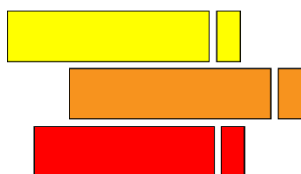


# CASC/ACÉC

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# CASC

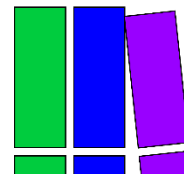
Canadian Association for  
Studies in Co-operation

Since 1982

# ACÉC

L'Association Canadienne pour  
les Études sur la Coopération

Depuis 1982



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



*John Simoulidis  
CASC/ACÉC President  
Associate Professor (Teaching)  
Department of Social Science  
York University*

Warm greetings to all. For those of you who may not know, I have been serving as President of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation/ L'Association Canadienne pour les Études sur la Coopération (CASC/ACÉC) since our AGM at our annual conference in June 2024. I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this role. CASC, which celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, has such a rich history as a unique multidisciplinary network of researchers and practitioners and we all have a great opportunity to highlight our work in the coming year. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025). I look forward to working with our CASC board of directors to reach out to our members in order to

amplify the work they do in showcasing the role cooperatives can play in transitioning to an alternative path to social and economic development in Canada. In line with the UN's theme, "Cooperatives Build a Better World", let's focus our efforts to show how this can be done in a sustainable, equitable, and socially just way.

Of course, this is work CASC has already been doing, too. Our conference this past year entitled 'Sustaining shared futures – the cooperative way/Assurer nos avenir communs – à la manière des coopératives', delivered the message that a sustainable future must be a cooperative one, if it is to be inclusive and democratic, too. It was held at HEC Montreal after the CASC Board voted to move our conference away from the site of Congress, McGill University, as a show of support for both the pro-Palestine student encampment and the McGill Law Professors' strike. Many thanks are due to Rafael Ziegler and the staff at Institut international des coopératives Alphonse-et-Dorimène-Desjardins (IICADD), where Rafael serves as the Director, for stepping in on such short notice to organize a wonderful and successful conference. You can read more about the highlights of this conference in this newsletter from Judith Harris, our most recent past president.

CASC members do a lot of work already to build a better world. Many members are involved in research projects that promote the promise of equity and justice

inherent to cooperation. For example, the [Projet de conversion en coopératives/Conversion to Co-operatives Project](#) aims to combat the negative impact on employment that a wave of possible business closures and retiring business owners will potentially have, by encouraging policymakers and business transition professionals to explore a co-operative conversion option when planning for succession or sale of the business or its assets. The team of researchers includes many CASC members, including Dionne Pohler, Josée Charbonneau, Claude-André Guillotte, Fiona Duguid, Derya Tarhan, and Marcelo Vieta.

Another CASC member, Rafael Ziegler, recently gave a [TEDx talk at HEC Montreal entitled, “Backcasting a sustainable future”](#) which inverts the typical forecasting model (extrapolating past and current trends into the future). If we begin, instead, with a vision of what ought to be—a desirable and sustainable future—we can then think critically about new forms of ‘social innovation’: the institutional changes and concrete actions needed to move in this direction. In his talk, Rafael explained how backcasting takes us to the core challenge of sustainability: joint reflection on (unfulfilled) needs and desires. As a member of the Réseau québécois de recherche en économie circulaire (Québécois Network for Research in Circular Economy – RQREC), he explores the ways that co-operatives represent an organizational alternative to conventional corporations that can contribute to a sustainable future.

Last but not least, CASC continues to work closely with, and count on the support of, the [Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives](#) (CCSC), a research and teaching institute at the University of Saskatchewan established in 1984. The CCSC's mission is to help create a better world, one that is democratic, sustainable, and productive by drawing on the rich history, values, and traditions of the international co-operative movement. A future where our institutional arrangements are guided by the co-operative values of voluntarism, mutualism, egalitarianism, equity, solidarity, and transparency contributes to a democratic, participatory, responsive, creative, diverse, productive, and sustainable society. This year, the annual Fredeen Lecture will be delivered by CASC member Eylin Jorge Coto, recipient of the Hartley and Margaret Fredeen Scholarship in Co-operative Studies. This scholarship is offered annually to a student who is conducting research on co-operatives, either entering or continuing studies in a master's or doctoral program at the University of Saskatchewan. She will be presenting an ‘Analysis of the Government Relations between Credit Unions and Farm Credit Canada’, drawing on research she has conducted with Marc-André Pigeon.

Last month I had the pleasure of meeting with Dan Brunette, Senior Director of External Affairs at Co-operatives and Mutuals/cooperatives et mutuelles Canada (CMC). During the meeting, Dan and I discussed the various ways CASC and CMC have collaborated to promote co-operative research. One important way is in supporting emerging scholars. We jointly administer three Canadian

Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) scholarships: the Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship (graduate students only), Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship (graduate students only) and the Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award (undergraduate or graduate students). The CMC and CASC were proud to offer Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund support to five students—Kacie G. Hopkins, Sandi Stewart, Cora Weins, Smith Djihoui GNEPA, and Eyllin Jorge Coto—to attend and participate in this year's CASC Conference. We also discussed past, current, and future research opportunities. Dan highlighted the research resources CMC provides to researchers interested in co-ops, such as a continuously updated database, map, and online directory of co-operatives, credit unions, caisses populaires and mutuels in Canada.

Every so often, CASC co-operates with other organizations to host a joint conference. From July 8-11, 2025, we will have the Joint Conference of ICA-CCR, CASC and ACE/Conférence conjointe de l'ACI-CCR, ACÉC et ACE at IICADD at HEC, Montreal. There are currently [17 streams planned](#) covering topics ranging from decolonization, energy, food and the circular economy to governance, law and ethics. This will be an essential event for anyone who is involved or interested in co-operative research.

In terms of my own work to build a better world, I will continue the work of past presidents of CASC in strengthening partnerships with institutions and organizations committed to cooperation and the study of co-operatives, both within the co-operative movement in

Canada and internationally. Some of these organizations include our partners for this conference, especially the Young & Emerging Scholars Network on Cooperative Studies (which is part of ICA/CCR). I will work to strengthen our relationship with CMC and educate our members of the resources they make available to us including the latest research data on co-operatives and credit unions via its website, reports, and newsletters. In preparation for the upcoming conference, I will also be working on developing a participatory budget proposal. At our AGM in 2024, a motion was passed instructing the Board of CASC to develop a proposal to be presented to the membership to organize opportunities for participatory budgeting at the 2025 AGM. Most importantly, I will work to promote and continue to strengthen the relationships across different programs and institutes across Canada that focus on co-operatives and education in the theory and practice of cooperation including:

- [Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives \(CEARC\)](#) and the [International Centre for Co-operative Management](#), both at Saint Mary's University.
- [Advanced Co-operative Governance Program](#) offered jointly by the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.
- [Masters in Cooperative Management](#) offered by the Institut de recherche et d'éducation pour les coopératives et les mutuelles

(IRECUS) at l'Université de Sherbrooke.

- [Adult Education & Community Development Program](#), at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.
- [Programme en gestion des entreprises sociales et collectives](#) at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM).
- [Institut international des coopératives Alphonse-et-Dorimène-Desjardins](#) at HEC Montreal.

Finally, I would like to make a call for you to [please donate today to the Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund](#). As many of you know, this scholarship fund was established by the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF), in partnership with Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada (CMC) and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC), to commemorate the late Ian MacPherson (1939-2013) in honour of his outstanding contributions to the study and advancement of co-operatives and the social economy in Canada and around the world. This fund has been promoted and generously supported by CASC members, many of whom learned and worked alongside Ian, since this fund was established 10 years ago.

Many thanks to the team that puts this newsletter together!



## CASC/ACÉC 2024 CONFERENCE, CONGRESS 2024



*Judith Harris*

*Past President and Conference 2024  
Organizing Committee Chair*

*The 2024 conference stands out in our memory as a celebration of 40 years, a response to the student encampment and a faculty strike (moving from McGill to HEC), and a visualization of future directions for co-op studies. This review is presented to those who were not able to attend and to those who were not able to take in all of the sessions. This is one participant's attempt to capture what was an exciting year for the CASC Conference (after four decades of enlightening co-op conferences). Please excuse any misinterpretations or errors of omission (J. Harris).*



### TUESDAY JUNE 11

On our pre-conference tour, we headed north from HEC to Centrale Agricole (est. 2019), an innovative urban agriculture hub and community of social enterprises that demonstrate the potential of a circular economy. This 72,000 ft. space houses the world's largest urban co-op. Resident co-ops hire those who create synergy. The meal worms' poop becomes liquid fertilizer and mushrooms are transformed into insulation—all part of the circular economy. We walked to Sollio Cooperative Group, a producer cooperative. Here, the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité (CQCM) presented "CoopérAction Climatique" – a collaborative project with Coop Carbone focused on cooperative climate action.



**WEDNESDAY JUNE 12****Co-operative Demutualizations: Past Present and Future**

This first session of the conference focused on the demutualization of an insurance company (Piscitelli), a retailer of outdoor gear (Pigeon), and a co-op wholesaler in Canada (Pohler). The fortunes of Economic Mutual, unlike other large co-ops, continued to thrive. Although studies suggested that COVID was the primary factor in the latter two cases, Mountain Equipment Co-op and Calgary Co-op had made changes over the previous decades to investments, governance, and patronage payments. These changes led to their demise and impacted the national co-op ecosystem.

**From self-management to general management: the spectrum of possible organizational models for worker co-operatives in Quebec**

Carried out in 2023-24, the project explores and documents management and governance models. The objectives were to distinguish and contextualize various organizational models; identify the conditions favourable to the models; document the practices and tools; reflect on and discuss the models, practices, and tools; and integrate support tools of the COOP Network and of the cooperative support ecosystem. Group and individual interviews were conducted with 20 Quebec worker co-operatives. The transfer tool developed as part of the project was jointly presented by the

COOP Network and UQAM Community Service and Technopedagogical Hub.

(Michaud, Faubert-Mailloux, & De Broves)

**Keynote: Extending our Shared Futures: A Horizon for the Co-operative Movement in the Digital Age**

Nathan Schneider urged us to work toward more ambitious visions for a thriving co-operative movement. The digital economy extracts value and deepens inequality. Schneider wants us to reassert and demand the “right to assemble” to ensure that ordinary people have the ability to form meaningful power. We must highlight community stories. Where is the co-op movement currently? We are focused on tweaking; we are too content; co-ops are supported only at early stage; co-ops lack the capacity to meet demand despite procurement programs; we are limited to one sector at a time; and focus on perfectionism rather than adopting an experimental approach.

Strategies on the horizon are the following: 1. Design co-op strategy for the top of the market, not just the bottom; 2. Build shared strategies for shared ownership, focusing on policy coalitions; 3. Organize to democratize the gains. Co-ops can be organized as political parties, toward a co-operative commonwealth. Emilia Romagna

reminds us: we are holding these co-ops for future generations.

We can dream of the co-operative commonwealth. As the United Nations declares. We have a right to peaceful assembly and association.

### CASC/ACÉC AGM Highlights

#### *Co-Presidents' Report Highlights*

We continue to invest in communications to build connections despite rising costs for catering, interpreting, and room rental. CASC has also encouraged Canadian and international study in co-operatives through the newsletter featuring researchers and publications. CASC has a representative on the ICA-CCR, Marcelo Vieta. Regarding training and mentoring post-secondary students, CMC and CASC annually invite applications for three CASC/ACÉC scholarships that are available to students and for the Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund that supports students to attend the conference. To engage members, the meeting was punctuated by several questions posed to the membership and their responses captured electronically:

#### *CASC Scholarships*

**Joanna Hausen, CMC**, announced the 2024 recipients of the CASC Scholarships.

- **Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship** was awarded to **Kaci Hopkins**, a Ph.D. Candidate in

Joint Communication and Culture at York and Toronto Metropolitan Universities.

