



ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

The Honourable Todd Smith
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Office of the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Ferguson Block, 77 Wellesley St W
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3
By email: MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca

July 24, 2019

Dear Minister Smith:

On behalf of the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN), we are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (CCSS) and the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. We look forward to continue working with you in your new role to support and strengthen Ontarians across the province.

The ONN is the independent nonprofit network for the 58,000 nonprofits and charities in Ontario, focused on policy, advocacy and services to strengthen the sector as a key pillar of our society and economy. We work to create a public policy environment that allows nonprofits to thrive. We engage our network of diverse nonprofit organizations across Ontario to work together on issues affecting the sector and channel the voices of our network to government, funders, and other stakeholders.

As you may know, Ontario's nonprofit sector plays a vital role as an economic driver, contributing \$50 billion to our province's GDP. As a sector, Ontario nonprofits receive less than half of their revenues from governments, which means they can leverage public investments - via business activities, donations, and the contributions of volunteers - into significantly higher value in the services they deliver to Ontarians, all while creating jobs locally. The nonprofit sector is positioned to support the Ontario government to build a stronger economy and a resilient province. Working together, we can deliver real change.

Your ministry has a key role to play as a lead partner with Ontario's nonprofit sector. Responsibility for children, community and social services involves key partnerships with nonprofit organizations at every level, both in terms of service delivery as well as public policy development that meets the needs of communities in Ontario.

In the past, ONN has worked closely with officials in CCSS's Citizenship and Immigration Division on cross-government policy that affects the nonprofit sector, including transfer payment agreement modernization, efforts to sustain dwindling rates of volunteering, the impact of new legislation and regulations on nonprofits, and the overall government-nonprofit sector partnership.

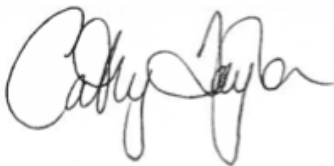
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Presently, it is unclear where in government the Ontario nonprofit sector can turn to advance the dialogue on these important issues. We would like to identify a “home” in the Ontario government where our sector can engage on cross-government issues, and work in partnership to advance our mutual goal of strengthening Ontario’s communities.

We are looking forward to your support to recognize the nonprofit sector as a pillar of a strong sustainable economy and an inclusive society – alongside the public and private sectors – and to ensure the nonprofit sector continues to provide high quality programs and services, good jobs, and meaningful volunteer opportunities.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how a robust partnership with the nonprofit sector can help advance your government’s policy agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" being more prominent than the last name "Taylor".

Cathy Taylor
Executive Director
Ontario Nonprofit Network