



April 1, 2022

Dear Member;

Thank you for your membership in OCA in 2021-22! It was another tough pandemic year, but we made the best of it with exciting new programs, partnerships and strategic planning for a post-pandemic future.

Successes in 2021

In 2021-22 we have enjoyed continued success in government relations with a positive relationship with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) that has resulted in improved response rates to co-operative issues and regular communication. The Ontario Business Registry launched with issues for all businesses but OCA responded with suggested improvements on behalf of the co-operative sector that will be implemented this month, and member support for co-operative businesses navigating the registry for the first time.

With the temporary provincial legislation allowing virtual member meetings for all co-operatives, OCA provided 28 co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals technical support for member meetings and will continue to offer this service to all members in 2022/23. A legislative change supported by OCA to permanently allow for virtual member meetings is expected to pass in 2022.

In Education, OCA launched two new programs that we are excited to expand upon in 2022. The first, *Co-operative Minds*, is a program for teachers to educate and inspire the next generation of co-operative leaders. The program was piloted with two schools in 2022. Thank you to The Co-operators for their generous support of the pilot and thank you to the teachers who volunteered to test the program! The second program, *ON Board*, is a new interactive learning experience with facilitated and self-guided components, for employees, board members and members new to the co-operative movement. The course explains how they are part of something much bigger than themselves - an exciting, dynamic community of co-operators wanting to improve their communities! Information on both programs and our summer Co-operative Young Leaders (CYL) program can be found at: <https://ontario.coop/co-operative-education>. CYL will be running in person at the Co-operative Education Centre in Aylmer, Ontario this year for youth ages 13 – 18. Please visit the website to learn how your co-operative can work with us to empower the next generation of co-operative leaders through this immersive experience.

Another new initiative we are excited about is a partnership in a health collaborative we are calling CoHealth that provides savings on medications to Ontarians without health benefits. Any OCA members that would like to partner with us to offer this program in their communities, please contact Jennifer Ross (jross@ontario.coop).

LEAD, CULTIVATE AND CONNECT

Co-operatives are a *different* kind of business model that are driven by people, planet and profit. The Ontario Co-operative Association (OCA) supports, develops, educates and advocates for Ontario's 1,500+ co-operative businesses.

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Considerations for 2022/23

In 2021, OCA gained a number of new members, including 11 credit unions. We welcome all of our new members and look forward to working with you!

However, we also lost a large member when Central 1 decided not to continue their membership in five organizations in Ontario and BC. OCA has been working hard to grow our membership from the Ontario credit unions formerly included under the Central 1 federation membership but there is still a long way to go to make up the lost revenue. This has obviously been challenging to do during a global pandemic.

This reduction in revenue has limited our resources as an organization, and we are reaching out to our members to consider a voluntary dues increase for 2022-23. Please see the attached invoice for options for a percentage increase in dues.

Additionally, OCA has a number of sponsorship opportunities that we have included at the bottom of this letter if your co-operative would like to direct your support of our organization to specific areas of value to your business.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the co-operative movement and our organization.

Our team will be following up with your co-operative this spring to connect with you as a member and learn more about the ways we can add value to your business. In the meantime, please reach out to our team if there are any products or services we can provide to your co-operative.

In Solidarity,



Erin Morgan
Executive Director
Ontario Co-operative Association

Learn more about our 2022-2023 sponsorship opportunities below!

[Communications Sponsorship](#)

[Government Relations Sponsorship](#)

[Webinar Sponsorship](#)

[Education Sponsorship](#)

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