- **Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award** was granted to **Marcelo Cohen**, a student in the Master of Management and Co-operatives at Saint Mary's University.
- **Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship** was awarded to **Smith Djihoui GNEPA**, a Ph.D. candidate in Development Economics at the University of Sherbrooke.

She also thanked the committee members: Judith Harris, Donna Miller, Daphne Rixon, and Derya Tarhan.

#### *Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund*

Joanna also mentioned the Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund, which is set up in collaboration with CASC. The fund is for young people (under 35 years old) to participate in research and education about co-ops. **Kacie G. Hopkins, Sandi Stewart, Cora Weins, Smith Djihoui GNEPA, and Eylin Jorge Coto** received funds to participate in this year's CASC Conference.

#### *The Graduate Student Merit Award*

The Graduate Student Merit Award is administered and adjudicated by CASC but funded by the Federation. This year's Graduate Student Merit Award is awarded to **Kaci Hopkins**, a Ph.D. Candidate at York and Toronto Metropolitan Universities.

#### *CASC/ACÉC Board Elections*



Continuing members are Secretary-Treasurer, Isobel Findlay. Esther Awotwe, Emi Do, Juliet 'Kego Ume-Onyido, Derya Tarhan, Marcelo Vieta, and Rafael Ziegler. Fiona Duguid, Anne-Marie Merrien, and John Simoulidis have completed their terms, but are re-offering to continue working on the board. Judith Harris is leaving the board and CASC is thankful for her work as President over the past 5 years and 9 years on the board. When no nominations were received or accepted, the board was acclaimed. Congratulations!

*2025 Conference Location*

Based on the support of the board, Rafael completed the form for a CASC/ICA-CCR joint Congress. ACE is also likely to join for 2025 in Montreal. The membership approved a motion to **approve CASC partnership on the CASC/ICA-CCR joint Congress in Montreal in 2025.**

*2025 Membership Fees*

The membership **approved a proposal to maintain CASC fees (\$175 regular and \$55 student, underemployed and retired) as they are and add a separate Conference fee that is not likely to be more than the Congress fee.** The board to decide whether to combine membership and conference fees or not.

*Secretariat Support*

Renewed thanks to the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives for support

of the Secretariat and to Eylin Jorge Coto for all her contributions as CASC assistant.

**The Canadian Co-op Sector and Co-op Studies since 1984: Stories & reflections**

We traveled “Back to the Future” in this session. Our fireside chat with Isobel Findlay moderating and past CASC executives Lou Hammond Ketilson, Brett Fairbairn, and Darryl Reed reminded us of what stories have been told and forgotten and what implications they have for the co-op sector and co-op studies. An informative and entertaining session including reference to Ian MacPherson’s impression of Queen Victoria!



### **CASC/ANSER Reception: Salle de reception Guy- Frechette**

A beautiful venue with a bit of jazz ... we ate plenty of delicious canapes and anniversary cake and topped it off by managing to surprise Isobel Findlay who received the CASC Award of Merit.



### **THURSDAY, JUNE 13**

#### **The transformative role of co-ops for a just, inclusive, circular economy**

How do co-ops promote circularity of the economy? The circular economy is a model of production and consumption which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended. In 2019, the global economy was 9.1% circular but by 2023 the percentage had fallen to 7.2%. This session reported on the work of an international SSHRC Partnership which is examining the transformative role of co-ops as an alternative in terms of business models, governance, technologies and

policies. Partners reported that co-ops must transition from the *nurse in the battlefield* model. Governance should be based on hybrid property models of control and ownership. The roundtable called for democratizing technology by creating space for knowledge sharing to counter *democratic drift*. Respondents noted that most people are either unemployed or overworked. But co-ops offer choices that can free up time so that we can live well and fight like hell. Co-ops need to scale laterally in competitive markets. There are many existing examples of green co-ops and movements to reduce workers' hours. (Zeigler, Ballon, Vezina, Raufflet, Pigeon, Mikkelson, Vieta, Rijpens & Janelle).

#### **Care, Inclusion and Female Leadership**

Co-operative and female-led projects have responded to needs in sectors where COVID and crisis have revealed women's vulnerabilities. In the housing sector, housing is often seen as an individualized asset. In this session, feminist commoning approaches to housing were proposed as a strategy for addressing the needs of marginalized women. (Parker & Araujo) COVID-19 has often exposed disparities in health care access (Enns, Swardh & Nyamongo). The case of gender-responsive, co-operative-led healthcare in Africa demonstrated the effectiveness of human-centred design that facilitates meaningful participation. Values of democracy equality and equity (DEE) in co-operatives are in line with the UN sustainable development goals on gender equality. Interviews with management and directors evaluated the claim that diversity and equity influence co-

operative leadership (Khemakhem & Arroyo).

### **Sustainable Development Goals, Food and Health**

Presenters in this session observed that the COVID pandemic shone a light on weaknesses in food and health systems for some populations (Vaz & Pigatto). A review of literature on SDG indicators identified nine social and environmental indicators; however, there were fewer resources on governance indicators. Another study that included 509 Kenyan women from agricultural co-operatives recommended support for health insurance in agricultural co-operatives as an important initiative toward greater sustainability for all (Waveru & Nyamongo).

### **Keynote: Social Enterprise and the socio-ecological transition**

With a focus on social inequity, many social enterprises are working to deeply transform world views and systems towards a socio-economic model that will address present and future social and ecological challenges. Territoires innovants en économie sociale et solidaire (TIESS) is an organization that contributes to territorial development through knowledge transfer. Since 2013, it has been identifying innovative solutions and providing tools to social economy organizations so they can transform their practices and address societal issues. In our second keynote, Barbara Duroselle from TIESS, described a two-year project and levers and

strategies of systemic change adopted by social enterprise in order to bring about a socio-ecological transition. Marie-France Bellemare and Denis Gosellin explained how social enterprise is changing the scale to change the system.

TIESS supports projects that acknowledge that vulnerable communities have 25% of the resources but bear 97% of the costs of the environmental crisis. The reuse process at Insertech has partnerships with large companies to deliver pallets of computers that are still in excellent condition. Computers are sorted, cleaned, erased, and professionally refurbished with the addition or replacement of parts. The Coderr Group, working against obsolescence, recycles a growing range of household appliances and has expanded the surface area of its Alma factory.

The Code Group is a social economy company that dismantles well over 100,000 household appliances at this time. This work requires citizen participation, the participation of retailers who are also part of the program and the participation of municipalities. The Dream of these initiatives is to conserve employment, develop sustainable lines for re-employment, support networking and alliances and booster social resilience.

### **Governance and Technology in Circular Coops**

Researchers from IICADD and HEC (Montreal and Grenoble) proposed a framework for analyzing modes of democratic governance in Circular Social Economy Organizations. The research captures convergence and difference in

regard to openness and the transformative nature of the circularity strategy in such organizations. (Vézina, Artis, Ballon & Ziegler) A second study, this one partnering IICADD, HEC (Montreal) and TU Dortmund & Post-Growth Innovation Lab, is asking in its research what agency co-operatives have to guide socio-technical systems toward social practices and circular technologies. The focus is on circularity strategies, practice changes, political regimes and cognitive frame preconditions. (Ballon, Hölsgens, Maldonado, Pansera & Ziegler) A Brazilian team reported on their study of Digital Maturity in Credit Unions. In two stages, the research examines strategy, leadership, operations and technology adoption followed by qualitative case analysis of challenges during digital transformations. The final results are intended to create greater understanding of the co-operative landscape in the digital era. (Carlos, Rocha de Carvahlo & Tadeu)

### **Contemporary Trends in Co-operative Practice: Collective Action, Stakeholder Engagement and Accounting for Transformation**

Early studies have indicated that credit unions are not suited to policy-advocacy and policy-making due to divergent needs and interests of their membership. This presentation focused on the case of credit unions that have had to engage in both roles due to intrusions from Farm Credit Canada (Coto & Pigeon). The Green Campus Cooperative has influenced the university, engaged faculty, and educated students (Fairbairn, 2016). Fair trade and

co-operative values have appealed to students who have concerns about social justice, inequality and sustainability. (Simoulidis). A third paper in this session presented a tool to help co-ops implement, measure and report on sustainable development goals. ACT is an action research project designed by co-ops to that help co-op record impacts, measure results and tell their story (Duguid & Rixon).

### **Democracy, Digital Transition and Co-operatives**

A team of researchers from HEC is asking, « How are support networks created and what support practices are employed for digital organizations that occupy liminal spaces ». Theirs is a 2-year ethnographic study of a digital peer-support pilot which is being steered by a key intermediary for co-ops in Quebec (Girard, Pierce, Ziegler & Morelos). A Canadian federation of non-profit watershed organizations is the focus of a study of Social Economy meta-organizations (SEMOs) employing a cooperative digital strategy to equip their field with inter-organizational information systems (IOISs). Their findings include a set of four evolving configurations of factors that influence strategic postures adopted by the social economy meta-organization over a two-year period (Cousin & Audebrand).

**FRIDAY JUNE 14****Collective Action, Competitive Advantage and Surplus**

The co-op advantage is widely accepted but not clearly explained. Economic theory, systems and organizational theory, social movement theory, and behavioural theory can be employed to clarify 12 co-op advantages: self help; productivity, countercyclical, natural monopoly, government failure, trust, social capital, conventional innovation; social innovation, local development, social mobilization, and policy co-construction. For each advantage we can identify advantage over whom, type of benefits, advantage to whom, and conditions for exercising the advantage (Reed). The second paper in this session argues that worker-, consumer- and producer-ownership structures should be calculating earnings in different ways from investor-owned firms. Based on the concept of residual claimant to calculate earnings, there are a number of opportunities for the social acquisition of investor-owned enterprises for greater commodity benefit (Geobey). The « Great Unwinding » refers to the wave of recent challenges faced by credit unions — on their own. They had formed leagues, societies, networks working together from the beginning, in the end creating an unruly system that now, no longer works. This presentation laid out a new path based on collective action, drawing on transaction cost economics. (Coto & Pigeon)

**Co-op models and the commons in late modernity**

This first paper focuses on the activities of productive models of five multi-member co-operatives. Revisiting the concept of multifunctionality (Polanyi), the authors consider the socio-productive activities necessary for political, economic and social development. Employing a heuristic analysis grid considering five socio-productive logics, they compare different combinations and identify tensions in socio-productive activities (Ballon & Coquerel). The second paper makes the initial observation that the cooperative enterprise is driven by an ideal, even a utopia. This imposes on it an original conception of cooperation, without which it would be just a company or a business like any other (Brizon and Poisson, 1913, Draperi, 2012). This utopian scope combined with cooperative practice, inspired by its own identity are the foundation of the cooperative. If society is currently described as liquid and impermanent (Bauman, 2000) it leads us to ask the question: what are the ideals or utopias that drive cooperators and the cooperative project? (Omar)

**Transitions, Community and Political Role of Co-operatives**

Two papers in this session focused on Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). The Quebec government's centralized strategy for a sustainable energy transition overlooks the reduction of consumption and energy poverty, raising ecological, social, and economic concerns. RECs present an alternative by



enabling citizen-led, democratic management of renewable energy, promoting energy frugality and equitable access. This research examined how RECs can drive social transformation, incorporating symbiotic and ruptural strategies through collaborations with various stakeholders such as social movements and incumbent energy producers. The research employed participatory mapping to map issues and actor networks. The result is a dynamic perspective on social transformation strategies and offers insights for action research in transformative processes. (Janelle) In the community renewable energy (CRE) space private energy businesses are exploiting policy instruments reserved for CRE groups (“policy-grabbing”). This paper examined this phenomenon as it played out during Ontario’s Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program, specifically through renewable energy co-operatives (RE co-ops). This mixed methods study revealed that 62% of CRE FIT contracts were awarded to RE co-ops initiated by private energy businesses. There is significant resentment from leading members of community-initiated CRE initiatives towards the lack of community rootedness and social mission demonstrated by initiatives with corporate origins (Tarhan). The final paper in this session asked « How will Brazilian Credit Unions navigate digital futures and what is the trajectory of co-operative movements?» The authors use Tadeu and Silva’s foresight model (2013) to leverage data and construct scenarios. Two scenarios are the focus of action plans using a six-pillar framework (Inayatullah, 2008). The goal of the research is to provide guidance and action plans to co-

operatives to shape sustainable, co-operative futures (Silva, Rocha de Carvalho & Tadeu, Fundação Dom Cabral).

