

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario's co-operatives to unite at Queen's Park to help raise profile of sector

Guelph ON. May 2, 2017. Representatives from co-operative organizations across Ontario will unite at Queen's Park on May 10 to share their common challenges, and to promote the socio-economic impact and diversity of co-operatives to the Provincial Government.

Hosted by the Ontario Co-operative Association ([On Co-op](#)) in partnership with the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario ([CCO](#)), the evening Reception comes on the cusp of an exciting and recent inclusion of co-operatives in the 2017 Ontario Budget:

"The government also intends to transfer responsibility for the incorporation of cooperative corporations from the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO) to the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS). This change is intended to consolidate the incorporation process for cooperatives with those currently in place for other types of Ontario businesses. It is expected that MGCS would begin incorporating cooperative corporations in 2018." (Ministry of Finance, Chapter II, page 47).

The joint On Co-op and CCO Government Relations Committee and On Co-op Regulatory Affairs Committee have been working very hard over the years to improve the regulatory and legislative environment for Ontario co-operatives. The execution of this initiative would signify a big win for the sector, and one step in the right direction for reducing the red tape that co-operatives have been facing for a long time.

Adds Peter Cameron, Co-op Development Manager with On Co-op: *"Our perseverance is definitely starting to pay off as we make some significant strides with respect to the Province's recognition and support of co-operatives. The next step will be to focus on updating the 40+ year-old Co-operative Corporations Act, which is hindering the growth of our sector. Having one voice at Queen's Park is one way to achieve our goal of helping Ontario's co-operatives develop and thrive in today's tough economic environment."*

Over 70 co-operative leaders and stakeholders are expected to be in attendance to meet and greet Members of Provincial Parliament, Ministers and their staff at the two-hour event. Preceding the Reception, members of the joint Government Relations Committee, along with representatives from [Brown and Cohen Communications & Public Affairs](#), will participate in a series of pre-arranged meetings with MPPs.

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On Co-op and CCO would like to thank the seven organizations who are supporting this event through their [Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze](#) sponsorships, as well as the eight [Donors and Suppliers](#) who are providing a variety of products made or sold at co-operative businesses in Ontario.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Ontario Co-operative Association exists to strengthen and unite the co-operative movement in Ontario. We believe that co-operatives are the solution to creating stronger communities, which help to build a better world.

Our Members are organizations that believe in the co-operative principles and are invested in the future of the movement. With their commitment, we are able to deliver co-operative research, education, advocacy, networks, tools and resources, that support the success and sustainability of all co-operatives and the movement as a whole.

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.