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News Release
For immediate distribution

The CCO Supports Collective Projects in the North East with its Social Enterprise Ontario Program

Hearst, March 1st, 2019 – The Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO) announces today a financial support of \$450,000 for two entrepreneurial projects by the Université de Hearst and La Maison Verte.

Through the Social Enterprise Ontario program, a microcredit and grant program delivered in partnership with Desjardins, the Caisse populaire Alliance and the Ontario government, the two organizations in Northern Ontario will be able to move forward with their organizational and operational reinforcement.

The Université de Hearst purchased and renovated a building in the summer of 2018, near its Timmins campus, to build a student residence to provide affordable housing to the student population, provincial, national and increasingly international. The funds from the program Social Enterprise Ontario will allow them to cover certain renovation costs in order to house more students.

"University life is far from being lived alone", said Luc Bussièrès, Rector at the Université de Hearst. "To do this, the University has always wanted residential services in a welcoming environment to foster cohesion, and it is now available on all campuses, he said.

La Maison Verte is a typical example of an innovative social enterprise that continues to flourish in Northern Ontario. It is through the sale of fresh vegetable products and reforestation that it accomplishes its environmental, economic and social mission. As an institution of Francophone social entrepreneurship in Ontario, La Maison Verte continues to invest in its development by purchasing equipment that makes its infrastructure more efficient for heating greenhouses, thereby promoting the growth of trees.

Special thanks to the Caisse populaire Alliance and the Government of Ontario for their significant contributions to both projects, in partnership with the CCO. In recent years, other collective businesses in the North have been able to take advantage of the Social Enterprise Ontario program, such as the Coop Cécile de Hearst, the Sudbury Indie Cinema Co-op, the Cooperative of the Francophone Organizations of Thunder Bay or the Sudbury Arts Place.



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This program is an illustration of the commitment of the caisses populaires of Ontario (Desjardins and Caisse populaire Alliance), the Ontario government and the CCO to make Ontario a prosperous place where social and cooperative enterprises thrive.

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About the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario:

The Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario is the organization of choice for education, promotion, collaboration and advisory services to ensure the sustainable development of French-language and Bilingual cooperatives and social enterprises in Ontario.

Photo Caption:

Photo 1: Angèle Jean, Liaison Officer for the Université de Hearst with Annie Joyal, Development Officer for the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario.

Photo 2: Manon Cyr, Executive Director of La Maison Verte with Annie Joyal, Development Officer for the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario.

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