### **The new research network on social and solidarity economy in Québec**

The Fonds de recherche du Québec has announced funding for the Réseau de recherche en économie sociale et solidaire (RRÉSS) for the period 2024-2029. The RRÉSS aims to raise awareness and improve the recognition of the social & solidarity economy (SSE) in Quebec and internationally, both in legislation and in the field and in practice. In concrete terms, RRÉSS's mission is to create and lead a SSE research community; co-construct and share knowledge and tools for the SSE ecosystem; support the training of researchers and practitioners. RRÉSS has structured its scientific program around four axes: legislative and institutional framework, as well as the governance commitment; work and care; sustainable models of organization and action in the field; and the roots, development and impact of SSE (Michaud, Dioh, Audebrand & Guillotte).

### **Indigenous Perspectives on Reciprocity: Expanding ICA Principle #7**

This panel provides an opportunity for a critical and timely discussion of the relationship between humans, plants and animals. Kimmerer (2013) observes in land-based, gift economies, a role for humankind, not as the centre of existence

but as one species in a balanced relationship that can often be mutually beneficial. This panel discussion, focused on the Orang Asli (original peoples of Malaysia) has implications for revising International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Principle # 7 on "Sustainable development of communities". Challenges for the Perak Orang Asli in rainforest communities, include low awareness of the co-op model, weak governance, lack of capital, infrastructure and business skills. It is imperative that customary land rights be recognized (Suki Mee, Perak Organ Asli). In the case of the Mah Mere, the tourism industry promotes handicrafts and weaving yet their socio-economic activity remains rooted in agriculture and fishing. There is no real change in the livelihoods of the Mah Mere people. They resist employment outside the community and see tourism as a form of privacy invasion. Access to mangrove swamps has been cut off by pollution and forest are being cleared. The way forward for the Indigenous co-operatives is through a land protection approach (Puteri Aina). Discussions with Arctic Co-op suggest that their federated model may be helpful as an option for the Organ Asli.

### **Co-ops and Decolonialization**

Many fair trade activists are using their social media platforms to (de)colonize fair trade. The author explores the hashtag #decolonizefairtrade on Instagram to demonstrate the evolving culture of the fair trade movement. There are concerning connections to right-wing politics and conservative evangelical ideologies. This paper discusses the

homogeneousness of fair trade marketing. Case studies demonstrate how marketing impacts this movement. Is the (de)colonize fair trade movement a new social justice movement within the thriving fair-trade world? (Hopkins). The next paper provided a practitioner's perspective on the process of developing a sustainability model for Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. The requirements of the model included: Supporting existing strategic plans; being useful to the Winnipeg support office and its operating networks; being relevant to our northern, and primarily Indigenous, membership base. The author's discovery and personal learning process began with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – then led to several documents, from Indigenous organizations, exploring the intersection between various sustainability concerns in a rapidly changing north. A model was created to integrate to support cohesion across the federation. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was also integrated (Valiere). The third paper takes us across the ocean to Malaysia where there is increasing pressure to integrate into modern economies. The Mah Meri tribe whose main economic resource is from the handicraft business struggles to adapt to the contemporary business worldview, which is often commercially driven and based mainly on profit-making. This fails to account for the Indigenous ideologies of the Mah Meri. Their holistic understanding of community livelihood, community cooperation, and social well-being may not necessarily translate into quantifiable metrics of "productivity" or "success". The aim of this research is to

explore the indigenous ideologies, cooperation systems, and community-centric priorities of the Mah Meri people (Puteri Aina).



### **Co-op models, collective conversions, and transformation of entrepreneurship**

The following two presentations focus on succession. By 2025, 34,000 Quebec businesses will be up for sale. Three methods envisaged for transferring a business are family transmission, sale to executive employees or sale to a private third party. The option of operating as a co-operative remains poorly documented. Employee take-over would require employee-buyers to develop skills as cooperators, entrepreneurs and administrators. Employing Nancy Fraser's critical theory, the author explores the emancipatory potential of collective recovery by workers (Konate).

This second paper in this session presents results of a descriptive study of conversions to co-operatives in Quebec (1980 to 2022) in order to identify trends and support strategies for transfers and potential buyers (Guillotte et

Charbonneau). The third author explains that in France, activity and employment co-operatives (CAE), in their practical aspect, are support structures for the creation of economic activity which offer a model of salaried entrepreneurship in a secure, autonomous and cooperative framework. Some of these co-operatives aspire to transform individual entrepreneurial entry into collective practice by proclaiming themselves as work mutuals (Sangiorgio, Veyer, 2006). The objective of this communication, based on a case study, is to study: (i) how an artists' CAE, by pooling its management, allows the emergence of collective entrepreneurship? (ii) what place do temporalities and support play in this emergence? (Omar)

### **Freedom and Self-determination, the cooperative way**

This first paper on “subjugated knowledge” examines work by black scholars and practitioners in the theorization and practice of co-operative organization. There is a perception in the Academy that “African-Americans don't do co-ops and that is the problem.” However, this is not the case (Gordon-Nembhard, 2014 & Gray, 2021). There has been a highly active African-American involvement at the intellectual and practitioner level of cooperative advocacy, formation and operation. Involvement has not always been reported openly due to security needs. This paper assembles and reviews co-op related theory and practice positions of several African-American scholars and expands on work by this author and Gordon-

Nembhard (Gray). The second presentation focuses on the architectural profession which has grappled with the pervasive myth of the creative genius, an individual presumed to rely exclusively on their innate brilliance for success. (See Ayn Rand's "Fountainhead"). This research contends that such a perception is not only misguided but also poses inherent dangers, particularly in a world grappling with crises interconnected with greed and ego. The exploration commences with a historical analysis of creativity's origins, drawing insights from poetry, psychology, and philosophy. The narrative culminates with examples of firms that are successfully transforming themselves into cooperative entities. This research advocates for a more collaborative and inclusive paradigm within the architectural profession. The cooperative approach is more relevant in navigating the challenges of our

multifaceted contemporary landscape (Beange).

The final paper focuses on freedom from domination in co-operatives. This article draws on republican theory of freedom to address challenges like organizational degeneration and member domination, closing some of the gap in theorizing related to co-operative governance. By applying the principle of freedom as non-domination, central to republican theory, the article provides a fresh perspective on enhancing democratic processes within co-operatives. It explores the interplay of exit, voice, and loyalty as republican mechanisms to prevent domination and promote freedom as non-domination and civic virtue. Finally, the authors explore the pertinence and limitations of the republican approach in relation to four main types of co-operatives: worker, consumer, producer and multistakeholder (Monette, Ziegler & Pek).

## ICA-CCR GLOBAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2025

**Montreal, July 8-11, 2025**



CASC will be participating in the [ICA CCR Global Research Conference 2025](#) to be hosted by the Institut international des coopératives Alphonse-et-Dorimène-Desjardins (IICADD) from July 8 to 11, at the HEC Montréal Hélène-Desmarais building in downtown Montreal. The conference will emphasize the importance of intercooperation in creating transformative change for justice, sustainability, and prosperity. We invite members to present in one of the [17 streams here](#). The deadline to submit proposals is January 15, 2025. Details on how to [submit a paper abstract or panel abstract can be found here](#). We would also like to invite Masters, PhD, post-doctoral students and early researchers in institutions to the [ICA CCR Young & Emerging Scholars \(YES\) Workshop](#), a one-day event on July 7 that aims at enhancing career development and networking opportunities for early researchers in cooperative studies. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!"



## CASC/ACÉC MERIT AWARD WINNER 2024



At CASC we have a tradition of being a bit sneaky when it comes to our CASC Merit Award winner – no one knows who the recipient is except the Board. This year we have had to add an extra layer of sneakiness because of who our award winner is.

She is such an important person to CASC, the Board felt it was high time that we throw out the criteria of not giving the award to someone on the board so we could finally honour our dear friend and CASC elder, Isobel Findlay.

There are a great many reasons why Isobel is deserving of this award. One reason is her loyalty. Isobel's sense of commitment goes deeper than most. She is committed to people, to causes, to organizations, and I don't mean just attaching her name to these, but she takes an active role, she is a worker bee, a decision-maker, an ideas person committed to supporting that person, that cause, that organization. She is committed to supporting cooperative studies students through their thesis or their first presentation at CASC or as a mentor to the CASC Secretariat. She is deeply loyal to CASC. Isobel has been a member of CASC for almost as long as it has been in existence [editor: closer to 25 years!] (she must

have been 15 when she joined). And she has been our secretary/treasurer for about half that time. Loyalty feels like an old fashioned characteristic these days of social media actions of instant friending and unfriending. But I think this world needs more of the kind of deeply meaningful loyalty that CASC has been lucky to have from Isobel.

I also want to talk about being principled. Isobel is not of rigid or inflexible principled variety, but of the grounded in what she values and importantly of values (of which we speak a lot about in the co-operative sector). She is a person who walks her talk. She has brought this to CASC in so many ways. She is the one who suggested student pricing be enshrined in our bylaws, she helped to lead BIPOC and Indigenous policies for our organization. Our keynotes over the years have reflected Isobel's direction in terms of not only bringing in super interesting ideas and content, but also unheard voices and experiences because this will expand co-operative studies and will make CASC a better organization.

Anyone who has worked with Isobel knows/ suffers her attention to detail. (She has probably already found many dangling participles and misplaced semicolons in this speech.) Jokes aside, this attention to detail is so important. Isobel brings this skill to every sentence, article, newsletter, research report she writes in aid of CASC and co-operative studies. She is the Keeper of the CASC bylaws, even in this group that really understands the importance of bylaws, this doesn't sound very exciting. I want to think about Keeper as not just the details of writing down bylaws but living and breathing and understanding how to operate and implement the bylaws.

I would be remiss if I did not speak about Isobel's deep concern about and attention to equality and social justice. She is the true academic/practitioner: with one foot in her academic research and teaching through the University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, and her other foot firmly rooted in community organizations and co-operatives that are actively shifting who is at the table, working to even the playing field, creating spaces for all to participate in. She epitomizes Paulo Friere's Praxis. Her work as the Saskatoon Homelessness Count lead for years shows how she bridges empirical research to advocate for a basic human right - housing. CASC benefits from Isobel's infusion of social justice and equality at the Board level and our operations.

Last but not least, I want to speak about kindness. Kind is sometimes thought of as a wimpy word, but I think Isobel has transformed this word into a powerful trait. I would like to bring in welcoming, inclusive, warm, clear, and compassionate to help round out our understanding of Isobel's version of kind. She has made CASC a kinder association that lives and breathes values.

So if CASC is principled, has a committed to social justice and equality, is attentive to the small things and the big things, and is welcoming it is due to Isobel's deep commitment to guiding and injecting these traits into our association for so many years.

Please join me in this great honour tonight of giving the 2024 CASC Merit Award to Isobel Findlay.

