

For Immediate Release

Liberal MPP Introduces Private Member`s Bill to give opportunity to co-operative enterprises

Toronto ON. December 7, 2017. On December 6, Liberal MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers (Ottawa–Vanier) introduced a Private Member Bill that, if passed, will level the playing field for co-operative organizations in Ontario.

"We are proud of the success with co-operatives in Ontario and know they could do more if there was equal opportunity for our co-operative businesses," said Des Rosiers. "The co-op sector was recently consulted as part of the Ministry of Government Consumer Services Mandate Review. At that time, the sector has made key recommendations. Today, I am taking action on those asks to ensure we have co-operatives that thrive."

The co-op sector is well known for its economic and social innovations. The bill aims to provide greater ability to conduct business by eliminating existing barriers. This will allow co-operative members to focus on what they do best: creating jobs, building communities and providing essential services all across this province. It aims to eliminate rules that prevent co-ops who wish to do so to sell more than 50% of their products to non-members.

The co-operative movement in Ontario is comprised of approximately 1,300 co-op enterprises, in every rural and urban community across the province and in total contribute over \$6 billion to the GDP. Co-op members, credit unions and caisses populaires, develop and enrich communities while providing essential products and services, and creating thousands of jobs.

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