

**CONSEIL DE LA
COOPÉRATION
DE L'ONTARIO**

**ADRESSE/
TÉLÉPHONE**

223, rue Main,
boîte 90
Ottawa (Ontario), K1S 1C4
T : 613-745-8619
Sans frais : 1-866-290-1168

192, avenue Spadina,
bureau 212
Toronto (Ontario), M5T 2C2
T : 416-364-4545

10, rue Elm,
bureau 604
Sudbury (Ontario), P3C 1S8
T : 705-560-1121

395, boul. Thériault,
bureau 202k
Timmins (Ontario), P4N 0A8
T : 705-267-2144 poste 227

COURRIEL

info@cco.coop

SITE

www.cco.coop

**NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

**Liberal MPP Introduces Private Member's
Bill to give opportunity to co-operative
enterprises**

Toronto, December 7 2017 – Liberal MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers (Ottawa–Vanier) will be introducing a Private Member Bill that, if passed, will level the playing field for co-operative organizations in Ontario.

"We are proud of the success with co-operatives in Ontario and know they could do more if there was equal opportunity for our co-operative businesses," said Nathalie Des Rosiers. "The co-op sector was recently consulted as part of the Ministry of Government Consumer Services Mandate Review. At that time, the sector has made key recommendations. Today, I am taking action on those asks to ensure we have co-operatives that thrive."

"Co-operatives have played and continue to play a central role in Franco-Ontarian communities", added Julien Geremie, Deputy Executive Director of the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario. "Almost 1 in 2 Franco-Ontarian is a member of at least one co-operative. The bill that is proposed today shows that the Ontario Government and the political parties are determined to reinforce the co-op movement in our province. We are very proud to work with them on this important initiative."

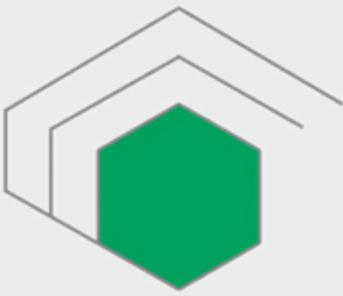
The co-op sector is well known for its economic and social innovations. The bill aims to provide greater ability to conduct business by eliminating existing barriers. This will allow co-operative members to focus on what they do best: creating jobs, building communities and providing essential services all across this province. It aims to eliminate rules that prevent co-ops who wish to do so to sell more than 50% of their products to non-members.

The co-operative movement in Ontario is comprised of approximately 1,300 co-op enterprises, in every rural and urban community across the province and in total contribute over \$6 billion to the GDP. Co-op members, credit unions and caisses populaires, develop and enrich communities while providing essential products and services, and creating thousands of jobs.

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About the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario

The Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario is the organization of choice for education, promotion, collaboration and advisory



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services to ensure the sustainable development of French-language cooperatives and social enterprises in Ontario. The Conseil serves the community from its four offices in Ottawa, Toronto, Sudbury and Timmins.

Information:

Julien Geremie

Deputy Executive Director

Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario

416-364-4545

julien.geremie@cco.coop

Andrew Blackburn

Office of Nathalie Des Rosiers

647-200-7497