## PROFILING CASC SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



**Kaci  
Hopkins**



**Smith Djihoui  
GNEPA**



**Marcelo  
Cohen**

Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC), in collaboration with the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC), is proud to announce the winners of the annual scholarships for 2024. Each year, CMC encourages and honours individuals studying in the co-operative and mutual sector to recognize their interest and contribution to the sector. All winners were announced during CASC's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Sustaining Shared Futures: The Co-operative Way, held at the École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

### **Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship (\$3,000)**

The Ontario Credit Union Foundation established the Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship in recognition of the outstanding contribution these two leaders made to the development of the credit union movement and the Ontario Credit Union Foundation. Tim, a retired scientist from the National Research Council, and Amy, who passed away in 2010, had a strong commitment to co-operatives, education, and research. Both served as local directors on several organizations. Amy was the first woman elected to the board of directors of Credit Union Central of Ontario and served for 22 years. The award, currently valued at \$3,000, is available to graduate students only.

**Recipient: Kaci Hopkins – Ph.D. Candidate – Joint Communication and Culture Program, York and Toronto Metropolitan Universities**

Kaci's research is entitled "Rooted like the Iris and Flying like the Wildflowers: A Feminist Journey to Rural Women's Economies."

### **Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship (\$1,000)**

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada established the Laidlaw Fellowship to honour Dr. Alexander Fraser Laidlaw, the father of the non-profit co-operative housing movement in Canada. An outstanding Canadian adult educator and co-op leader, Dr. Laidlaw served the cause of the co-operative movement for over 40 years. Author of *Co-operatives in the Year 2000*, Laidlaw fostered the social purpose of the co-op movement while always advocating sound business methods for co-operative organizations. The Laidlaw Award, valued at \$1,000, is available to graduate students only.

**Recipient: Smith Djihoui GNEPA – Ph.D. Candidate – Development Economics, University of Sherbrooke**

Smith's research is entitled "Macroeconomic Analysis of Risk Management in Microfinance Institutions."

### **Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award (\$1,000 each)**

Louis Lemaire, a co-operative pioneer, dedicated much of his life to organizing co-operatives in Saskatchewan and willed part of his estate to the Co-operative College of Canada (now the Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada) to support co-operative studies. Available to both undergraduate and graduate students, the Lemaire awards are intended to encourage students to undertake studies and research which will help them contribute to the development of co-operatives or to support students who have been involved in co-operatives, preferably in leadership positions as volunteers or employees. This award is managed by the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada.

### **Recipient: Marcelo Cohen – Master of Management and Co-operatives – Saint Mary's University**

Marcelo's goal is to build, launch and develop 15 co-op enterprises owned and operated by low-income racialized migrant people who are currently precariously employed in occupations such as cleaning, laundry, delivery, cooking, construction, and warehouse labour.



The winners are carefully chosen by members of the Scholarship Committee. The committee reviews all applications which were submitted by various applicants. Our thanks to the committee members:

- Dr. Mümtaz Derya Tarhan (University of Toronto)
- Dr. Judith Harris (University of Winnipeg)
- Dr. Daphne Rixon (St-Mary's University)
- Donna Miller (Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada)

Applications for next year's scholarships will open soon. In the meantime, you can find all the information related to the application process [here](#).



## THE 2024 IAN MACPHERSON LEGACY FUND RECIPIENTS



The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada, in partnership with CMC and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, has established a scholarship fund to commemorate the late Ian MacPherson and his outstanding contribution to the study and promotion of co-operatives. This fund supports student participation in research conferences, co-operative research, and co-operative involvement. Here are the 2024 recipients the Fund has helped so far:

**Kacie G. Hopkins** is a Ph.D. Candidate with expertise in community economies, feminist social enterprises, and geographies of rural women's handmade crafts and creativity. She studies in the Communication and Cultural Studies program at York University in Canada. Kacie is a storyteller, creative writer, designer, and entrepreneur. These roles are all part of her Ph.D. journey.

Today, the clothing made by her great-grandmothers inspire her research and storytelling. Outside of her Ph.D. studies she is active in the social enterprise, Wildflower Enterprises that she and her twin sister founded to connect rural women through crafting, design, and empowerment services. She is currently studying co-operatives, women's social enterprises, rural communities, intersectional feminism, critical pedagogies, and autoethnography to help establish an ethical local business model for Wildflower Enterprises and for rural women.

**Smith Djihoui GNEPA** is a Ph.D. candidate in Development Economics and a research assistant at the Université de Sherbrooke. He is a research student at the Group for Responsible Finance (GREFA) and the Group for International Economics and Development (GREDI). His doctoral thesis focuses on risk management and the performance of



credit co-operatives within a generalized macroeconomic framework of the Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) type. He reexamines the theoretical foundations of co-operatives' mission, which aims to ensure the well-being of members, in contrast to the profit-driven capitalist model. Drawing from a diverse sample of co-operative models (including NGOs and credit co-operatives), his work will contribute to discussions on credit co-operative regulation.

Gnepa is currently a volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross. In his previous roles, he served as a United Nations volunteer, specializing in Public Finance at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and worked as a data analyst and development planner for the fourth cohort of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Additionally, he volunteered with the Canada Revenue Agency, Revenu Québec, and World University Service of Canada.

**Sandi Stewart** is a Research Assistant at Saint Mary's University working with Dr. Fiona Duguid and Dr. Daphne Rixon. Sandi and Dr. Duguid are presenting their paper titled, "A Review of the Literature on Measuring and Reporting on the UN Sustainable Development Goals by Co-operatives" at the 2024 Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation conference. Sandi is also a Ph. D History student at the University of New Brunswick and a part-time instructor at Dalhousie University. She completed her MA in Folklore and BA at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

**Cora Weins** is a 3rd generation European settler living on Metis Land (Treaty One Territory), so-called Winnipeg, MB. Lineages of labour and community

organizing have situated her to thrive within the co-operative sector, where she believes that class, race and gender solidarity intersect to provide pathways into a future where everyone is free. A founding member of Eadha Bakery Worker Co-op and Master's student at the International Centre for Co-op Management, Cora finds wells of inspiration in collaborations that are inclusive, reciprocal and that betray capitalism's status quo; bringing about a deeper, embodied understanding of how systems are created and interlinked in order to bring about the common good.

**Eylin Jorge** holds a Master's in Industrial Engineering and is pursuing a Master's in Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan, reflecting her commitment to academic excellence and impactful research. As a Graduate Research Assistant at the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives in Saskatoon, she has contributed to the second wave of the Canadian Co-operative Governance project, delving into co-operative governance practices in Canada, and to the update of the Co-operative Governance Dashboard Tool. In addition to her research role, Eylin serves as a Student Assistant at the Canadian Association for the Studies in Co-operation.

The Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund supports student participation in research conferences, co-operative research, and co-operative involvement. Students at post-secondary institutions under the age of 35 will be given priority, with a preference for those studying or researching co-ops and presenting at an event. Applications are accepted year-round, but we recommend that you apply at least 60 days prior to the date of an event you wish to attend. To learn more or to apply, [please click here](#).

## UPDATE FROM THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CO-OPERATIVES



~ Stan Yu

*Research and Communications  
Coordinator*

*Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-  
operatives*

*Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of  
Public Policy*

*University of Saskatchewan*

### **1. Mergers are the Best Hope for Canadian Credit Unions Facing Stagnating Growth**

Dr. Abdullah Mamun, Professor at Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan and Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Research Fellow, summarizes his recent research on credit union mergers and their impact on growth. This study reveals that mergers have become a key strategy for Canada's credit unions to counter slowing growth, with benefits often materializing

two to three years after consolidation. Based on data from Canada's 100 largest credit unions, findings suggest that mergers boost efficiency, expand lending, and provide access to more income-generating services. However, the research also warns of potential risks, such as a few large players dominating the sector, which could bring significant cultural and economic changes.



Read the full paper here:

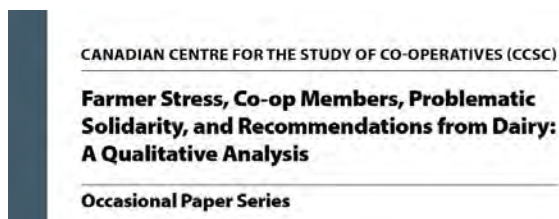
<https://usaskstudies.coop/documents/pdfs/cu-mergers-mamun-abdullah.pdf>



## 2. Farmer Stress, Co-op Members, Problematic Solidarity, and Recommendations from Dairy

In this occasional paper, Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives research fellow Thomas W. Gray uses the ecological life model approach to analyze the dissatisfaction amongst farmers in a dairy cooperative in the northwest United States. This report presents a qualitative analysis of 1,000 comments from a survey conducted among farmer members.

The paper concludes with recommendations focused on enhancing solidarity, drawn from various solidarity categories: “1) maladaptive transactions, i.e. breakdowns in communications, changing and inconsistent expectations, perceived exploitive relationships, as well as 2) general unresponsiveness to meet specific member needs within the organization and 3) unresponsiveness from the larger environment, with 4) a final synthesis of comments that highlight the experiences of farmers in a historical context”.



Read the full paper here:  
[https://usaskstudies.coop/documents/occasional-papers/2024.06.28\\_farmer-stress-tom-gray-final.pdf](https://usaskstudies.coop/documents/occasional-papers/2024.06.28_farmer-stress-tom-gray-final.pdf)

## 3. Comparison Report: The Canadian Co-operative Governance Survey

This report explores if and how governance practices amongst co-operatives and credit unions have evolved over time. Questions such as “are co-operative boards becoming more or less diverse? Older or younger?” are addressed. Drawing on data from two rounds of the Canadian Co-operative Governance Survey, conducted in 2019 and 2022, this report analyzes sixteen Canadian co-operatives and credit unions that took part in both surveys.

It reveals that compensation for board chairs and directors has increased over the last three years, especially in larger co-operatives. Moreover, there is emerging evidence indicating that co-operative boards are becoming both more diverse and younger.



Read the article here:  
<https://usaskstudies.coop/documents/co-operative-governance-wave-1-and-2-comparison-report-final.pdf>

4.

## Intervention Earth: Public Talk and Book Signing with Gwynne Dyer

Historian and journalist **Gwynne Dyer** is known for unparalleled acumen in serving up hard geopolitical truths. For *Intervention Earth* (2024), he interviewed the world's top 100 climate scientists to discuss the extraordinary measures we must contemplate to counter the irreversible effects of climate change.

In this public talk, Gwynne shared what he learned and proposed some options—big and small—that might just keep us ahead of encroaching disaster and carry us to a safe harbour.

**INTERVENTION EARTH**  
LIFE-SAVING IDEAS FROM THE WORLD'S TOP CLIMATE ENGINEERS

Public Lecture and Book Signing with **Gwynne Dyer**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024, 3:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Henry Taube Lecture Theatre, Thorvaldson 271 ("Airplane Room")**  
110 Science Place, University of Saskatchewan

To register and learn more, scan the QR Code:

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

"Gwynne Dyer has made the best and most plausible set of guesses I have yet seen about the human consequences of climate change."  
—James Lovelock

**INTERVENTION EARTH**  
Life-Saving Ideas from the World's Climate Engineers  
**GWYNNE DYER**  
Bestselling author of *Climate Wars*

### 5. The renaming of the Canada Room to the Co-op Collaborative Room.

For more than 40 years, Federated Co-operatives Limited has consistently demonstrated its support for the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, embracing our interdisciplinary, community-engaged, bridge-building approach to research and knowledge mobilization. FCL recognizes the value of education, research, and knowledge—essentially co-operative principle number 5.

