



Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Facilitator
Independent Senators Group Secretariat
Senate of Canada Building
2 Rideau Street
Ottawa, Ontario
By email: YuenPau.Woo@sen.parl.gc.ca

May 31, 2019

Subject: Bill C344 - A Community Building Opportunity

Dear Senator Woo:

On behalf of the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN), I am writing to you today to voice our support for Bill C-344, An Act to amend the Department of Public Works and Government Services Act (community benefit). Bill C-344 opens the door to improve local, regional and national economic, employment and social value outcomes. This simple, but very important piece of legislation will make it possible to leverage existing government spending to meet community-defined goals and outcomes.

The ONN is an independent network for the 58,000 nonprofits and charities in Ontario. The nonprofit sector is a key economic driver in Ontario, contributing \$50 billion to our province's GDP.¹ Bill C-344 would ensure that interests of communities in Ontario and across the country are reflected in economic development strategies and decision-making. Community Benefits Agreements (CBA's) are a key tool that creates space for communities to participate in the decision-making processes affecting them, ensuring that government and other sectors are working in tandem to support the public benefit.

Nonprofits have a pulse on what is happening at the community level and play a supporting role, by working to develop networks, supporting communities to build their capacity, and making sure community voices are heard. Moving Bill C-344 makes space for collaboration between various actors across government, community and industry to develop and design the best option for mutually beneficial and effective economic, environmental, employment and social outcomes.

We are seeking your support and collaboration on garnering the Senate votes required to allow this bill to, first, move to Committee and then reach Royal Assent by the end of June. It provides us another significant tool for building healthy and thriving communities.

Sincerely,

Cathy Taylor
Executive Director

¹ Imagine Canada and Canadian Council on Social Development. "[The Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector in Canada: Regional Highlights of National Survey of Nonprofits and Voluntary Organizations](#)," p.vi