



## The Ontario Co-operative Association

**NEWS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

### **Minister Ted McMeekin a firm believer in co-op system**

**GUELPH, ONTARIO. SEPTEMBER 22, 2008.** The **Honourable Ted McMeekin**, Minister of Government Services, has been a strong proponent for co-operatives in Ontario for many years. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario Co-operative Association will recognize the Minister's unfailing commitment to the co-operative sector with an **Outstanding Contribution to the Ontario Co-operative Association Award**.

Ted McMeekin is a champion of the co-operative sector. He has actively supported and promoted the co-op sector's 2004 White Paper on Co-operative Development and in 2006, he moved Resolution #33 in the Ontario Legislature, calling for the creation of provincial Co-operatives Secretariat to help promote and develop the co-operative model in Ontario. With McMeekin's on-going support, the Secretariat, which would be housed in the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and modelled after the federal version, has a much greater chance of successfully navigating the halls of Queen's Park. His nominators acknowledge that he has truly helped to raise awareness for the co-operative model in Ontario.

As both a speaker and attendee at On Co-op's June 2007 Annual General Meeting, and the October 2007 Co-operative Conference and Gala, and a sponsor of both the 2007 and 2008 Queen's Park receptions, the Minister has helped bring together key co-op leaders and stakeholders, as well as MPPs and their staff, to help promote the benefits of a public and co-operative partnership.

The Honourable Ted McMeekin will be presented with the Outstanding Contribution to the Ontario Co-operative Association Award on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Co-operative Spirit Recognition Awards banquet and ceremony. The awards ceremony, the crowning jewel of the Co-operative Conference and Gala, takes place at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West in Burlington ON.

The Ontario Co-operative Association (On Co-op), host of the Co-op Conference and Gala, and the Co-operative Spirit Recognition Awards ceremony, is a resource and common voice for Ontario co-operatives and credit unions in the areas of co-operative development, government relations, membership and communications, and lifelong co-operative learning.

**For further information, please contact Mark Ventry, Membership and Communications Manager, On Co-op, at [mventry@ontario.coop](mailto:mventry@ontario.coop), 1-888-745-5521 or visit [www.ontario.coop/Gala](http://www.ontario.coop/Gala).**

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