In a reaffirmation of this enduring partnership, Federated Co-operatives Limited has renewed its commitment and unwavering support to the Centre by providing \$1.3 million in funding. This funding will sustain the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Co-operative Governance through 2029, fostering research and initiatives that focus on the co-operative governance model.

Moreover, to celebrate this strong alliance, the University of Saskatchewan has renamed a room at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public



Policy, located in the Diefenbaker Building, as the “Co-op Collaborative Room”.

We are deeply honoured by FCL’s continued support and look forward to the opportunity to further our shared mission:

advancing education, building enduring relationships, and driving research that strengthens the co-operative sector and our communities.



**6. Invitation to engage with the ongoing Co-op Conversation series**

Since the winter of 2021, the CCSC has hosted a monthly Co-op Conversation series. This series serves as a monthly online gathering for co-operative sector professionals to learn from others in the field and exchange information in a casual setting. The Co-op Conversations are held from 12:00 – 1:00 PM (Saskatchewan time) on the first Wednesday of the month.

Recent co-op conversations featured topics ranging from the role co-operatives can play in [journalism](#) to [Co-ops and](#)

[Universities: Some Reflections](#) to presenting the role of [Co-operatives and Food Security in Africa](#).

Our next co-op conversation be taking place on Wednesday, November 6. Our speaker will be Dr. Thomas W. Gray, a Rural Sociologist with the Rural Business-Cooperative Service at the United States Department of Agriculture and a Research Fellow at the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.

The recordings of all the past Co-op Conversations can be accessed via the CCSC’s Youtube Channel here: [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkrbHK0N4QW7z-nNSqTc2\\_jPIS8bgX5Jn](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkrbHK0N4QW7z-nNSqTc2_jPIS8bgX5Jn)



## SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANIZATIONS, CO-OPERATIVES & NON-PROFITS: POLICY SOLUTIONS WORTH EXPLORING

There is a rich diversity of third-sector organizations—co-operatives, credit unions, non-profits, charities, community associations, social enterprises, and more—working alongside the public and private sectors to provide goods and services to individuals and communities.

**The Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy, Co-operatives, and Non-profit Sector (GSECN)** is designed for professionals interested in advancing their career in government or the third sector.

### PROGRAM FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Three graduate-level classes + one non-credit class.
- Option to specialize in one of three possible streams: 1. Non-Profit stream, 2. Co-operative stream, or 3. Social Economy and Government stream.
- Opportunity to complete the Non-Profit and Co-operative streams entirely online (the Social Economy and Government stream is offered through a combination of online and in-person classes).
- A laddering option for you to transfer into a full master's degree within the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and have your coursework count towards a graduate degree.
- A focus on policy, governance, and leadership issues.

*This graduate certificate is offered in partnership with the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.*



The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy has campuses at both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina.

[www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca](http://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca)

## UPDATE FROM ST MARY'S INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT



**Saint Mary's  
University**

International Centre  
for Co-operative  
Management



*~Erin Hancock*

*Program Manager, Co-operative  
Management Education*

*International Centre for Co-operative  
Management*

*Sobey School of Business*

*Saint Mary's University*

*Managementstudies.coop*

*@CoopMgmt*

*[Cme@smu.ca](mailto:Cme@smu.ca)*

*With Rosa Poirier-McKiggan, Program  
Assistant*

### Education steeped in the Co-op Identity!

Dear fellow co-operators:

Fall is a perfect time to take pause and consider co-operative education opportunities that align with your values, commitments, and aspirations. Plus, what better year to pursue co-operative education than the approaching International Year of Cooperatives! We hope our paths will cross soon!

### Co-operative Study Tour to Costa Rica

The first co-operative study tour to Costa Rica was so successful that we are running it again! From February 16-24, 2025, immerse yourself in the Costa Rican social ecology and co-operative economy. Learn from Costa Rican co-operatives on the leading edge of sustainable development spanning aeronautics, forestry, finance, tourism, agriculture, and energy. This tour is made possible through partnerships with the Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives (CEARC) and the Universidad Fundepos de Costa Rica. Limited seats are available. Register today!



### Co-operative Law Summer School in Pula, Croatia

Join us in Pula, Croatia, from August 24-29, 2025, for our second Co-operative Law Summer School hosted at the J. Dobrila University of Pula and delivered jointly with the International Cooperative Alliance's Cooperative Law Committee and IUS Cooperativum. Take a deep dive into the relationship between co-operative law, the co-operative identity and sustainable development with renowned co-operative legal expert Hagen Henry, along with special guest contributors. Individuals with a strong interest in co-operative law, including lawyers, law students in advanced stages of study, co-operative practitioners, policymakers, regulators, and those working in the co-operative sector in advocacy and/or government relations, are encouraged to register. [Learn more!](#)



### Graduate Degrees in Co-operative and Credit Union Management

Applications are open for our online, part-time graduate programs in co-operative management:

- Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions (3 years)
- Graduate Diploma in Co-operative Management (16 months)
- Certificate in Co-operative Management (10 months)

The co-operative identity is our superpower. Students will learn how to elevate its potential with customized co-operative management programs designed for working professionals. Students deepen their appreciation for co-operatives as a distinct people-centred, democratic, and jointly owned enterprise model and gain tools and fresh insights to enrich their organization in real-time. Students learn alongside a global peer network of practitioners committed to growing the co-operative economy.

Applications are due May 31, 2025, or until full. Bursaries are available! Anyone interested in these programs can join for an [info webinar](#) to learn more.





### Credit Union Leadership Program in Halifax, NS, in September 2025

Join us in Halifax, Nova Scotia, September 14-29, 2025, for this international full-immersion credit union leadership program. Canada Development Education (CanadaDE) is described as “transformative and life-changing.” Find out why.

CanadaDE is by and for credit union professionals who want to build their credit unions as community-impact institutions by elevating well-being, equity, belonging and sustainability. Learn proven strategies to expand your credit union’s value proposition and tackle strategic leadership issues. Join an international network of leaders and build your professional knowledge and network on a local to global scale. Complete CanadaDE and continue to the esteemed designation awarded by the Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions in partnership with the World Council of Credit Unions and the Global DE network. Bursaries are available for emerging credit union leaders and those from smaller credit unions. Register today!



### 2025 Global Research Conference

ICCM is pleased to be involved in the ICA CCR 5<sup>th</sup> Global Research in Montreal July 8-11, 2025. Sonja Novkovic is on the conference Steering Committee. Staff and faculty are involved in various research stream committees:

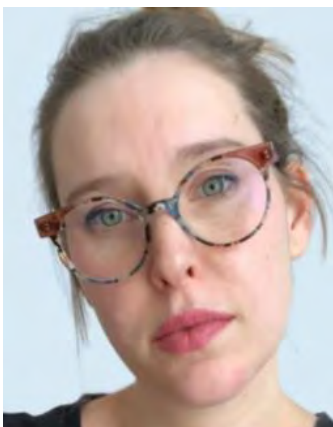
- Cooperatives and Decolonizing the Economy (Marcelo Vieta)
- Cooperative governance – systems, practices, issues and theoretical advances (Sonja Novkovic)
- Incarceration and Co-op Solutions (Jessica Gordon Nembhard)
- The Future of Co-op Education & Development (Erin Hancock)
- Reporting on Co-operative Sustainability (Fiona Duguid and Daphne Rixon)

Learn more about the conference and research streams! The call for presentations is open now.

### Let's Connect!

For more information on our offerings, check out managementstudies.coop, our social media at @CoopMgmt or connect with rosa.poirier-mckiggan@smu.ca

## CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS CANADA (CMC) UPDATE / DES NOUVELLES DE COOPÉRATIVES ET MUTUELLES CANADA



*Véronique Boucher*  
*Communications Manager/ Gestionnaire*  
*des communications*  
*Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada*  
*(CMC)/Coopératives et mutuelles*  
*Canada*

### **The 2025 CMC Awards Applications Now Open!**

Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is proud to announce that the nominations for the 2025 CMC Awards are now open. Each year, CMC honours individuals and organizations working in the Canadian co-operative and mutual sector to recognize their outstanding contribution to the sector.

For 2025, the Awards are now as follows:

- Large Co-operative of the Year Award (awarded to an organization)
- Small Co-operative of the Year Award (awarded to an organization)
- Environmental Initiative of the Year Award (awarded to an organization)

- JEDI Initiative of the Year Award (awarded to an organization)
- Young Co-operator of the Year Award (awarded to an individual)
- Co-operator of the Year Award (awarded to an individual)

The deadline to apply is February 12, 2025. To apply, simply visit our website and fill out the easy-to-use fillable form found on the application page.

For any questions regarding the Awards themselves or the process, please contact Kiswendsida Ouedraogo, Governance and Projects Officer, at [kouedraogo@canada.coop](mailto:kouedraogo@canada.coop).

### **CMC's New Free Advocacy Tools and Resources**

As a part of its core mandate, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) advocates to the federal government and monitors its activities, policies, laws, programs and regulations which directly affect the establishment, growth and resilience of co-operatives and mutuals across the country. A strong working relationship with all levels of government creates a more enabling environment and safeguard programs and incentives that are specific to the movement, which in turn, positively impacts local economies and communities.

With this in mind, CMC has created some free tools and resources to help Canadian co-operatives with their advocacy needs. Although these resources mostly focus on the Federal scene, the information found



within can also be applied to provincial and territorial as well as municipal activities.

We encourage you to download a copy of each of these resources and share them with your network.

If you have any questions regarding the content of these resources or general advocacy questions, please contact Daniel P. Brunette, Senior Director, External Affairs at [dbrunette@canada.coop](mailto:dbrunette@canada.coop).

### **The Advocacy Guide**

This Advocacy Guide is a **free resource for those who are interested in engaging with Parliamentarians and Public Service employees**, to share their stories and help advance common goals. This guide is primarily intended for sector stakeholders that are new to government relations, or either have few or no dedicated resources within their organization.

### **The Canadian Co-operative Ecosystem**

The Canadian Co-operative Ecosystem contains a quick snapshot of the industry in one spot – from key data facts to basic co-operative terminology, this guide is a great basic co-operative resource. Complementing the basic co-op 101 content, you will also find the main member-informed priorities which CMC created while consulting its Members. This resource can also be used as a leave behind document during advocacy meetings.

### **Fact Sheets**

CMC has created two fact sheets that its Members and the co-operative movement can use to quickly inform the public of co-operatives. Moreover, they are great tools to use in meetings when looking for quick statistics and data surrounding the Canadian co-operative ecosystem.

### **The Types of Co-operatives Sheet**

This fact sheet contains a straight-forward look at the types of co-operatives found in Canada. Included with this information is a link to CMC's comprehensive map, and online directory, a useful tool when showcasing the co-operative sector in meetings.

### **Facts About The Sector Sheet**

This fact sheet contains up-to-date, high-level data on the co-operative sector in Canada. These data points are the basis of any advocacy conversation to help showcase the power of the sector.

### **The 2024 Co-op Week**

Co-operative and Mutuels Canada (CMC) is excited to once again celebrate Co-op Week! From October 13 to October 19, 2024, CMC will highlight this important week with the theme of “Innovating the Co-operative Way.” This theme will help us highlight co-operatives from across Canada and the innovative ways in which they help serve their communities.

“Every day, co-operatives from coast to coast find clever solutions to the issues surrounding their communities,” explains Hugues Bourgeois, CMC's Executive Director. “Throughout CMC's 2024 Congress, we learned about the different ways some co-operatives have navigated change. It was an incredible display of how innovation is at the heart of the Canadian co-operative movement.” To showcase the innovation within the sector, CMC will be hosting three webinars to introduce you to co-operatives that think outside of the box. Each webinar will be a 45-minute presentation, followed by a 15-minute Q&A session.

