



## OCA Board Member Profile



Terri Naylor, Director  
Representing GROWMARK, Inc.

**Tell us a bit about yourself (i.e., your background (where you grew up, education, children, which co-operative you work for, your position, etc.)**

Originally from Brampton, I settled in beautiful Erin for the past 30 years. I have been blessed with 3 children and two grandchildren. I have been in the GROWMARK system for 32 years at various co-operatives. I started with UCO in their finance department, then GROWMARK for a total of 12 years, moved to Midwestern Ontario Co-operative as their Controller for 5 years, UPI Energy for 13 years and now I went full circle and am back with GROWMARK. My current position is Manager, Business Integration and Special Projects. I work in the Member Services area where my primary responsibilities are working with our various member co-operatives on anything related to Energy encompassing: operations, financial, acquisitions, system conversions and anything else that comes up on a day to day basis.

**How long have you been involved in the co-operative movement, and what do you love most about it?**

I have been in the co-operative system my whole career - 32 years. It is a system build on the ultimate meaning of teamwork and in my experience, it has heart and soul which is difficult to find in the typical corporate world.

**If there is one thing you would want people to know about co-ops, what would it be?**

Co-operative businesses have a united purpose, a united voice and their success impacts everyone involved especially their membership and the communities they are a part of. When you support a co-operative, you are absolutely supporting your neighbor. If you want to be part of a movement where you are heard and valued, be involved with a co-operative!

**Why is your co-operative a member of OCA?**

GROWMARK, as a large agricultural co-operative, represents their member co-operatives, which service communities across Ontario. Being a member of OCA allows us to support and advocate for the well-being of all co-operatives.

**What do you think are some of the benefits of being a member of OCA?**

Being part of one voice that represents all co-operatives across the province. Access to resources, information and advice. Networking opportunities with other like-minded co-operative businesses. Being a member allows you to be on the leading edge of a growing movement!

**Why did you decide to join the OCA board as a Director?**

I have been in one co-operative system my whole career, I am very intrigued by the diversity of the co-operative system as a whole. It is a unique system that is growing in popularity and in strength and I feel that OCA is an important part of that growth.

**How has your past experience helped you in this role?**

My lengthy time in the co-operative system has provided me with many different opportunities and roles. I feel that broad background and my love of the system and its principles will enable me to be part of the future of OCA and the co-operative movement.

**What do you think are some of the opportunities and challenges facing OCA in the next 3 - 5 years?**

I feel the future of the co-operative system lies with bringing more education and awareness to various sectors in our communities. Those sectors include new and existing business sectors, existing co-operatives and our youth. Education and awareness will provide the necessary tools for OCA to expand the co-operative movement throughout Ontario and beyond.

**What is your vision for OCA?**

My vision for OCA is for continued growth with all existing co-operatives and increased awareness across all other business sectors in Ontario. Education amongst our youth will provide that much needed awareness to build a stable platform for the long-term future of co-operatives.

**Share a fun/silly thing that not many people know about you!**

I have a loud and distinctive laugh that I am told is infectious, but when I enthusiastically laugh, I snort! There is no mistaking me in a crowd!