



ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services
Office of the Minister of Government and Consumer Services
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
By email: lm.thompson@ontario.ca

July 24, 2019

Dear Minister Thompson:

On behalf of the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN), we are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as the Minister of Government and Consumer Services. We look forward to working with you to support and strengthen communities across the province.

The ONN is the independent nonprofit network for the 58,000 nonprofits and charities in Ontario, focused on policy, advocacy and services to strengthen the sector as a key pillar of our society and economy. We work to create a public policy environment that allows nonprofits 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.

As you may know, Ontario's nonprofit sector plays a vital role as an economic driver, contributing \$50 billion to our province's GDP. As a sector, Ontario nonprofits receive less than half of their revenues from governments, which means they can leverage public investments - via business activities, donations, and the contributions of volunteers - into significantly higher value in the services they deliver to Ontarians, all while creating jobs locally. The nonprofit sector is positioned to support the Ontario government to build a stronger economy and a resilient province. Working together, we can deliver real change.

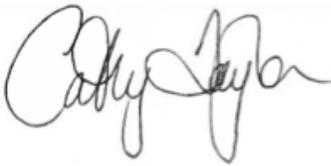
We look forward to speaking with you about the scheduled 2020 proclamation of the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). We are interested particularly in ensuring that 1) nonprofits have the information and tools they need to comply with the Act, 2) that a robust online tool is developed for registering as a not-for-profit corporation through Service Ontario, and that 3) the data from this registry is open data. ONCA is very much needed to support Ontario's nonprofit and charitable organizations to build vibrant, strong, and prosperous communities across the province.

There are also opportunities to leverage the existing [Nonprofit Lands Registry](#) to make surplus public land available for nonprofit community groups to purchase in advance of going on the open market. As part of the Ontario Realty Directive, government ministries and eligible nonprofits have access to surplus properties for public use. Nonprofits access those properties through the Nonprofit Lands Registry. However in some cases, these lands are not always made available on the registry as some ministries and broader public sector organizations have their own internal processes, which limits availability and nonprofits access.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how ONN and our network can act as a partner to government in preparing for proclamation and implementation of ONCA and in improving the Nonprofit Lands Registry.

We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

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
Ontario Nonprofit Network

Copy to: The Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure, c/o Gary Rygus via
gary.rygus@ontario.ca