

MEDIA RELEASE**Breaking New Ground:
Outcomes from Ontario Government-Nonprofit Sector Open for Business Roundtable**

September 17, 2012. The Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) is pleased to fully support the Open for Business not-for-profit sector [final report](#). Jointly led by the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation and the ONN, the Open for Business sector strategy resulted in solutions within five key areas that will both streamline government-sector public benefit services in Ontario and foster new opportunities for the nonprofit sector to create community wealth across the province.

In a [video message](#) Premier Dalton McGuinty praised the nonprofit sector not only for its contribution to the economy, generating nearly \$50 billion each year, but also for creating a better quality of life for Ontario families.

The sector made substantive recommendations through the Open for Business process in five key areas:

- Streamline and modernize government-sector funding relationships
- Expand Infrastructure Ontario's Loan Program to new subsectors in Ontario's nonprofit sector
- Allow broader public sector access to the provincial vendor of record
- Maximize public investment returns for government surplus lands
- Clarify provincial regulatory and legislative requirements related to police records checks for volunteers

In all areas, both government and nonprofit sector representatives discussed and debated the recommendations and, through joint efforts, approved solutions that addressed each one.

Tonya Surman, Ontario Nonprofit Network Co-Chair notes, "As a nonprofit sector, we are solutions providers and builders of community wealth. Through the Open for Business process, we have witnessed concrete steps to build and sustain the nonprofit sector and advance the Partnership Project vision: for Ontario to be a leader both in Canada and around the world, we must work together to foster the most ambitious, innovative and effective nonprofit sector possible. We look forward to implementing the significant work we have begun with the government of Ontario."

Implementation of the commitments made at the final Open for Business Roundtable have begun through Ministry-led solutions or joint sector-government working groups. Progress is already being made in some areas, particularly on proposed policy and operational matters. ONN will continue to track the progress of the Open for Business commitments as implementation moves forward.

"The Open for Business experience truly reflects the phrase 'The Art of the Possible.' The relationships built and advanced throughout this process reflect the value of, and commitment to, nonprofit sector and provincial government joint work that will result in more efficient and effective public benefit programs for Ontario," states Jini Stolk, Ontario Nonprofit Network Co-Chair.



For more information:

Cathy Taylor, Interim Director, [Ontario Nonprofit Network](#)
cathy@theonnc.ca; 416-642-5786

Brigitte Marleau, Communications Branch, Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation
416-325-2479

Open for Business is Ontario's initiative to create faster, smarter and more streamlined government-to-business services and to establish a modern system of government. It's a key part of the Ontario government's commitment to make the Province more attractive to business while continuing to protect the public interest. www.ontario.ca/openforbusiness

The Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) is a non-partisan voice, communication broker and capacity builder for not-for-profits in Ontario. Ontario's 46,000+ nonprofit organizations employ over one million people, comprise 15% of Ontario's total workforce, and have an economic impact of nearly \$50 billion. This represents more than 7.1% of Ontario's GDP, greater than the automobile and construction industries combined. www.theonn.ca.