



Media Release
For immediate delivery

ONTARIO'S 1500 CO-OPERATIVES CALL FOR LEVEL PLAYING FIELD IN BUDGET

- Over 40 Ministers and MPPs expected at Queen's Park Reception on March 21

(GUELPH-MARCH 14, 2018) --

Co-operative leaders from across Ontario are gathering at Queen's Park on March 21.

They are asking the government to make changes in the upcoming budget to help 1,500 businesses create more jobs in a sector that contributes \$6 billion to Ontario's economy.

"One of our key goals is to ensure Ontario's co-operatives thrive," said Erin Morgan, Executive Director of the Ontario Cooperative Association (OCA). "The only way to achieve this is by bringing our collective voice to Queen's Park and reminding those in power that our triple bottom line of people, planet and profit is the future of this province."

Over 40 Ministers and MPPs are confirmed for a March 21st evening reception, which will be held in the Main Legislative Building from 5 to 7 pm. Almost 100 Co-op members are expected.

Three MPPs will speak:

- Hon. Nathalie Des Rosiers, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier), Liberal Co-chair of the All Party Co-op Caucus;
- Lisa Thompson MPP (Huron-Bruce), speaking on behalf of Ernie Hardeman, MPP (Oxford), PC Co-chair of the All Party Co-op Caucus; and
- Percy Hatfield, MPP (Windsor-Tecumseh), NDP Co-chair of the All Party Co-op Caucus.

"Co-operative businesses provide ethical and trustworthy options in every sector of the economy," said Morgan.

Like past receptions hosted by the joint Government Relations Committee of OCA and the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO), the event will also serve to highlight the diversity and strength of the sector.

“It is time for our 43-year-old Act to be modernized,” says Michelle Vieira, Chair of the Committee. “Many co-operative businesses have been waiting for these changes for years and we are looking forward to removing these barriers to competitiveness.”

The budget will be brought in March 28.

While the event is free to attend, all individuals must pre-register in order to gain access to the building. To attend, please register [online](#).

OCA and CCO thanks all the [organizations](#) who are supporting this event through their generous contributions.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT THE ONTARIO CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (OCA)

Co-operatives are a *different* kind of business model that are driven by people, planet and profit. OCA supports, develops, educates and advocates for Ontario's 1,500+ co-operative businesses. We exist to strengthen and unite the co-operative movement and we believe that co-operatives are the solution to creating stronger communities, which help to build a better world.

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