

## For Immediate Release

### **\$6,000 in bursaries available to small and recently incorporated co-operatives**

**Guelph ON. November 10, 2016.** The Ontario Co-operative Association (On Co-op) is offering education bursaries from \$500 to \$1,000 for working groups seeking to create a co-operative, recently incorporated co-operatives that are 0 - 5 years old, or to existing small co-operatives.

The bursaries will allow these groups to take the Fundamentals of Co-operative Organizations (FCO) certificate program offered by On Co-op in partnership with the [Schulich School of Business](#), York University. The FCO Program is a 10-week course that facilitates co-op leadership and development. The course provides staff, managers and board members from co-operatives and credit unions across Canada with practical and transferable co-operative knowledge, and teaches contemporary and innovative solutions to prevailing sector issues.

Existing and emerging co-operatives may additionally [apply](#) to On Co-op to become a member, which will provide co-ops with up to an additional \$600 discount on FCO tuition, while granting them access to specialized On Co-op member benefits and additional co-operative development support. Payment plans are also available.

Full details are available on our [website](#), or by viewing the [program brochure](#). The application deadline is December 31, 2016.

Bursary Funds are generously provided by a grant from the [CHS Foundation](#). The CHS Foundation is funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative and a global energy, grains and foods company.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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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](http://www.ontario.coop). [facebook.com/oncoop](https://facebook.com/oncoop). [twitter.com/ontariocoops](https://twitter.com/ontariocoops).