



Premier McGuinty
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A1

February 1, 2012

Dear Premier McGuinty,

We are writing to bring to your attention the great importance the nonprofit sector places on the work of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, particularly as we enter these next few years of change and renewal. There are difficult transitions ahead for government, the nonprofit sector, and the people of Ontario. Trillium will be a critical component as we develop transformative solutions for Ontario communities together.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is the leading funder of change management and innovation in our communities, and this role needs to be acknowledged and strengthened in the coming years. While the private sector and private foundations can assist, they are in no position to replace the work of Trillium. Indeed, as you know only too well, the funding provided by Ministries is largely tied up in service contracts and program grants with recipients. The Ministries are not in a position to provide the venture financing required for innovation and collaboration to meet these fiscal headwinds. Here is some background on Trillium's important contributions to the sector and Ontario:

- **Trillium has a local grant structure that spans and connects with all communities across Ontario.** It also works in and funds across the nonprofit sector (arts and culture, sport and recreation, social services, community health etc.). This reach into communities makes Trillium uniquely positioned to be able to work with your Ministries to support key strategic investments and advance emerging innovations.
- **Trillium is the early funder of emerging social, cultural and environmental innovations and important community initiatives.** Groups throughout Ontario look to Trillium to provide critical start-up funding for promising new ideas. Most promising or emergent initiatives in your government's portfolio will have received support from Trillium at a critical stage in their development to permit its success.
- **Trillium has been the lead funder of collaborative work in the sector recognizing that the solutions to many of Ontario's challenges lie in finding new and better ways of working together for transformative solutions.** The sector has for some time understood that it needs to work better and differently to meet its mission and serve the people of Ontario. Much of that work lies in nonprofit organizations collaborating among themselves, with government and the private sector. We have made significant advances but there is more that needs to be done.

The Trillium Foundation contributes immensely to the well being of Ontario. Indeed Trillium is one of the most innovative and focused public investors in Canada with a proven track record for success. Our counterparts in other jurisdictions are very envious that Ontarians have an investor like Trillium that is so responsive, able to take risks, and is so engaged in building better communities.



We believe that the nonprofit sector is key to the successful transformation of public service delivery in Ontario. In the USA, the nonprofit sector outperformed the for-profit sector in job creation by a significant amount over the past decade and we think the same will likely be true in Ontario over the next number of years. The sector is a significant job creator and provider of public benefits and wants to work with the government of Ontario to find the solutions to the challenges facing our communities. To that end, we need the Trillium Foundation investing in innovations and transformative changes for the social and economic well being of our fellow Ontarians.

Tonya Surman
ONN Co-Chair

- c.c. Hon Dwight Duncan, Ministry of Finance
- c.c. Hon Brad Duguid, Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation
- c.c. Hon John Milloy, Ministry of Community and Social Services
- c.c. Hon Eric Hoskins, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- c.c. Hon Charles Sousa, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and Women's Issues
- c.c. Hon Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- c.c. Hon Ted McMeekin, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- c.c. Hon John Gerretsen, Ministry of Attorney General
- c.c. Hon Deborah Matthews, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- c.c. Hon Madeleine Meilleur, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
- c.c. Hon Glen Murray, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- c.c. Hon Kathleen Wynne, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
- c.c. Hon Laurel Broten, Ministry of Education
- c.c. Hon James Bradley, Ministry of the Environment