Arctic Co-operatives Limited —  
Innovating with an Integrated  
Sustainability Model

On Tuesday, October 15th, at 1 p.m. EST Glenn Valliere, a representative of the Governance and Member Relations Team, will present how Arctic Co-operatives Limited innovates using the UN Sustainable Development Goals along with Indigenous models of sustainability.

Arctic Co-operatives Limited is a service federation that is owned and controlled by over 30 community-based co-operative businesses that are located in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon. This federation was also the proud recipient of CMC's 2022 Large Co-operative of the Year Award.

**Innovating One Meal at a Time with  
Radish Cooperative**

On Wednesday, October 16th, at 1 p.m. EST, Radish Cooperative, the winner of CMC's 2023 Small Co-operative of the Year Award, will present how they created their innovative co-operative platform in Montreal, Quebec. Radish Cooperative is an online meal delivery technology co-operative offering technological solutions for the food service industry.

**Switch to Reusable with Retournzy**

On Thursday, October 17th, at 1 p.m. EST, Retournzy coop, the recipient of CMC's 2024 Environmental Initiative of the Year Award, will present their unique journey in creating a co-operative that uses the circular economy model to offer a sustainable containers solution for the catering, event, corporate and institutional sectors. Discover their new exciting projects and their innovative approach to sustainability.

**Contest: Learning Innovation the Co-operative Way**

CMC wants to encourage co-operators to participate in the three webinars during the 2024 Co-op Week! To participate in this contest, you only need to register and attend one or all the webinars throughout the week.

A winner will be drawn from the list of participants of all the webinars and the winner will receive a \$100 certificate to their favourite co-operative. Learn more about the rules of the contest here.

**Exclusive Service for CMC Members and  
Their Members**

Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is proud to offer its Members and their members access to two exclusive services. Starting today, CMC Members and their members can add their upcoming events and job offers to the CMC website. These will also be added to our biweekly co-operative sector newsletter.

These boards are indispensable to all Canadian co-operators wishing to keep abreast of the important career opportunities and the many important and stimulating events the Canadian sector has to offer. If you'd like to keep up on the new opportunities and events in the sector, visit our job offer and events pages. Don't forget to also sign up for our Canadian co-operative sector newsletter so you don't miss a thing!

Would you like your job offers and events to benefit from this visibility, but you're not yet a CMC Member?

Please contact Tara Molloy, Manager—Member Experience, who can help you navigate the CMC membership process.

If you are a CMC Member, please contact Véronique Boucher, Manager—Communications, to set up your account so that you can access the member-only forms to submit your job offers and upcoming events.

Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada Submission for the 2025 Federal Budget  
Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada is pleased to present its submission for the 2025 Federal Budget.

**Incentives to Capitalization and Supportive Tax Measures:  
Recommendation #1: Ratifying the Tax-Deferred Co-operative Share Program as a Permanent Fiscal Measure**

CMC recommends that the Tax-Deferred Co-operative Share Program (TDCS) program be made permanent, for the benefit of agricultural co-operatives throughout Canada, before it expires at the end of 2025.

This Program was created in 2005 for a 10-year period. It has already been renewed twice due to the recognition of its importance: in 2015 for a period of five years, and again in the Fall of 2020, when it was extended to shares issued through the end of 2025. Its purpose is to help agricultural co-operatives meet their capitalization needs and was based on the December 2004 report of the House of Commons entitled “Study on Small Business Tax Measures: Canada’s Agricultural Co-operatives”.

The Program allows agricultural co-operatives to pay a patronage dividend in the form of additional shares of the co-operative. For tax purposes, the inclusion of the dividend for the recipient is deferred to the year in which the shares are redeemed. Furthermore, the co-operative is not required to withhold tax

when it pays the dividend in shares when conditions are met, such as a five-year hold on the ability to redeem the shares.

The TDCS is a crucial capitalization and resilience mechanism for agricultural co-operatives, who form an integral part of Canada’s rural economy and supply Canada’s Food System. This small but impactful \$3 to \$5 million per year tax deferral program provides increased stability and helps the business model remain a viable option for agribusinesses, while allowing Canadian co-operatives to be stronger in the face of international competitors and economic challenges. The uncertainty around the renewal TDCS program beyond 2025 creates issues for agricultural co-operatives, who cannot wait until the last minute to consider it in their financial planning. For this reason, CMC is recommending, on their behalf, that this Program become a permanent fiscal measure.

**Recommendation #2: Establishing a Federal Co-operative Investment Plan**

CMC recommends that a Federal Co-operative Investment Plan be established to support the capitalization of qualifying co-operatives and federations of co-operatives. This Program is needed as co-operatives do not have the same framework or opportunities as companies making public offerings.

The Program could grant a tax incentive for acquiring preferred shares from a qualifying co-operative or federation of co-operatives at the federal level.

CMC would like to see the Government of Canada commit to exploring the creation of a Federal Co-operative Investment Plan and take inspiration from the Co-operative Investment Plan in Quebec, which has been active since 1985.

The potential of a Canada-wide Co-operative Investment Program was explored in March 2009 report funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, before the responsibility for the co-operative sector moved to ISED.

**Recommendation #3: Ensuring Co-operative Entrepreneurs and All Canadian-Controlled Private Corporations Can Access the Small Business Deduction (SBD)**

CMC recommends that the Government of Canada ensure that entrepreneurs and businesses are not penalized when claiming the Small Business Deduction (SBD) simply because they are members of a co-operative operating in sectors other than agriculture and fisheries.

In 2016, with the passage of Bill C-29, the federal government brought in measures aimed at preventing multiplication of benefits derived from the SBD. An unintended consequence was that the provisions penalized co-operatives and Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPCs) that are members of co-operatives or whose shareholders are members of co-operatives, as they are now deemed to be a related party. Although co-operatives and their members were not specifically targeted by these measures, they were affected and continue to operate with these financial penalties. The amendments that were adopted in 2017 and 2019 were welcomed, but only resolved the issue for those in the farming and fishing sectors. However, this was not the case for those operating in other industries.

Building on the prior amendments noted above, along with work by the Joint Committee on Taxation of the Canadian Bar Association and the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada,

CMC is advocating for further amendments to under Section 125 of the Income Tax Act, to address the concerns related to the statutory language that is at the root cause of the eligibility issue.

**Recommendation #4: Considering Indivisible Reserves as Non-Profit Capital for Taxation Purposes**

CMC recommends that the Government of Canada consider Indivisible Reserves as non-profit capital for taxation purposes, as it cannot be divided amongst members of a co-operative. Instead, at the co-operative's dissolution or sale, they are allocated to another co-operative entity. It is permanent co-operative capital treated as a public good similar to all reserves in non-profit organizations (including non-profit co-operatives), whose members have no private claim to it.

Indivisible reserves can be mandatory or adopted by irrevocable choice. They are derived from a portion of a co-operative's annual surpluses and contribute to capitalization, longevity, and development, while acting as a disincentive to demutualization.

Many countries support co-operatives with indivisible reserves by removing the burden of corporate taxation on the proportion of their income allocated to the indivisible reserve.

**Enabling growth, collective entrepreneurship and innovation: Recommendation #5: Creating a Canadian Co-operative Capacity Building Program**

CMC recommends the creation of a capacity building program that would help co-operatives to either start up, scale up, gain skills and expertise, or prepare for next steps, ensuring they are ready to

solve community challenges and meet needs across Canada.

A tailor-made Canadian Co-operative Capacity Building Program (CCBP), equipped with \$30 million in non-repayable federal funding over five years, would support the Canadian co-operative movement as a critical partner to advance economic growth initiatives in all regions.

The SME Profile: Co-operatives in Canada, published in 2023 by ISED, confirms that for-profit co-operatives were, on average, more resilient, more innovative and more locally oriented than traditional SMEs. These favorable attributes are assets for the Canadian economy, but dedicated funding is required to enable the set-up, growth and enhanced capacity of co-operative enterprises.

#### **Recommendation #6: Re-establishing and Resourcing a Co-operatives Secretariat or Dedicated Centre**

CMC recommends that the Government of Canada re-establish and resource a Co-operatives Secretariat, or a dedicated Co-operative Centre, under ISED. The previous Secretariat was disbanded in 2013, after successfully operating for 26 years.

This entity would advise the Government on, and coordinate the implementation of, policies, strategies and solutions that involve co-operatives, and act as a knowledge hub between the many federal departments and agencies that they engage with. The Centre for Rural Economic Development at ISED is a perfect example of what a Co-operative Centre could be, and is the successor of the former Rural Secretariat, which was also disbanded in 2013.

CMC recommends that the entity coordinate a Government of Canada-wide approach that:

- Works with other federal departments and agencies to help ensure that the needs and realities of co-operatives and mutuals are considered early in the development of policies as well as ensure that co-operatives are eligible for new and existing programs and supports;
- Provides co-operative stakeholders with information, tools, and advice about federal supports that may be available to them; and
- Consults and engages with co-operative enterprises and sector leaders, academia, industry groups and other community stakeholders to improve the way that the Government of Canada delivers programs and services to create a more enabling environment across the country.

#### **Recommendation #7: Promoting Business Conversions to Co-operatives**

CMC is asking that the Government of Canada encourage and enable Business Conversions to Co-operatives (BCCs), through awareness and financing, to help maintain local businesses and offer retirement-aged owners another option for their succession plans.

BCCs are a tried-and-true solution for business succession around the world and in Canada, hundreds of conversions have successfully taken, like grocery stores, coffee shops, a shortline railway, funeral homes and much more. Despite this, this option is still not broadly known among small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) owners, employees, unions, and



policymakers in Canada. This is a lost opportunity for keeping potentially thousands of businesses alive, all while meeting local needs.

The recent commitment to have Employee-Ownership Trusts related incentives harmonized to make them available for sellers who are part of a worker-co-op buyout, was most welcomed. However, other types of co-operatives in Canada (consumer, producer and multi-stakeholder) represent 70% of documented conversions.

The need to raise awareness for business conversion to co-operative scenarios, as well as supporting the transitions through financing programs and tailored business advisory services, remains a high priority.

#### **Other considerations**

CMC is pleased to note that the Government of Canada, and many of its agencies and partners, have expressed a growing interest in better understanding and supporting underserved business models, especially co-operative enterprises. The ongoing discussions with Business Development Bank of Canada, the commitment to have incentives for worker-co-operatives conversions harmonized with Employee Ownership Trusts, and recent funding announcements by Regional Development Agencies, are all positive reflections of this shift.

It should be noted that in addition to advocating for the above recommendations, CMC is also documenting and exploring:

- Concerns around delays for issuing business numbers,
- Access to the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial

Research Assistance Program, and;

- The limitations of section 136 (2)(d) of the income tax act on financing received from outside investors, at a time when the government is encouraging more impact investing through its Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy.

We look forward to participating in further consultations and initiatives related to creating a more enabling environment and ensuring access to the Government of Canada's business infrastructure programs and financing streams, as well those related to specific industries and the social economy.

CMC appreciates the Government commitments to affordable housing – in particular, the newly launched **Co-operative Housing Development Program** which recognizes appreciates that co-operative housing has been a community-driven housing solution for decades and will build thousands of new homes that will offer security, affordability and promote inclusion. In addition, the **Canada Rental Protection Fund** needs to be designed to enable housing co-operatives and non-profits to buy market rental buildings to protect renters. We encourage the Government to continue to work with the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada to implement these programs to grow the next generation of co-operative housing.

## Version française de la mise à jour de CMC - automne 2024

### L'appel aux candidatures pour les Prix CMC 2025 est maintenant ouvert!

Coopératives et mutuelles Canada (CMC) est fière d'annoncer que l'appel aux candidatures pour les Prix CMC 2025 est maintenant ouvert. Chaque année, CMC honore des individus et des organisations travaillant dans le secteur coopératif et mutualiste canadien pour reconnaître leur contribution exceptionnelle au secteur. Cette année, la remise des prix aura lieu à l'hôtel Saskatchewan, à Regina, lors du Congrès 2025 de CMC.

