ONN SNAPSHOTS
2016-2017
A look at what we accomplished, together
With an election year coming up, it’s more important than ever for the nonprofit sector to champion the vital role the sector plays for people, the environment and communities.

Let’s not be humble. We are facing complex changes in Ontario and the rest of the country, and the sector is the launching pad for connecting, mobilizing and creating positive change.

Join ONN in actively promoting the work we all do- from frontline services, advocacy, research, policy and leadership- to create welcoming and vibrant communities in Ontario.

MARG STANOWSKI
CHAIR, ONN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
10 YEARS

THIS YEAR, ONN CELEBRATES THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR GRASSROOTS BEGINNINGS AND KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATIONS.

We first set up shop with one research fellow and an idea to create a provincial network focused on public policy that would support nonprofits and charities in Ontario.

What does success look like to ONN? We know it's a long game. Guided by our first ever strategic plan, we have our sights focused on three key areas to strengthen the nonprofit sector.
2017-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR PEOPLE
Strengthen and support the nonprofit sector labour force and its diverse and active volunteer base.
This will result in the mobilization of a decent work movement in the sector.

OUR FINANCING
Catalyze improvements in the nonprofit sector’s funding environment: through reforming the sector’s investment relationship with government and removing barriers for nonprofits to earn income.

OUR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT
Ensure the sector’s legal frameworks-policy, legislation, and regulation - support and empower the sector’s work.
ONN
2016-2017
POLICY
HIGHLIGHTS
OUR PEOPLE

Released our roadmap for a sector-wide plan to improve the retirement income security of workers and strengthen the ability of nonprofit employers to recruit and retain staff. Using the new criteria to research existing plans and explore the potential for a custom-made plan.

Continued to lead a decent work movement across the sector- and national borders. Showcased promising practices to inspire more organizations to put decent work into practice. Joined the Better Way Alliance, a national group of employers advocating for decent work, generating media hits and increased awareness of the sector as a leading employer. Advocated for funding reform with government to enact upcoming labour legislation.

Secured funding for a three-year project to identify barriers to women workers’ empowerment and prosperity in the sector and develop and implement pilot solutions to address these barriers at the organization, network and policy levels.

Year three of the fellowship launched with six writing fellows exploring intergenerational leadership in the nonprofit sector, writing articles for a series in The Philanthropist.
OUR FUNDING

TRANSFER PAYMENT ADMIN MODERNIZATION

Continued to advocate for and share updates and feedback on the “common registration” process being rolled out for provincially-funded nonprofits, resulting in upgrades to the Grants Ontario portal.

FUNDING REFORM

Continued to push for implementation of our shared Vision 2020 document with the Ontario government, including a recommendation in our pre-budget submission to tie increases in transfer payment agreement levels to the cost of living.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BUDGET

Pre-budget submission quoted 4 times in the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs report. Ontario Trillium Foundation’s base budget restored by $25 million; labour market info included in a ministerial mandate letter. Asked for decent work to be part of government funding agreements and commitment to multi-year funding & increased resources for the sector to provide decent work as employers.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS

Created a policy framework with Community Benefits Ontario to advocate for the Ontario government to animate its commitment to apply a community benefits principle to new infrastructure projects. The framework got a mention in the Ontario Budget and community benefit agreements were included in a minister’s mandate letter.
OUR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

ONTARIO NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS ACT

Advocacy continued on our founding issue to get this key legislation passed and provide a modern framework for the sector to work under.

NONPROFITS ROLE IN DEMOCRACY

Advocated for the sector not to be inadvertently caught up in 3 provincial bills that would force nonprofits to register as lobbyists or 3rd-party pre-election advertisers. Successfully intervened on the Municipal Modernization Act (3rd-party advertising) to exempt nonprofits from registration rules and continue to engage in nonpartisan policy advocacy during municipal campaigns.

ANTI-SPAM WIN

Made a joint submission with Imagine Canada urging a delay in proclamation of private right of action provisions of this federal law. The federal government suspended the provisions indefinitely and there will be a three year review of the legislation.
EVALUATION

Continued engagement of the sector and the evaluation community led to use of ONN’s work across North America and internationally. Released a position paper for changes to the evaluation ecosystem to make it more efficient and rewarding for nonprofits and funders to invest in evaluation, plus more resources to support sector driven evaluation.

