Greg Bush, and André Wickenheiser. Joseph will be starting a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance at McGill University this fall, and will be putting this scholarship towards his studies.

*Congratulations!*

## Life Membership

was recently awarded to Tom Mirhady,  
Jim Howells, Laurie Syer and Tom Megee.

## 25/50 Year Receptients:

50 Year - John Kadz and John Reid.

25 Year - Steve Foster, Tariq Hussain,  
Kodi Hutchinson, Tisha Murvihill and Samantha  
Whelan Kotkas.

## 2020 - 2021 ANNUAL DUES AND WD BUYOUT

(Sep.1/20 - Aug.31/21)

Regular member \$195.00  
Life Member \$97.50

*Annual Dues and Life Membership dues must be remitted with your Work Dues Buyout payment prior to Sep. 30, 2020.*

Visa/Visa debit/MasterCard/MasterCard debit

WDB (Work Dues Buyout) form can be obtained at [www.calgarymusicians.org/membership/fees](http://www.calgarymusicians.org/membership/fees)

### NEED TO WITHDRAW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Then you need to 'RESIGN IN GOOD STANDING'. Resignations require a letter or email to the office prior to Sep. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. [info@calgarymusicians.org](mailto:info@calgarymusicians.org)



## When your show is live, anything can happen.

### Insurance for professional musicians

- Equipment Coverage
- Liability

### For CFM Members

**Cristina Omar**  
Tel: 519-325-1785  
Toll: 1-800-463-4700  
[cristina.omar@hubinternational.com](mailto:cristina.omar@hubinternational.com)

[hubinternational.com](http://hubinternational.com)



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## CALGARY MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION WORK DUES DECLARATION

This declaration is based on the number of engagements/ services you performed in our jurisdiction (Red Deer to US border) during the past fiscal year (Sep. 1/19 - Aug. 31/20) under any of the following Sections of the Association's Tariff of Fees:

Section 2 (Casual), 4 (Steady), 12 (General Band Engagements), 13 (Sports Events) and 14 (Music Preparation)

It is considered a formal location report for the fiscal year Sep. 1/20 - Aug. 31/21 and will cover your individual work dues payment under those Sections listed above.

### CHECK THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY THAT APPLIES TO YOU:

0 -10 engagements	\$8.40
11 - 20 engagements	\$25.20
21 - 40 engagements	\$50.40
41 - 60 engagements	\$84.00
61 - 80 engagements	\$117.60
81 - 100 engagements	\$151.20
101 - 120 engagements	\$184.80
121 - 140 engagements	\$218.40
141 - 160 engagements	\$252.00

name (print)

Signature

Date

**NB – Even if you DID NOT PERFORM over the past year in the jurisdiction, the payment is \$8.40 (0-10)**

Include this payment in addition to the Dues statement enclosed. Payment options include Visa, Mastercard (Interac-in office only). For payment arrangements please contact the office.

If you need assistance with the form, and reside outside of Calgary, please contact us at our toll free line 1-888-79-MUSIC (796-8742)

email [info@calgarymusicians.org](mailto:info@calgarymusicians.org)

## USCIS - P & O VISA FEE INCREASE

**United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has implemented fee increases and other changes effective October 2, 2020.** These increases have gone through despite AFM's vast lobbying in opposition to these amendments, the potential of which was announced by USCIS in December 2019.

The new fee for a P2 (and all categories of P Visa) will be \$695 USD, and \$705 USD for O Visas. At this time, the recommended processing time is still 60 calendar days.

The Premium Processing fee of \$1440 remains unchanged, but the processing time has increased from 15 calendar days to 15 business days.

In addition to the fee increase, there is now a 25-person cap per petition. Therefore, large touring ensembles and orchestras comprised of more than 25 performers will be required to file more than one petition, along with the appropriate per petition fee.

**Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 29th is the DEADLINE to apply under CURRENT FEE (\$460 USD).**

USCIS did issue responses to the various lobbying efforts in opposition to the above changes. In summation, USCIS has stated that while they do not wish to unduly place financial and other constraints on performing arts workers, they cannot provide preferential treatment to one sector, which would place additional burdens upon other sectors as a result. With respect to the O Visa now carrying a higher fee than the P Visas, and capping the number of musicians, the USCIS response is O Visas and large entourages, respectively, require more time and resources to process.

In spite of these recent changes, the AFM maintains its commitment to continued lobbying efforts to implement improvements benefiting musicians and all arts & culture workers.

For more detailed information, please email Liana White [lwhite@afm.org](mailto:lwhite@afm.org) with questions on the fee & administrative changes.

<https://cfmusicians.afm.org/news/uscis-p-and-o-visa-fee-increases>

<https://cfmusicians.afm.org/services/work-permits>



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## NEW MEMBERS

BROWN, Daniel .....viola/violin  
 TENNANT, Chris .....drums/piano/producer/voc

## REINSTATED

MACKIE, Karen .....vocalist

## COVID-19 Resources

For a complete list of resources visit <http://calgarymusicians.org/covid-19-updates/>

### Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

This temporary income support applies to most of our freelance musicians even if you still make small amounts of income (<\$1000/month). CERB provides \$500 per week for a maximum of 16 weeks and is available from March 15, 2020, to October 3, 2020. You can apply no later than December 2, 2020 for payments retroactive to within that period. Check the website for more details.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html> or

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

### Stan Brown Benevolent Fund

The CMA Executive has approved grants of \$200/member to cover necessities such as food and rent during these unprecedented times. These emergency grants are accessible by making a one paragraph application stating your need to Chairman Dick Worton at [dworton@telusplanet.net](mailto:dworton@telusplanet.net) or call 403-239-7807. Applications are strictly confidential.

### Actors' Fund of Canada

Over the years many of our members have turned to the Actors' Fund of Canada, which has been in existence since 1958 and disburses over \$500,000 annually to cover necessities for members of all the many and various trades and professions that make up the entertainment industry, including musicians.

Common requests include:

- Rent or mortgage
- Grocery costs
- Medical costs
- Emergency dental costs
- Utility bills
- Dues (maximum of one year's worth of dues; no initiation fees)
- Childcare expenses

<https://www.afchelps.ca/get-help/> or <https://www.afchelps.ca/covid-19-guide/>

### Unison Benevolent Fund

This Fund is an assistance program created and administered for the music community, by the music community. Unison is designed to provide discreet relief to music industry personnel in times of personal hardship and crisis. [www.unisonfund.ca](http://www.unisonfund.ca)



# CVMI

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