

Cover note to accompany toolkit materials for associations

Ontario's new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA) is targeted to come into effect in 2014. Amendments to more than 80 statutes, including ONCA were introduced in the legislature in June 2013. It is anticipated that these amendments will be debated in the legislature in fall 2013. If the amendments are passed by the legislature, ONCA is anticipated to come into force no earlier than six months after passage in order to ensure adequate time for not-for-profit corporations to prepare for transition.

Your organization plays an important role in the not-for-profit sector. We would very much appreciate your support and assistance in reaching Ontario's large and diverse not-for-profit community with information about the Act to help them prepare for the transition. We also hope to reach organizations considering incorporation.

When it comes into effect, the Act will generally apply automatically to all Ontario not-for-profit corporations. However, existing not-for-profit corporations will have a three-year transition period to make any changes to their incorporation and other documents necessary to bring them into conformity. This includes letters patent, supplementary letters patent, by-laws and special resolutions.

Existing corporations are encouraged to review their documents before the end of the transition period.

Please feel free to use any of the attached materials that are in a zipped format for your communications and to share them with other organizations. These include:

- Newsletter and bulletin articles of varying lengths
- Web text
- Facebook posts
- Meeting/presentation materials: presentation slides, speaking points to accompany the slide deck, and presenter Q and A

You may put these materials on your organization's letterheads and templates. However, while presentation formats such as fonts and layouts may certainly be modified to suit your needs, we ask that the wording not be altered to ensure consistent and accurate messaging.

The Ministry of Consumer Services is not responsible for any changes you make to the information in the materials. They are provided for information only and are not intended to be legal advice. The information contained in the materials covers only some aspects of the Act, which may change from time to time. Organizations may wish to consult a lawyer and/or other appropriate advisors for specific advice on the Act.

The Ministry of Consumer Services recognizes the importance of providing strong support to the sector. Many not-for-profit corporations are small organizations with minimal resources to expend on transitioning to the Act. The government has given a grant to Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) to support these not-for-profit corporations during the transition period, and will continue to work closely with the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) and sector partners on ways to smooth the transition.

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If you have any questions or for more information, visit our [ministry website](#). We encourage you to check the website frequently for updates (including updates to the attached materials), support tools and to confirm the Act's effective date.

Thank you for your assistance.