BUYING BETTER: PURCHASING PROGRAM

Launched two more province-wide supports for the sector: an employee benefits program and an office supplies program, increasing cost savings for organizations and putting the sector’s significant group buying power further into action.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SECTOR

Created a how-to guide for government to engage and consult the sector better, including opportunities to consult the sector throughout the policy and program cycle, and principles of engagement.
SUPPORTING NETWORKED ADVOCACY
"ONN" THE ROAD: REGIONAL MEETINGS

Connected to the sector in Barrie, Chatham-Kent, Hamilton, Newmarket, Peel, Peterborough, Sarnia and Thunder Bay, sharing public policy issues and updates affecting nonprofits, and learning about what issues and opportunities are top of mind in these communities.

NONPROFIT NETWORKS

Continued to support existing networks and development of local nonprofit networks, including the Toronto Nonprofit Network, Chatham-Kent Nonprofit Network and Pillar Nonprofit Network.
ONN AND NETWORK MILESTONES
STRATEGIC PLAN

3 priorities and 12 strategies to drive our work and strengthen Ontario's nonprofit sector

Priority 1: Advocate for an enabling public policy environment so nonprofits can thrive.

Priority 2: Champion the nonprofit sector’s value and influence to strengthen its social and economic impact.

Priority 3: Increase engagement and diversity of ONN’s network to strengthen it and positively influence public policy.
MEDIA COVERAGE

Increased awareness of our policy work and issues and opportunities for the sector with features in various media outlets:

The Globe and Mail, NOW Magazine, Policy Options, Queen’s Park Today, Chatham Daily News, The Philanthropist, and Charity Village
ONN METRICS

20,000+
REACH

7,500
SUBSCRIBERS

12,500+
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

500+
ACTIVE ONN MEMBERS

1,500
PARTICIPANTS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WEBINARS, EVENTS
Pension Plan Roadmap
For Ontario’s Nonprofit Sector

Learning Together: FIVE IMPORTANT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS to make EVALUATION USEFUL

Patients First Act (Bill 41)

Decent work for women working in Ontario's nonprofit sector

10 things Nonprofits want funders to know

ONN’s 4 Bold Recommendations

Making #DecentWork Promising practices
THANK YOU TO
OUR 2016- 2017 LEADERS

Our Board of Directors
Michelle Baldwin, Robin Cardozo (Vice-Chair), Maureen Fair, Peter Honeywell, Mwarigha Muliwa, Timothy Nash, Marg Stanowski (Chair), Gina Uppal

Our Policy Committee
Rob Howarth (Chair), Pat Bradley (Vice-Chair), Jini Stolk, Jennifer Holmes-Weier, Peter Frampton, Margaret Hancock, Sharad Kerur, Deborah Simon, Frances Wilbur, Sean Meagher, Sudip Minhas, Brad Saunders, Diane Davy, Bill Sinclair, Ryan Noble, Peter Cameron, Marg Stanowski (ex officio)

Our advisory committees and working groups
Connect The Sector, Evaluation Advisory Committee, Joint Funding Reform Forum, Leadership Competencies Advisory Group, ONN network of partners on community benefits, Pensions Task Force, Purchasing Program Advisory Committee
Shared Platform Advisors

Our staff
Kate Browning, Lynn Eakin, Kim Gignac, Monina Febria Mindy Gordon (volunteer), Ben Liadsky, Sarah Matsushita, Tara Mazurk Amisha Shah, Liz Sutherland, Cathy Taylor
THANK YOU TO

OUR SUPPORTERS

Our funders and Connectors help us mobilize policy and advocacy action to connect the sector, government, and the communities we serve.

ONN PROJECT FUNDERS

The generous funders who provide ONN with the support we need to get our work done.
ONN CONNECTORS

A special group of forward-thinking leaders committed to a strong and resilient nonprofit sector in Ontario.
This is your network. We couldn't do this work without you.

Thank you!

Audited statements available on our website

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