

For Immediate Release

On Co-op launches fifth cohort of Fundamentals of Co-operative Organizations program

Guelph ON. October 17, 2016. The [Ontario Co-operative Association](#) (On Co-op), in partnership with the [Schulich School of Business](#), York University, has officially opened the next cohort of its “Fundamentals of Co-operative Organizations” [Certificate Program](#) (FCO).

The program is designed for those who are working in, governing, managing or developing co-operatives or credit unions, and equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to lead their organizations and capitalize on the co-operative difference.

Brenda Gainer, Director of the Social Sector Management Program at the Schulich School of Business, adds: *“We teach practical and transferable management and leadership skills, and we deal with context-specific challenges that are unique to the co-op sector.”* Those interested in co-ops, co-operative leadership and those not based in Ontario will also find value in the program.

Crystal McNerney, graduate of the fall 2016 cohort, comments that the learning she did in the course blew her mind, and made her analyze co-operative enterprises from a more critical perspective - a departure from her usual role as a co-op “cheerleader”. Other graduates valued the opportunity to learn from leading scholars, co-op executives, and peers from across the sector.

The FCO program is being offered part-time over a 10-week period, from January 12 until March 25, 2017 and [applications](#) are being accepted until December 31, 2016. The sessions are designed to fit into a working professional’s busy schedule: three intensive in-person seminars are held at the corporate offices of [Alterna Savings](#) in Toronto, complimented by six evening webinars conducted online. All sessions are taught by leading scholars, and feature interactive discussions with co-op executives.

Erin Morgan, Executive Director of On Co-op, reminds us that *“it is by collaborating together as peers, and fostering network connectivity, that the co-op sector becomes a movement. Programs like this strengthen co-operative organizations, and grow the social economy.”*

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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To learn more about the “Fundamentals of Co-operative Organizations Certificate Program,” visit us [ONLINE](#) or view the [Program brochure](#).

The Ontario Co-operative Association believes that co-operatives build a better world. We are the trade association and capacity-building organization that develops, engages, educates and advocates for Ontario’s 1,300 co-operative businesses. On Co-op is an information and resources network with a mission to *lead, cultivate and connect co-operatives*. Visit www.ontario.coop. facebook.com/oncoop. twitter.com/ontariocoops.