



COOPERATION  
COUNCIL OF  
ONTARIO

**Fondation**  
franco-ontarienne

## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate distribution*

### **COVID-19: The Cooperation Council of Ontario and the Fondation franco-ontarienne launch a solidarity fund**

**Ottawa, April 9th 2020** – Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, news reports have collected a number of statistics on its ravages. One can easily imagine the hard work that the medical staff and other essential people on the front line are doing. However, the leaders of second-line institutions and services are just as dedicated. In order to help them, the Cooperation Council of Ontario (CCO) and the Fondation franco-ontarienne (the Fondation) today announced the creation of a solidarity fund to mobilize additional resources to counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This **COVID-19 Solidarity Fund from the CCO and the Fondation** aims to help, support and best assist Ontario sectors in the areas of health service delivery second line (secondary services) and third line (additional services).

#### **How to make a donation:**

Individuals and businesses can donate directly online, on the Fondation's website ([www.fondationfranco.ca](http://www.fondationfranco.ca)). All amounts will be accepted. It is a matter of clicking on the "Donate" button and selecting the Solidarity Fund section.

*"We are extremely proud to launch such a fund, in collaboration with the Fondation. We are a community enterprise and solidarity is our raison d'être. We sincerely hope that this gesture can make a difference in these moments of great difficulty," underlines Julien Geremie, the Executive Director of the CCO.*

*"The mandate of the Fondation franco-ontarienne, explains its Executive Director, Marc Chénier, is to support the carrying out of initiatives that ensure the vitality of the Franco-Ontarian community. However, this community, like all the others, is living at the time of the pandemic and when the CCO contacted us, we felt that we also had to do our part to support it. We are pleased to partner with the CCO to direct resources where they are so in demand."*

#### **Beneficiary organizations:**

The CCO and the Fondation undertake to communicate regularly and transparently in order to coordinate the dispersal of the funds raised. These sums will only be redistributed in solidarity according to the priorities identified above. At the end of the crisis, the Solidarity Fund (COVID-19) will become a general fund which will support



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the same objective mentioned above and may take a different name to reflect its new vocation.

- 30 -

**For more information:**

Julien Geremie, Executive Director of the Cooperation Council of Ontario

[julien.geremie@cco.coop](mailto:julien.geremie@cco.coop)

416.364.4545, ext. 113

Marc Chénier, Executive Director of the Fondation franco-ontarienne

[mchenier@fondationfranco.ca](mailto:mchenier@fondationfranco.ca)

613.565.4720, ext. 222

**About the Cooperation Council of Ontario:**

*The Cooperation Council of Ontario (CCO) uses cooperation as a development model for Ontario's Francophone and bilingual communities. It ensures the development and growth of co-operatives and social enterprises, strengthens community dialogue, produces high-level research, manages high-potential organizations and connects Ontario's and worldwide collective businesses*

**About the Fondation franco-ontarienne:**

*The Fondation franco-ontarienne, created in 1986, manages more than 50 endowment funds that have been created by educational institutions, organizations and sometimes, individuals. It also gives a hand to ad hoc projects and / or community projects through their FondAction. These tools aim to promote the influence of the Francophonie in the communities of the province. In addition, the Fondation offers microcredit financing - jointly with the Société de développement communautaire de Prescott et Russell and the federal agency FedDev (through the Economic Development Initiative, the IDE) - so that Francophones, in particular women and immigrants, can launch their business project. In this era of pandemic, the Foundation quickly collaborated to create the Solidarity Fund mentioned above.*