« Les prix de cette année revêtent un caractère particulier, car 2025 marque l'Année internationale des coopératives. Non seulement nous rendons hommage à ces personnes et ces coopératives passionnantes à travers le Canada, mais nous célébrons également le mouvement coopératif et mutualiste dans son ensemble », déclare John Kay, président du conseil d'administration de CMC. Cette année, les prix sont les suivants :

- Le Prix de la grande coopérative de l'année (décerné à une organisation)
- Le Prix de la petite coopérative de l'année (décerné à une organisation)
- Le Prix de l'initiative environnementale de l'année (décerné à une organisation)
- Le Prix de l'initiative JEDI de l'année (décerné à une organisation)
- Le Prix du coopérateur ou de la coopératrice jeunesse de l'année (décerné à un individu)
- Le Prix du coopérateur ou de la coopératrice de l'année (décerné à un individu)

Les critères pour chaque prix peuvent être trouvés sur [la page de candidature située](#)

sur le site Web de CMC. La date limite pour postuler le 12 février 2025. Bonne chance à tous les candidats et toutes les candidates!

Pour toute question concernant les prix eux-mêmes ou le processus, veuillez contacter Kiswendsida Ouedraogo — responsable de la gouvernance et des projets, à [kouedraogo@canada.coop](mailto:kouedraogo@canada.coop).

Des nouvelles ressources gratuites en relations gouvernementales offertes par CMC

Dans le cadre de son mandat principal, Coopérative et mutuelles Canada (CMC) défend les intérêts du secteur coopératif auprès du gouvernement fédéral. Elle effectue une veille sur ses activités, ses politiques, ses lois, ses programmes et ses règlements qui ont une incidence directe sur la création, la croissance et la résilience des coopératives et des mutuelles dans l'ensemble du pays. Une relation de travail solide avec le gouvernement fédéral crée un environnement plus favorable et préserve les programmes et les incitatifs spécifiques au mouvement. Un tel environnement a un impact positif sur les économies et les communautés locales. Dans cette optique, CMC a créé des ressources gratuites pour aider les coopératives canadiennes à répondre à leurs besoins en matière de relations gouvernementales. Bien que celles-ci soient axées sur la scène fédérale, les informations qu'elles contiennent peuvent s'appliquer en grande partie aux activités provinciales, territoriales et municipales.

Nous vous encourageons à télécharger une copie de chacun de ces documents et à les partager avec votre réseau.

Si vous avez des questions concernant le contenu de ces ressources ou des

questions générales sur les relations gouvernementales, veuillez contacter Daniel P. Brunette, directeur principal – affaires externes, à l’adresse suivante : [dbrunette@canada.coop](mailto:dbrunette@canada.coop).

Le guide des relations gouvernementales  
Ce guide de relations gouvernementales est **une ressource gratuite pour ceux et celles qui souhaitent s’engager auprès des parlementaires et du personnel de la fonction publique** afin de partager leurs expériences et de contribuer à la réalisation d’objectifs communs. Ce guide est principalement destiné aux personnes du secteur coopératif et mutualiste qui débutent dans l’univers des relations avec le gouvernement ou qui n’ont pas ou peu de ressources dédiées à ce type d’initiative au sein de leur organisation.

Le guide de l’écosystème coopératif canadien

Le guide de l’écosystème coopératif canadien donne **un aperçu rapide du secteur en un seul endroit – offrant des données clés ainsi que de la terminologie coopérative de base, ce guide est une excellente ressource de base pour les coopératives**. Ce guide comprend également les priorités des relations gouvernementales de CMC : celles-ci ont été créées en consultant nos membres. Cette ressource peut également être utilisée comme document de support lors des réunions avec le gouvernement.

### Fiches d’information

CMC a créé deux fiches d’information que ses membres et le mouvement coopératif peuvent utiliser pour rapidement informer le public sur les coopératives. De plus, ces fiches sont d’excellents outils à utiliser lors de réunions lorsqu’on a besoin de statistiques et de données sur

l’écosystème coopératif canadien en un coup d’oeil.

La fiche sur les types de coopératives

**Cette fiche d’information présente de façon simple les types de coopératives que l’on trouve au Canada.** Cette fiche comprend un lien vers la carte détaillée et le répertoire en ligne de CMC, un outil pratique pour présenter le secteur coopératif lors de réunions.

La fiche d’information sur le secteur

**Cette fiche d’information contient des données de haut niveau les plus récentes sur le secteur coopératif au Canada.** Ces données constituent la base pour démarrer des conversations avec le gouvernement visant à mettre en évidence l’impact du secteur.

La Semaine de la coopération 2024

Coopératives et mutuelles Canada (CMC) est heureuse de célébrer une fois de plus la Semaine de la coopération! Du 13 au 19 octobre 2024, CMC soulignera cette semaine importante sous le thème « Innover à la manière coopérative ». Les coopératives du pays trouvent des façons novatrices de servir leurs collectivités par le biais de différents aspects de leurs activités.

« Les coopératives de tout le pays sortent des sentiers battus pour trouver des solutions intelligentes aux problèmes de leurs communautés », explique Hugues Bourgeois, directeur général de CMC. « Le fait d’entendre les différentes façons dont certaines coopératives abordent les changements au cours de notre Congrès a montré à quel point l’innovation est au cœur du mouvement coopératif canadien. »

Pour souligner l’innovation au sein du secteur, CMC a organisé 3 webinaires mettant en vedette des coopératives qui

sortent des sentiers battus dans le cadre d'une présentation de 45 minutes suivie d'une session de questions-réponses de 15 minutes.

**Arctic Co-operatives Limited —  
Innover avec un modèle de durabilité  
intégré**

**Le mardi 15 octobre à 13 h HNE**, Glenn Valliere, un représentant de l'équipe de gouvernance et de relations avec les membres d'Arctic Co-operatives Limited, présentera la façon dont ils innovent en utilisant les objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU ainsi que des modèles autochtones de durabilité.

Arctic Co-operatives Limited est une fédération de services détenue et contrôlée par plus de 30 entreprises coopératives communautaires situées au Nunavut, dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et au Yukon. Cette fédération est également fière d'avoir remporté en 2022 le prix CMC de la grande coopérative de l'année.

**Innover un repas à la fois avec la  
Coopérative Radish**

**Le mercredi 16 octobre à 13 h HNE**, Coopérative Radish le gagnant 2023 du prix CMC de la petite coopérative de l'année, présentera comment ils ont innové en créant leur plateforme coopérative à Montréal, au Québec. La Coopérative Radish est une coopérative technologique de livraison de repas en ligne qui offre des solutions technologiques pour l'industrie des services alimentaires.

**Passer au réutilisable avec Retournzy**

**Le jeudi 17 octobre, à 13 heures HNE**, Retournzy coop, récipiendaire du Prix de l'initiative environnementale de l'année, présentera son parcours unique dans la création d'une coopérative qui utilise l'économie circulaire pour

offrir une solution durable de contenants pour les secteurs de la restauration, de l'événementiel, de l'entreprise et de l'institutionnel. Découvrez leurs nouveaux projets passionnants et leur approche innovante de la durabilité.

**Concours : Apprendre l'innovation à la  
manière des coopératives**

CMC souhaite encourager les coopérateurs et les coopératrices à participer aux trois webinaires organisés dans le cadre de la Semaine de la coopération 2024. Pour participer, il suffit de s'inscrire et de participer à l'un ou à l'ensemble des webinaires.

Un gagnant ou une gagnante sera tiré au sort parmi les participants qui ont participé à un ou tous les webinaires et recevra un certificat de 100 \$ à dépenser dans sa coopérative préférée. Pour en savoir plus sur les règles du concours, cliquez ici.

Service exclusif pour les membres de CMC et leurs membres

Coopératives et mutuelles Canada (CMC) est fière d'offrir un service exclusif à ses membres et leurs membres. Dès aujourd'hui, les membres de CMC et leurs membres peuvent ajouter leurs événements et leurs offres d'emploi sur le site Web de CMC. Ceux-ci seront aussi ajoutés à notre infolettre bi-hebdomadaire des nouvelles du secteur coopératif. Ces sites sont indispensables pour tous ceux qui souhaitent se garder au courant des possibilités de carrière et des nombreux événements importants et stimulants que le mouvement canadien a à offrir.

Si vous souhaitez vous tenir au courant des nouvelles opportunités et des événements du secteur, visitez nos pages d'offres d'emploi et d'événements.

Et n'oubliez pas de vous inscrire — à notre infolettre du secteur coopératif canadien pour ne rien manquer!

Vous aimeriez bénéficier de cette visibilité pour vos offres d'emploi et vos événements, mais vous n'êtes pas encore un membre de CMC? Veuillez s'il vous plaît communiquer avec Tara Molloy, gestionnaire de l'expérience des membres, qui peut vous aider à naviguer dans le processus d'adhésion.

Si vous êtes membre de CMC, veuillez s'il vous plaît contacter Véronique Boucher, gestionnaire des communications, pour créer votre compte afin d'accéder aux formulaires pour soumettre vos offres d'emploi et vos événements à venir.

Soumission de Coopératives et mutuelles Canada pour le budget fédéral 2025  
Coopératives et mutuelles Canada a le plaisir de présenter sa soumission pour le budget fédéral de 2025.

**Incitatifs à la capitalisation et à la mise en place de mesures fiscales favorables :**

**Recommandation no 1: Pérenniser le Programme de parts à imposition différée en tant que mesure fiscale permanente**

CMC plaide pour que le Programme de part à imposition différée (PID) devienne permanent au bénéfice des coopératives agricoles à travers le Canada avant qu'il n'expire à la fin de 2025.

Ce Programme a été créé à l'origine en 2005 et était prévu pour une période de 10 ans. Celui-ci a été renouvelé à deux reprises : en 2015 et à nouveau en 2020, pour se poursuivre jusqu'en 2025. Son objectif est d'aider les coopératives agricoles à répondre à leurs besoins de capitalisation. Il a été basé sur

le rapport de décembre 2004 de la Chambre des communes intitulée « Étude sur les mesures fiscales destinées aux petites entreprises : les coopératives agricoles du Canada ».

Ce Programme permet aux coopératives agricoles de verser une ristourne sous la forme de parts sociales supplémentaires. À des fins fiscales, l'inclusion de la ristourne pour le bénéficiaire est reportée à l'année au cours de laquelle les parts sont rachetées. En outre, la coopérative n'est pas tenue de retenir l'impôt lorsqu'elle verse la ristourne sous forme de parts sociales si certaines conditions sont remplies, telles que l'interdiction de racheter les parts sociales pendant cinq ans.

Le PID est un mécanisme crucial de capitalisation et de résilience pour les coopératives agricoles, qui font partie intégrante de l'économie rurale du Canada et qui approvisionnent le système alimentaire canadien. Ce Programme de report d'impôt de 3 à 5 millions de dollars par an, modeste, mais efficace, apporte une stabilité accrue et aide le modèle d'entreprise à rester une option viable pour les agro-industries. Il permet aussi aux coopératives canadiennes d'être plus fortes face à la concurrence internationale et aux défis économiques.

L'incertitude entourant le renouvellement du PID au-delà de 2025 crée des problèmes pour les coopératives agricoles, qui ne peuvent pas attendre la dernière minute pour en tenir compte dans leur planification financière. C'est pour cette raison que CMC recommande, en leur nom, que ce Programme devienne une mesure fiscale permanente.



