



ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Office of the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
College Park 18th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5
By email: MEDJCT.Minister@ontario.ca

July 24, 2019

Dear Minister Fedeli:

On behalf of the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN), we are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. We look forward to continue working with you in your new role to support and strengthen Ontarians 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.

Nonprofit social enterprise is one of many avenues for entrepreneurs to innovate, while creating livelihoods for people and contributing to the economy. There are approximately 10,000 social enterprises in Ontario, operating in the fields such as inclusive employment, education, health, and environmental sustainability. Nonprofits are part of a strong economy for the future. There are opportunities to work together to help nonprofits serving the public benefit to diversify their revenues and scale up their contributions to the economy.

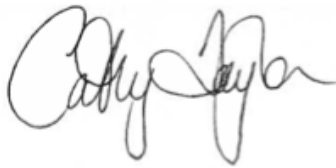
By promoting social enterprises to investors, governments, and communities; creating opportunities for social enterprise development; and strategically deploying social value procurement (i.e., public purchasing that takes a broader "best value" approach), your policies can

enable the nonprofit sector to be “open for business.” An enabling policy environment for nonprofit social enterprise pays for itself with increased economic activity and reduced reliance on public assistance for marginalized workers.

There are also opportunities to partner with your Ministry and Statistics Canada on measuring the economic contributions of the nonprofit sector to Ontario. There is very little economic impact data on the Ontario nonprofit sector, and this is a critical gap that can be addressed by working together. Building robust data on the economic contributions of nonprofits would facilitate further economic development and impact investment in our sector.

We would like to meet with you and your staff to discuss opportunities to improve the policy environment for nonprofit social enterprise as a critical component of economic development in our province. We look forward to hearing from 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 larger and more prominent than the last name "Taylor".

Cathy Taylor
Executive Director
Ontario Nonprofit Network

Copy to: The Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, via
Minister.Smith@ontario.ca