



Brian Fior, Director  
Open Government Office  
Treasury Board Secretariat  
77 Wellesley Street West, 8th Floor Ferguson Block  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1N3

Re: Letter of Support for Ontario's application to join Open Government Partnerships

February 25, 2016

Dear Brian,

I am writing to you to express our support for the Government of Ontario's initiative in seeking to join the [Open Government Partnership](#)'s pilot program for subnational entities and to be a leader in this domain.

The Ontario Nonprofit Network's (ONN) vision is to support thriving communities and a dynamic province through a strong and resilient nonprofit sector. We are the provincial network for the 55,000 nonprofit organizations across the province of Ontario. ONN brings the diverse voices of the sector to government, funders and the business sector to create and influence systemic change. ONN activates its volunteer base and the network to develop and analyze policy, and work on strategic issues through its working groups, engagement of nonprofits and charities and government.

While we have been engaged at the federal level on this issue, we look forward to Ontario joining the Open Government Partnership (OGP) precisely because the provincial government is so crucial to our network. We would anticipate investing more time and resources on open government policies and strategies if Ontario were an OGP participant. Our project to lead the development of a [data strategy](#) for the nonprofit sector of Ontario is very much related to an open data and open government framework. However, we recognize that open data and open government present important questions and opportunities in all of our related policy files and issue areas.

We have heard strong support from our open data colleagues about the OGP initiative and the prospect of being able to work more collaboratively with the government through an established process is something we look forward to. The open data successes of Canada's nonprofit sector have already been noted by GovLab (<http://odimpact.org/case-opening-canadas-t3010-charity-information-return-data.html>) and the Ontario government has already passed an "Open by Default" policy. Because of these advantages, we think that we would have much to contribute to other OGP partner countries and their respective civil societies.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information. Best wishes in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Taylor".

Cathy Taylor  
Executive Director