



Active Citizen



News from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

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Ontario Open for Business: Reducing red tape for not-for-profits

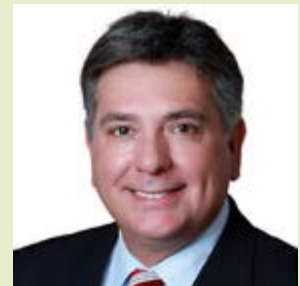
Work has begun on improving the not-for-profit sector's access to government funding – one of five priorities the sector identified when it met with the Ontario government under the [Open for Business](#) process.

Open for Business is the Ontario government's initiative to create faster, smarter and more streamlined government-to-business services and to establish a more modern system of government. It is a key part of the government's commitment to create a more competitive environment for Ontario's businesses that will ultimately result in a more prosperous Ontario while continuing to protect the public interest.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration is co-chairing a joint funding reform working group to explore ways to streamline and modernize government funding to better serve the not-for-profit sector. The group is accountable to MCI Deputy Minister Chisanga Puta-Chekwe, and will provide reports to MCI Minister Charles Sousa. Members of the working group include the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) and the Ministries of Children & Youth Services, Community & Social Services, Finance, Government Services & Tourism, Culture & Sport, Training, Colleges & Universities and Health & Long-Term Care. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is also providing support.

Work is also moving ahead on the other four Open for Business priorities:

- clarifying police record check policies and procedures



Minister's Message

"I'm pleased to be able to tell you about some of the exciting initiatives in my ministry. We continue to make progress on many key initiatives for Ontario citizens and newcomers, including the development of Ontario's first-ever Immigration Strategy. We have also announced new funding and new resources for not-for-profit organizations and celebrated some very special events – including the Royal visit in May and the award ceremonies for Ontario volunteers. I wish you a safe and happy fall season."

**The Honourable
Charles Sousa,
Ontario Minister of
Citizenship and**

- expanding the Infrastructure Ontario loan program to the NFP sector
- providing the sector access to surplus government lands
- providing not-for-profits access to the province's vendors of record

Stay tuned for updates in the next issue of ActiveCitizen, the Partnership Project web pages on the MCI website or the Partnership Project Facebook page.

About the Partnership Project: The Ontario government has long recognized the crucial role of the not-for-profit (NFP) sector in the province's economy and our society. In the spring of 2010, the Ontario government initiated the [Partnership Project](#) with the goal of strengthening the relationship with the NFP sector. The Partnership Project report with six recommendations was released in March 2011.

ChangeTheWorld: Ontario Youth Set Volunteering Record



They cleaned up parks and planted trees. They washed cars. They visited seniors and presented fashion and talent shows. In more than 450 communities, thousands of high school students took up the [2012 Ontario ChangeTheWorld Youth Volunteer Challenge](#).

A record-breaking 28,000 students gave 124,000 hours during the campaign. That's almost 60 years worth of good community work in only three weeks!

QUICK FACTS

- The 2012 ChangeTheWorld campaign ran from April 15 to May 6.
- More than 63,000 students have participated in ChangeTheWorld since it launched in 2008. The number of partner volunteer organizations has grown from seven to 25.
- More than 300 schools participated this year.
- ChangeTheWorld is a partnership between the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network.

The Volunteer Service Awards Wrap Up for 2012

The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards have wrapped up for another year, and over 10,000 Ontario volunteers were recognized for their continuous years of volunteer service. 2012 was the biggest year yet with 48 ceremonies held in 35 communities across the province.

Immigration

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LEARN MORE

Visit ChangeTheWorld on [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#)

Learn more about the [Ontario Volunteer Centre Network](#)

Read the latest results of the [Canada Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating](#)

Learn more about [Ontario's honour and award programs](#)

Each year five million Ontarians volunteer more than 800 million volunteer hours in 46,000 not-for-profit

The VSAs form the cornerstone of Ontario's volunteer recognition programs. Others include the June Callwood Awards for Voluntarism and the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers.

Visit Ontario Honours and Awards for information on programs and how to nominate.

organizations across the province

Recipients are nominated by the organizations they serve

[List of ceremonies and recipients](#)

INSIGHT INTO IMMIGRATION: Global Experience Ontario

Q. What does GEO do?

A. GEO is an access and resource centre that helps people with international training in 14 non-health regulated professions, 22 compulsory trades, and other fields.

