

ONN Engagement in Social Enterprise

The field of social enterprise is rich, diverse, and growing at a fast pace. A confluence of factors, political, social, and financial, make social enterprise a game-changer for the nonprofit sector in Ontario. We recognize there are many other active players in the space, many who have been leading social enterprise work for decades. This document is a chance to share how the Ontario Nonprofit Network is engaging and where might we be headed.

To date, ONN has released the Social Finance Census 2010, a joint report with the Social Venture Exchange. This is the first report of its kind, as it draws an initial picture of the social venture sector by considering both for- and non-profit players in the social venture sector in Ontario, and examining both capital and regulatory aspects of the field. Following the release of this report, the ONN has been in touch with research groups across the country to coordinate efforts to understand and support the growing social enterprise field. At the same time, report findings have informed our related work in social finance, including work around relevant legislation, community bonds, and making loans accessible for nonprofits.

So where from here?

- 1) If needed, we'd like to support Ontario-wide coordination. If other groups are taking the lead, we can support with a lighter touch just by putting newsletters out and staying in the loop. If it is needed, we can assist to convene.
- 2) We're interested in creating an enabling environment for Social Enterprise, as it is a tool to strengthen the sector, and we are active in the following areas: convening key sector players to address the CRA's current position on 'no profits for nonprofits' and related audit activity that threaten to seriously impact social enterprise organizations in the province; advocating for sector-wide access to loans from Infrastructure Ontario which would significantly open the playing field, and working to influence and mitigate the negative aspects of the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act scheduled to be proclaimed in 2012. We have also identified a need for a trusted, accessible intermediary body for supporting alternative financing methods in the sector.
- 3) We are interested in ensuring that Social Enterprise has clear public benefit. As organizations look to re-balance income streams and consider returning to revenue generation as a way to meet mission, it is important that nonprofits continue to have a way to protect assets for the public good. The asset lock considerations in Bill 65, and for Community Bonds, are two places this arises.
- 4) We're also interested in education and accessibility around Social Enterprise for nonprofits and charities across the sector and province. We'd like to support and coordinate with other organizations who are active in this space, and if gaps arise, find ways to fill them.
- 5) Finally we are interested in supporting research to bolster effective policy and action in this area. Our policy work will be stronger and more useful if closely linked with the work of others in the space.

And **what else is out there?**

Here's an initial list of some key organizations working in the space in Ontario. **It is not complete**: the list is growing and additions are welcome!

[The Canadian Economic Development Network](#)

[The Centre for Social Innovation](#)

[The Community Opportunity & Innovation Network Peterborough](#)

[The Collaborative for Innovative Social Enterprise Development](#)

[Enterprising Nonprofits](#)

[The Ontario Co-operative Association](#)

[The Ontario Nonprofit Network](#)

[The Ontario Social Economy Roundtable](#)

[MaRS Discovery District](#)

[Pillar Nonprofit Network](#)

[Rural Social Enterprise Project](#), incl. [Foundation for Rural Living](#), [Eko Nomos](#), [C. Lang Consulting](#)

[Social Economy Centre](#)

[Social Enterprise Council of Canada](#)

[SocialFinance.ca](#)

[Social Innovation Generation](#)

[Social Purpose Enterprise Network](#)

[The Social Venture Exchange](#)

[The Toronto Enterprise Fund](#)

[Young Social Entrepreneurs of Canada](#)

Contact Us

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