

## 6-Point Wish List of Collaborative Initiatives between the Co-operative Sector and the Province: Addressing the 4 Key Challenges Facing Ontario's Co-operatives

Document last updated: December 20, 2010

Initiative	Rational	Current Barriers & Challenges	Hard Outcomes	Location(s)	Key Participants	Resources Required	Sector Action Taken to Date	Gov't Action Taken to Date
<b>FINANCING</b>								
1. Establish tax incentives and other financial measures for co-ops.	Tax credits and other financial measures would encourage investment in co-ops, and help put them on a level playing field with other forms of business enterprise (similar to Manitoba, Quebec and Nova Scotia).	Unlike other businesses, there are no R & D credits, nor any other tax credits or financial incentives to encourage investment into co-ops.	Providing incentives to invest in co-operative businesses would inevitably result in increased development of co-ops, thereby stimulating the local economy and creating jobs.		- Min. of Finance - Min. of Revenue - Min. of ED & T		Met with Min. of Finance ADM, Pat Deutscher on Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> . Follow-up meeting has been requested.  Province-wide Petition launched May, 2010 noting need for tax incentives.	<b>No action to date.</b>
<b>REGULATIONS</b>								
2. Facilitating a more appropriate regulatory and policy environment for co-operatives.	To enable co-operative businesses to be more competitive and eliminate any unnecessary red tape.	FSCO is the only <i>regulatory</i> body for co-ops, but cannot assist with the development of new co-operatives. It also does not support any business development programs.	Revising/updating the amendments to the <i>Co-operative Corporations Act</i> would result in more efficient regulation of all co-ops, and greater efficiency and increased capacity to develop and operate co-operative businesses, thereby stimulating the local economy and creating jobs.	Ministry of Finance, FSCO	- On Co-op - Regs Working Group - FSCO - Min. of Finance - Min. of ED & T	Help from Min. of ED & T to put much needed pressure on Min. of Finance to see recommended changes through.	Regs Working Group meets quarterly with FSCO to discuss amendments to the Act.  Met with Min. of Finance ADM, Pat Deutscher on Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> . Follow-up meeting has been requested.	<b>Some Progress to date.</b> - Bill 218 - Green Energy Act
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
3. Incorporate information on co-operative business model to Service Ontario website.	To provide the general public with access to information on co-operative business development opportunities that currently do not exist.	No information on the co-op model is currently available online, contributing to an overall lack of public awareness and knowledge of this viable form of business enterprise.	Facilitating access to information on co-ops would contribute to increased public awareness of the model and contribute to the development of more co-op businesses, creating jobs and stimulating the local economy.	Ministry of Government Services/Service Ontario website	- Min. of Government Services - On Co-op	Funding to take existing co-op info. and transfer to a usable format	Contact made with Tim Smitheman (MGS) in Dec. '09 – request passed on to Industry Canada contact Ravi Harricharan.	<b>Some progress to date.</b> Industry Canada updated Canada Business website- Ontario View with contacts for On Co-op and Co-op Zone.  MEDT has incorporated info. on co-ops in revised <i>Your Guide to Small Business</i> . To be released in November 2010.
4. Promoting co-operative business development, though the incorporation of information and expertise on co-operative business model into Service Ontario centers across the province.	To increase awareness of and access to co-operative business development opportunities, in the same way that exists for both private and not-for-profit business enterprises.	No information on the co-op model is currently available at these centres, contributing to an overall lack of public awareness and knowledge of this viable form of business enterprise.	Providing and facilitating information on co-ops would contribute to public awareness of the model and contribute to the development of more co-op businesses, creating jobs and stimulating the local economy.	All Service centers across the province.	On Co-op to train one staff member at each business centre to gain expertise on co-op business development.	Funding for travel, conducting workshops and training of staff	Contact made with Dipika Damerla –Senior Policy Advisor to Minister, MEDT. Contact made with Ann Hoy, Director Entrepreneurship Branch, MEDT.  Contact made with Keith West, ADM. Delegated Allison Rickaby, Director SME Policy and Outreach to follow-up.	<b>Some progress to date.</b> Made our material available to Small Business Enterprise Centres through their internal website.  Co-op info. has been added to <i>CanadaBusinessOntario</i> website. as of October 2010.  MEDT committed to incorporating info. on co-ops to network of 57 Small Business Enterprise Centres across the province.
5. Invitation for co-op sector representative(s) to participate in government roundtables, caucus	To enable representation of co-ops and provide the sector with a voice at various inter-governmental tables	There is currently no sectoral representation of co-ops in the province whatsoever.	Covering a diversity of sectors, co-ops can provide valuable input and solutions to various public policy	Queen's Park, various Ministries.	- On Co-op - Co-op sector leaders and stakeholders		April meeting with Donna Cansfield, PA to Housing – suggested we consider an inter-ministerial task force	<b>Progress made.</b> MEDT has appointed a co-op representative to their Small Business Agency of Ontario

meetings, Premier's Advisory Councils, and other inter-ministerial meetings, etc.	and forums (similar to Nova Scotia and Quebec).		challenges facing the province.				on co-ops. Need to follow-up with her Asst. for more info. Discussed with Anna Ilnyckyj from OMAFRA – need political backing for this.	board. Public announcement pending.
<b>PARTNERSHIP</b>								
6. Partnership with the Provincial Government.	To increase awareness of and access to co-operative business development opportunities, in the same way that exists for both private and not-for-profit business enterprises.	Several governments including Quebec, NS, Nfld, SK, AB, and the federal government have mutually beneficial partnerships with their co-ops in various forms. Ontario has the second highest number of co-ops in the country, yet there is no "point" of access for partnership in the province.	Providing and facilitating information on co-ops would contribute to public awareness of the model and contribute to the development of more co-op businesses, creating jobs and stimulating the provincial economy. A "one-stop shop" for co-ops in the province would also ensure that we can all work together more effectively.	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade	- On Co-op - Co-op sector leaders and stakeholders		White Paper on Co-operative Development in Ontario developed in 2004 and launched on Queen's Park in 2005. Numerous meetings with MPPs, Cabinet Ministers and staff over the years to discuss the possibility of a partnership. CEO letter-writing campaign to MEDT in progress. Province-wide petition in progress.	<b>Some progress to date.</b> MEDT has appointed a dedicated staff person, Joanne Cordell, from Small Business division, to be the official co-op liason.