Q. What professions does GEO serve?

A. GEO helps people before and after they arrive in Ontario who are trained outside the province in certain trades and 14 non-health regulated professions. [Find more information here](#)

Q. What information does GEO provide?

A. GEO helps you find out how to:

- Get your professional licence.
- Have your academic credentials assessed.
- Find training programs.
- Contact the Ontario regulatory body for your profession.
- Connect to professional networks so you can make professional contacts in your field.
- Find language training programs nearest your home.
- Learn about licensing and registration for your profession in a Career Map.
- Learn about many other resources such as mentorships, internships, professional immigrant networks, bridge training, volunteer opportunities, and more.

You can contact GEO for more information at:

Website: www.ontario.ca/geo

Email: geo@ontario.ca

Telephone: 416-327-9694 or 1-866-670-4094 (from outside Toronto)

TTY 416-327-9710 or 1-866-388-2262 (for teletypewriter users only)

You can follow GEO on Twitter at [@OntMCI](#).

Helping Skilled Newcomers Find Jobs

Helping people to overcome symptoms of illness, injury or disability is something Nada Khairallah has always wanted to do. And that's what she did for eight years as a physiotherapist in her home country of Lebanon.

"I felt that by the end of the bridge program, the puzzle finally came together: the new knowledge I gained in

But after Nada arrived in Ontario, she had difficulty finding a job in her field. It was Ontario's bridge training program for internationally educated physiotherapists at the University of Toronto that helped Nada find her place in the province's workforce.

Today, she is a fully registered physiotherapist practising at the William Osler Health Centre, Brampton Civic Hospital. She also plans to some day earn a PHD in Physiotherapy.

To support skilled newcomers like Nada, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has announced new and renewed funding for 70 bridge training programs. Funding also comes from the Government of Canada.

The programs will benefit more than 11,000 skilled newcomers in a broad range of professions including: IT, law, healthcare, engineering, green economy and business administration. Since 2003, Ontario's Bridge Training programs have helped more than 50,000 highly skilled newcomers get licensed and get Canadian job experience.

Through these programs, newcomers develop the technical, cultural and language-related skills needed to succeed.

"Bridging program participants have excelled not only in their placements, but also in the excellent patient care they provide in the positions we've hired them into." says Dean Lising, Professional Practice Leader of Physiotherapy at William Osler Health System.

If you are a newcomer who needs help getting registered to practice your profession or trade so that you can work in Ontario, a bridge training project may be able to help.

For more information go to www.ontario.ca/immigration.

the program supplemented the knowledge and skills I already had and it helped me to develop my Canadian resume. I gained a better understanding of Canadian workplace communication and what employers are looking for. The program also helped me to create a professional network which led to a job in the field of physiotherapy."

"Bridge training projects have a proven track record of success," says Minister Sousa. "In these tough economic times, it is more important than ever that we help our skilled newcomers put their talents to work in Ontario's economy."

Developing Our First Ever Immigration Strategy

Newcomers currently represent 30 per cent of Ontario's labour force, which makes them crucial to our continued prosperity. Without more skilled newcomers, the province's working age population would begin to decline by 2014.

In response to our growing economic demand, Ontario is developing its first ever immigration strategy. It will focus on how immigration can best support Ontario's economic development and help newcomers get jobs and succeed.

- The strategy will be informed by an Expert Roundtable on Immigration, consultations with key stakeholders and other research.
- From April to June, the Roundtable examined many issues, including

The Expert Roundtable will provide its recommendations to the government in late summer 2012.

[Read the provincial news release about Ontario's first ever Immigration Strategy.](#)

those dealing with selection, settlement, and integration of newcomers.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee



Prince Charles presents a Diamond Jubilee Medal to Rahul Singh, founder of GlobalMedic and a 2011 Order of Ontario Appointee.

It's been an exciting and historic year for the British Monarchy. This summer, people the world over tuned in to watch a colourful spectacle of watercraft, including a Canadian canoe, descend the River Thames to honour the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. And the festivities continued for days.

The celebrations still echo throughout the commonwealth, including Canada. In all, 60,000 Canadians from all fields and all walks of life will receive a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for making meaningful contributions to our society.

Ontarians were invited to make nominations for the medal earlier in the spring. In the coming weeks, the recipients will be announced.

Eight-year-old Bryden Hutt is the youngest Canadian to receive this honour, for his support of the Children's Wish Foundation

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited in May and presented medals alongside the Lieutenant Governor

Queen Elizabeth II is only the second British monarch to celebrate a diamond jubilee. The first was Queen Victoria.