

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Best practices for co-operative businesses focus of April seminar**

**March 5, 2018 – Guelph ON.** A seminar in Guelph on April 25<sup>th</sup> will help co-operative boards avoid the governance pitfalls that impact even the most successful businesses.

In partnership with [Lerners LLP](#), the Ontario Co-operative Association (OCA) is hosting the session to help directors and managers better understand the rules and regulations that prevail over co-operatives under the [Ontario Co-operative Corporations Act](#).

“We are pleased to be working with OCA to bring this educational learning opportunity to members of the Ontario co-operative community. Being informed of the laws that govern your co-operative is a key to successful business,” says [Ian Shewan](#), Partner with Lerners LLP.

The workshop will include three presentations: Shewan will cover the tricks and traps of the *Act*, highlighting some of its “unusual” points and how to make the *Act* work better for you and your co-operative. Shewan’s Associate, [Joseph Hentz](#), will then discuss corporate governance and Directors’ and Officers’ liability, with a particular focus on understanding the risks and limiting liability. [Erin Morgan](#), OCA’s Executive Director, will round off the discussion by providing an update on the status of the recommended changes to the *Act*.

Adds Morgan, “We anticipate this will be a highly informative and relevant session, and want to encourage co-operative directors and managers to attend, particularly co-operative business enterprises. OCA places a strong emphasis on co-operative education as a way to help strengthen our individual businesses and the co-operative movement as a whole. Participants will find great value for the low cost, and gain knowledge and tools to protect both themselves and their co-operatives.”

The seminar will take place at the Hanlon Convention Centre in Guelph ON from 8AM to 12PM, and is open to both OCA Members and Non-Members for a nominal fee, which includes both a hot breakfast and refreshment break.

Registration is open [online](#) until April 18 and space is limited to the first 100 participants. For more information, visit OCA online, view the [event invitation](#), or contact Erin Morgan at 519.763.8271 x. 30 or at [emorgan@ontario.coop](mailto:emorgan@ontario.coop).

This session is made possible in part by a grant from the [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#).

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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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