

## All Party Co-op Caucus Meeting

### *March 22 - event report*

Meeting No. 4

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

**07:45 a.m. to 09:00 a.m.**

Legislative Dining Room

1. **Marie-France Lalonde** MPP (Ottawa—Orléans), Chief Government Whip, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and to the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, chaired the meeting.
2. **Simone Swail** (Co-operative Housing Federation) introduced invited Guests:
  - 1) **Mark Ventry**, Executive Director, Ontario Co-operative Association (On Co-op)
  - 2) **Julien Geremie**, Director of Development, Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO)
  - 3) **Kevin Bowman**, The Boardroom – Guelph's Game Café
  - 4) **Zahirah Atchia**, CHOQ-FM 105.1 La radio des francophones de Toronto
3. The Chair recognized the MPPs in attendance:

| First Name    | Last Name        | Riding                      | Party | Role   |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--|
| <b>Ann</b>    | <b>Hoggarth</b>  | Barrie                      | LIB   | Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour                                  |
| <b>Arthur</b> | <b>Potts</b>     | Beaches—East York           | LIB   | Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs     |
| <b>Bob</b>    | <b>Bailey</b>    | Sarnia—Lambton              | PC    | Deputy Whip, PC Democratic and Senate Reform, and Intergovernmental Affairs Critic |
| <b>Daiene</b> | <b>Vernile</b>   | Kitchener Centre            | LIB   | Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Research and Innovation                 |
| <b>Ernie</b>  | <b>Hardeman</b>  | Oxford                      | PC    | PC Municipal Affairs and Housing Critic  |
| <b>John</b>   | <b>Yakabuski</b> | Renfrew—Nipissing--Pembroke | PC    | Chief Whip   |

| <b>First Name</b>   | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Riding</b>                    | <b>Party</b> | <b>Role</b>   |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <b>Julia</b>        | <b>Munro</b>     | York—Simcoe                      | PC           | PC Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction Strategy, and Associate Minister of Finance (Ontario Pension Plan) Critic   |
| <b>Kathryn</b>      | <b>McGarry</b>   | Cambridge                        | LIB          | Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation   |
| <b>Laura</b>        | <b>Albanese</b>  | York South—Weston                | LIB          | Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance  |
| <b>Laurie</b>       | <b>Scott</b>     | Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes--Brock | PC           | Deputy House Leader, and Citizenship, Immigration, International Trade, and Women's Issues Critic   |
| <b>Lorne</b>        | <b>Coe</b>       | Whitby—Oshawa                    | PC           | PC Education and Training, Colleges and Universities Critic   |
| <b>Lou</b>          | <b>Rinaldi</b>   | Northumberland—Quinte West       | LIB          | Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  |
| <b>Marie-France</b> | <b>Lalonde</b>   | Ottawa—Orleans                   | LIB          | Chief Government Whip, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and to the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure |
| <b>Michael</b>      | <b>Mantha</b>    | Algoma—Manitoulin                | NDP          | Northern Development and Mines Critic   |
|                     |                  |                                  |              |   |

| First Name | Last Name  | Riding                     | Party | Role  |
|------------|------------|----------------------------|-------|---|
| Norm       | Miller     | Parry Sound—Muskoka        | PC    | PC Deputy Whip and Northern Development and Mines and Aboriginal Affairs Critic |
| Paul       | Miller     | Hamilton East—Stoney Creek | NDP   | NDP Critic for Tourism, Culture and Sport                                       |
| Percy      | Hatfield   | Windsor—Tecumseth          | NDP   | Municipal Affairs and Housing Critic  |
| Randy      | Pettapiece | Perth—Wellington           | PC    | PC Community, Social Services, and Seniors' Issues Critic                       |
| Sophie     | Kiwala     | Kingston and the Islands   | LIB   | Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport           |
| Ted        | Arnott     | Wellington—Halton Hills    | PC    | PC Labour Critic  |
| Teresa     | Armstrong  | London--Fanshawe           | NDP   | Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade and Seniors' Affairs Critic    |
| Todd       | Smith      | Prince Edward--Hastings    | PC    | PC Hydro One Sale Critic  |

4. The Chair provided brief remarks on topics to be covered by the presenters:

- 1) General overview of Ontario Co-operative Association (On Co-op) and Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO)
- 2) Three key goals On Co-op and CCO would like to achieve
- 3) Outline next steps and define ongoing initiatives

5. The Chair invited the guest speakers to present their initiatives:

- 1) **Mark Ventry**, Executive Director, On Co-op introduced On Co-ops by providing a brief overview. Mr. Ventry noted that co-ops provide opportunities for various sectors—

renewable energy, transportation, and immigration, for example. He also outlined three areas of legislation co-ops would like to change.

- 2) **Julien Geremie**, Director of Development, CCO discussed the important role CCO plays in Ontario's economy. Mr. Geremie spoke about co-op conversions – a trend that shows businesses close to retirement transitioning to the co-op model. He also outlined three changes that need to occur around co-ops: a shift to MEDEI, implementation of Service Ontario for the incorporation of co-ops, and the need to see changes to co-operative legislation.
- 3) **Kevin Bowman**, The Boardroom, Guelph's Game Café, outlined the benefits of worker co-ops and argued that co-ops are an accountable and responsible business structure. He also stressed the economic benefits of co-ops for the community, given that profit is not the primary objective—rather to provide **quality employment**.
- 4) **Zaahirah Atchia**, CHOQ-FM 105.1 La radio des francophones de Toronto discussed the strong relationship between the community and co-ops. CHOQ-FM aims to promote local Canadian talent, and community access of programming to reach diverse groups across the GTA. They are aligned with CCO and are working towards building stronger support for the co-op movement.

## 6. Open floor

The Chair provided an opportunity for participants to share their thoughts on moving the co-op agenda forward. Notable statements made were:

1. The co-op model should be used where urban agriculture projects are supported as the community can help increase food sales.
2. There was a strong push along the theme of the need for co-ops to be moved away from FSCO and into MEDEI for a more streamlined and efficient process.
3. Because co-ops are socially based organizations, they need government support to strengthen relationships.
4. MPPs should act to submit a letter to appropriate ministries to keep the momentum going.
5. It is important to highlight why co-ops are just like any other corporation (not to solely prioritize how they are different).

6. The Chair thanked all invited guests and MPPs for their participation.

-End-