

# FAQ

**1. What happened? What brought about this decision, especially after the successful GoFundMe was announced?**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank once again the GoFundMe donors that helped us fill an immediate need. Your generous gifts helped to bridge the gap to allow work to continue in the short term, but it just isn't enough to support LWR to become sustainable. Given the changes in funding over the past few years, there are no guarantees that we will be able to raise enough sustainable funding to be able to continue this work.

**2. Doesn't Leadership Waterloo Region have a reserve fund?**

Leadership Waterloo Region used all of its working capital with the restructuring of the leadership at LWR approximately five years ago. When Diane Wiles and Bethan Llewellyn joined as CEO and Director, Marketing & Operations in late 2018 they did tremendous work redesigning the program, reconnecting with our alumni, getting past supporters back on board and bringing new sponsors in.

Cash flow was tight but was getting better until COVID struck. Diane and Bethan were creative and innovative in ensuring the Core Program participants had a rewarding virtual experience for two years of COVID. In September 2022 staff and board felt we had been through the worst of it and prepared to run the first relatively normal program in two years. Cash flow was workable and the future was bright. As it turned out, the effects of COVID were not behind us. Unfortunately, sustainable funding which would continue to support our program has not been achievable.

**3. What does this mean for Leadership Waterloo Region Staff?**

Staff will remain with LWR in various full and part-time capacities until June 30, 2023.

**4. What does this mean for the Class of 2023?**

The Board and Staff are committed to completing the Core Program Class of 2023.

**5. What does this mean for the legacy of Leadership Waterloo Region?**

In addition to the impact our alumni have had and will continue to have across our community. The last four Core Program years have focused on developing prototype solutions to tackle affordable housing. The 16 solutions already developed, along with the five in development this year, will remain available to the community as a resource.

There are a number of ways that the Board and Staff are looking into to honour the 23-year legacy of LWR. If you'd like to be a part of this conversation, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to [board@leadershipwr.org](mailto:board@leadershipwr.org).

# FAQ continued...

**6. Will Leadership Waterloo Region come back?**

Unfortunately, the current model for Leadership Waterloo Region is not sustainable and cannot continue in its current iteration.

**7. What can we do to help?**

Please stay in touch! We have some ideas on how to stay connected, and we'll share more over the next little while about what that could look like.