



April 10, 2017

Hillary Hartley, Chief Digital Strategist
% Zeena Abdulla, Head, Digital Government
Cabinet Office
Whitney Block Rm 1619, 99 Wellesley St
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via email: zeena.abdulla@ontario.ca

Dear Ms. Hartley,

We are writing to congratulate and welcome you to your new role as Ontario's Chief Digital Strategist. We also would like to request a meeting to share information, learn more about your priorities and identify opportunities to work together.

The Ontario Nonprofit Network's (ONN) vision is to support thriving communities and a dynamic province through a strong and resilient nonprofit sector. ONN is the independent nonprofit network for the 55,000 nonprofits and charities in Ontario focused on policy, advocacy, and services to strengthen Ontario's nonprofit sector as a key pillar of our society and economy.

ONN works to create a public policy environment that allows nonprofits and charities to thrive. We engage our network of diverse nonprofit organizations across Ontario to work together on issues affecting the sector and channel the voices of our network to government, funders, and other stakeholders.

Data matters to the nonprofit sector and the communities we serve. Recent opportunities that have emerged as a result of more access to data, more collaboration in using data and advances in technology to collect data means there is greater potential than ever to better understand how we work and gain deeper insights into how we can improve the programs and services that benefit people and communities.

In our work, this has meant doing some early thinking on the issues of importance to Ontario nonprofits regarding how to better access and use data for the public benefit. In 2015, we put out a report called [Towards a Data Strategy for the Ontario Nonprofit Sector](#). This report identifies three principles for data use in the sector: effective use; responsible use; and for public benefit (not for profit). It also identifies four essential components of a data strategy that focuses on the need for: standards; policy; skills and resources; and leadership.

Our role as an active convener is to work with many stakeholders in the nonprofit sector, as well as colleagues in government and the private sector, to help identify how we can move forward on developing this strategy. For example, we have hosted sessions at our annual conferences related to better data and research on the sector, creating a community practice around using data and [social innovation and government administrative data](#), among others.

We have also been supportive of the open government movement. In February 2016, we wrote a letter in support of Ontario joining the Open Government Partnership's pilot program. As we noted then, we have heard strong support from our Open Data colleagues about the OGP initiative and are supportive of Ontario's ongoing efforts to open up its data.

We continue to play a role in sharing relevant information with the nonprofit sector as well as participating in initiatives to help strengthen data access and use in the sector such as participating in consultations and convening stakeholders.

We believe that there is much work to do to support Ontario's nonprofit sector in its efforts to develop and implement a data strategy and digital solutions that will ensure the services and programs we provide to Ontarians, often on behalf of government, are effective, innovative and responsive.

We look forward to working with you and your team and look forward to meeting at your earliest convenience. Our best wishes in your new role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" being more prominent than the last name "Taylor".

Cathy Taylor
Executive Director