



Melanie Wright
Senior Policy Advisor & Issues Manager
Ministry of Finance
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May 9, 2012

Dear Melanie:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) on Tuesday, May 1st related to the Network's partnership-building efforts between the provincial government and the nonprofit sector. In these uncertain and challenging fiscal times, ONN strongly believes the "third sector" is well positioned to play an even more prominent role in reforming and improving public service delivery in a cost efficient and results focused manner.

As you indicated, these are still early days in moving forward on 2012 Budget initiatives. On behalf of the sector, ONN looks forward to being part of future conversations and government planning efforts related to the development of new partnerships and pilot projects (announced in the Budget) that will test more effective service delivery models to streamline and transform how government delivers services to Ontarians.

We agree with you that it will be important, as a major employer and wealth creator in communities, for the nonprofit sector to be represented on the Jobs and Prosperity Council. The sector is also prepared to support, as required, your Minister's leadership on the recently announced Productivity Teams. ONN would be pleased to recommend sector leaders to participate in these and on other government processes like the Premier's Table on Results and Reform or convene government/sector meetings as requested to help advance public service transformation.

As policy and design work moves forward on the Budget's announced "unclaimed intangible properties program", we look forward to sharing our ideas with you and your colleagues about how these funds can be used to spark and support social innovation and social enterprise development. We are very excited that our province has the opportunity to build a "made in Ontario" version of the pioneering work undertaken in the United Kingdom on a similar initiative and look forward to participating in these efforts.

As discussed at our meeting, the nonprofit sector is prepared to do its part in deepening and expanding partnerships with government and the for-profit sector to support the government's reform of public services agenda and help address its fiscal pressures. Based on your advice, and in line with our current relationships, ONN will be seeking a meeting with Minister Sousa in June, 2012 after the planned Open for Business (OfB) session to discuss the next steps emanating from OfB as well as on post-budget opportunities discussed at our meeting. We will keep you apprised of progress on these and other issues the sector is engaged in and look forward to hearing from you on emerging, value added opportunities for further collaboration between the nonprofit sector and the provincial government.



Thank you again for a most productive session and look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Regards,



Tonya Surman
ONN Co-chair

c.c. Colin MacDonald
c.c. Geoff Turner
c.c. Jini Stolk, ONN Co-Chair