### **Recommandation no 2 : Établir un Régime d'investissement coopératif fédéral**

CMC recommande qu'un plan d'investissement coopératif fédéral soit établi pour soutenir la capitalisation des coopératives et des fédérations de coopératives admissibles. Ce Programme est nécessaire, car les coopératives ne disposent pas du même cadre ou des mêmes possibilités que les sociétés faisant des offres publiques à l'épargne.

Le Programme pourrait accorder un incitatif fiscal pour l'acquisition d'actions privilégiées d'une coopérative ou d'une fédération de coopératives admissibles au niveau fédéral.

CMC souhaiterait que le gouvernement du Canada s'engage à étudier la création d'un plan fédéral d'investissement coopératif s'inspirant du Régime d'investissement coopératif (RIC) du Québec, qui existe depuis 1985.

Le potentiel d'un Programme d'investissement coopératif canadien a été exploré en mars 2009 dans un rapport produit par Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada avant que la responsabilité du secteur coopératif ne soit transférée à ISDE.

### **Recommandation no 3 : Assurer l'accès à la déduction accordée aux petites entreprises aux entrepreneurs coopératifs et à toutes les sociétés privées sous contrôle canadien qui s'y rattachent.**

CMC demande au gouvernement fédéral de veiller à ce que les entrepreneurs et les entreprises ne soient pas pénalisés quant à leur capacité de réclamer la déduction accordée aux petites entreprises (DAPE) parce qu'ils sont membres d'une

coopérative opérant dans des secteurs en dehors de l'agriculture et des pêches.

En 2016, avec l'adoption du projet de loi C-29, le gouvernement fédéral a mis en place des mesures visant à empêcher la multiplication de l'accès à la DAPE. Cependant, ces mesures ont eu une conséquence inattendue : les dispositions désavantageaient tout spécialement les sociétés privées sous contrôle canadien qui sont membres de coopératives ou dont les actionnaires sont membres de coopératives comme ceux-ci sont considérés comme des parties liées. Même si les coopératives et leurs membres n'étaient pas ciblées par ces mesures, elles ont tout de même été touchées et doivent vivre avec les répercussions financières engendrées. Les modifications adoptées en 2017 et en 2019 ont été bien accueillies, mais n'ont touché que les sociétés privées sous contrôle canadien et les membres des coopératives dans les industries de l'agriculture et de la pêche. Cependant, les coopératives opérant dans d'autres industries sont toujours pénalisées.

En nous basant sur les modifications mentionnées ci-dessus ainsi que sur les travaux du Comité mixte sur la fiscalité de l'Association du Barreau canadien et de Comptables professionnels agréés du Canada, CMC plaide pour des modifications des Règles de la déduction accordée aux petites entreprises en vertu de l'article 125 de la Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu afin de répondre aux préoccupations liées au libellé de la loi qui est à l'origine du problème d'admissibilité.

### **Recommandation no 4 : Implanter un traitement fiscal équitable pour les coopératives avec des réserves impartageables**

CMC recommande au gouvernement du Canada de considérer les réserves impartageables comme du capital non lucratif à des fins fiscales, car elles ne peuvent être divisées entre les membres d'une coopérative. Au lieu de cela, dans le cas d'une dissolution ou de la vente de la coopérative, les réserves seraient allouées à une autre entité coopérative. Il s'agit d'un capital permanent de la coopérative traité comme un bien public de manière semblable à toutes les réserves des organismes sans but lucratif (y compris les coopératives sans but lucratif), sur lequel les membres n'ont pas de droit privé.

Les réserves impartageables sont obligatoires ou un choix irrévocable de la part de la coopérative. Elles sont tirées d'une partie des excédents annuels d'une coopérative et contribuent à la capitalisation, à la longévité et à la croissance des coopératives, tout en agissant comme dissuasif à la démutualisation.

De nombreux pays appuient les coopératives ayant des réserves impartageables en éliminant le fardeau fiscal imposé sur les montants affectés à ces réserves.

**Favoriser la croissance, l'entrepreneuriat collectif et l'innovation :**

**Recommandation no 5 : Créer un Programme de renforcement des capacités des coopératives**

CMC recommande la création d'un Programme de renforcement des capacités qui aiderait les coopératives à démarrer, à grandir, à acquérir des compétences et de l'expertise ou à se préparer pour les prochaines étapes afin qu'elles soient prêtes à relever les défis communautaires

et à répondre aux besoins à travers le Canada.

Un Programme de renforcement des capacités des coopératives (PRCC) sur mesure, doté d'un financement fédéral de 30 millions de dollars sur cinq ans, soutiendrait le mouvement coopératif canadien en tant que partenaire essentiel pour faire progresser les initiatives de croissance économique dans toutes les régions.

Le sondage de 2023 Profils des PME : les coopératives au Canada, publié en 2023 par ISDE, confirme que les coopératives à but lucratif étaient, en moyenne, plus résilientes, innovantes et impliquées dans leurs communautés que les PME traditionnelles. Ces caractéristiques favorables sont des atouts pour l'économie canadienne, mais un financement spécifique est nécessaire pour permettre la création, la croissance et le renforcement des capacités des entreprises coopératives.

**Recommandation no 6: Rétablir et réapprovisionner un Secrétariat des coopératives ou un Centre spécialisé.**

CMC recommande que le gouvernement du Canada rétablisse et finance un Secrétariat aux coopératives ou un Centre des coopératives dédié sous la responsabilité d'ISDE.

Cette entité conseillerait le gouvernement et coordonnerait la mise en œuvre de politiques, des stratégies et des solutions qui impliquent les coopératives, et servirait de pôle de connaissances entre les nombreux départements et agences fédéraux avec lesquels elles sont en contact. Le Centre de développement économique rural d'Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (ISDE) est un bon exemple de ce que pourrait être le Centre des coopératives, et

succède à l'ancien Secrétariat rural, qui a également été dissous en 2013. CMC recommande que l'entité coordonne une approche à l'échelle du gouvernement du Canada qui:

- Travaille avec d'autres ministères et organismes fédéraux pour veiller à ce que les besoins et les réalités des coopératives et des mutuelles soient pris en compte dès le début de l'élaboration des politiques et pour s'assurer que les coopératives sont éligibles aux programmes et supports qu'ils soient existants ou nouveaux;
- Fournis aux acteurs du secteur coopératif des informations, des outils et des conseils sur les aides fédérales dont ils peuvent bénéficier; et
- Consulte les entreprises coopératives et les dirigeants du secteur, les universités, les groupes industriels et les autres parties prenantes de la communauté et s'engager avec eux pour améliorer la manière dont le gouvernement du Canada fournit des programmes et des services afin de créer un environnement plus favorable dans l'ensemble du pays.

**Recommandation no 7 : Promouvoir les conversions d'entreprises en coopératives comme option en termes de planification des successions d'entreprises**

CMC demande au gouvernement du Canada d'encourager et de permettre les conversions d'entreprises en coopératives afin d'aider à maintenir les entreprises locales et d'offrir aux propriétaires en âge de prendre leur retraite une autre option pour leurs plans de succession.

Les conversions d'entreprises en coopératives sont une solution éprouvée pour la succession d'entreprises dans le monde entier et au Canada. Il y a plusieurs centaines de conversions qui ont été réalisées avec succès, dont des épiceries, des cafés, un chemin de fer d'intérêt local, des salons funéraires et encore plus. Malgré l'existence de cette option, celle-ci n'est toujours pas largement connue des propriétaires de petites et moyennes entreprises (PME), des employés, des syndicats et des décideurs politiques au Canada. Il s'agit d'une occasion manquée de maintenir des milliers d'entreprises, tout en répondant aux besoins locaux.

L'engagement récent d'harmoniser les règles fiscales liées aux fiducies collectives des employés (FCE) afin de les mettre à la disposition des vendeurs qui font partie d'un rachat par une coopérative de travailleurs a été très bien accueilli. Cependant, les autres types de coopératives au Canada (consommateurs, producteurs et multipartites) représentent 70 % des conversions documentées.

La nécessité de sensibiliser les entreprises aux conversions d'entreprises en coopératives, ainsi que de soutenir les transformations par des programmes de financement et des services de conseil aux entreprises sur mesure, reste une grande priorité.

**Autres considérations**

CMC est heureuse de constater que le gouvernement du Canada et bon nombre de ses agences et partenaires ont exprimé un intérêt pour une meilleure compréhension et un meilleur soutien des modèles d'entreprise mal desservis, en particulier les entreprises coopératives. Les discussions en cours avec la Banque de développement du Canada,

l'engagement d'harmoniser les règles fiscales pour les conversions de coopératives de travailleurs avec les fiducies collectives de employés ainsi que les récentes annonces de financement par les agences de développement régional sont des reflets positifs de ce changement. Il convient de noter qu'en plus de défendre les recommandations mentionnées, CMC documente et étudie:

- Les préoccupations concernant les délais de délivrance des numéros d'entreprise,
- L'accès au Programme d'aide à la recherche industrielle du Conseil national de la recherche du Canada, et;
- Les limites de l'article 136 (2) (d) de la loi sur l'impôt sur le revenu concernant le financement reçu d'investisseurs extérieurs à un moment où le gouvernement encourage davantage l'investissement d'impact par le biais de sa Stratégie d'innovation sociale et de Finance sociale.

Nous nous réjouissons de participer à d'autres consultations et initiatives visant à créer un environnement plus favorable afin de garantir l'accès aux programmes d'infrastructure commerciale et aux flux

de financement du gouvernement du Canada, ainsi qu'à ceux liés à des industries spécifiques et à l'économie sociale.

CMC reconnaît les engagements du gouvernement en matière de logement abordable — en particulier, le Programme de développement de l'habitation coopérative nouvellement lancé. Ce dernier reconnaît que l'habitation coopérative est une solution de logement axée sur la collectivité depuis des décennies. En effet, le Programme de développement de l'habitation coopérative permettra de construire des milliers de nouveaux logements qui offriront la sécurité, l'accessibilité et la promotion de l'inclusion. En outre, le Fonds canadien de protection des loyers doit être conçu pour permettre aux coopératives d'habitation et aux organismes à but non lucratif d'acheter des immeubles locatifs du marché afin de protéger les locataires. Nous encourageons le gouvernement à continuer à travailler avec la Fédération de l'habitation coopérative du Canada pour mettre en œuvre ces programmes afin d'assurer la croissance de la prochaine génération de coopératives d'habitation.

## LANCEMENT DU RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE EN ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE ET SOLIDAIRE

Depuis quelques mois ont lieu divers événements de dévoilement du Réseau de recherche en économie sociale et solidaire (RRÉSS) dans les 4 universités titulaires.

Le RRÉSS, financé par le Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture, vise à stimuler la recherche sur l'économie sociale et solidaire (ÉSS). Pour s'y prendre, le RRÉSS prévoit :

- créer et animer une communauté de recherche consacrée à l'ÉSS ;
- coconstruire et partager des connaissances et des outils à l'intention de l'écosystème de l'ÉSS ;
- soutenir la formation de la relève en ÉSS, et ce tant en recherche que dans les milieux de pratique.

Ces objectifs seront atteints par des appels à projets de recherche ciblés, du soutien à l'organisation d'activités et d'événements, par l'octroi de bourses, la publication des résultats des travaux de recherche ainsi que par la conception d'outils de transfert et de mobilisation des connaissances impliquant tant les milieux universitaires et collégiaux que les milieux de pratique en ÉSS.

Comme sa portée est d'envergure nationale, le RRÉSS est organisé en 4 axes distincts :

- **Claude-André Guillotte**, de l'Université de Sherbrooke, titulaire de l'axe 1 :

Environnement juridique, institutionnel et gouvernance de l'ÉSS

- **Valérie Michaud**, de l'Université du Québec à Montréal, titulaire de l'axe 2 : Engagement, travail et *care* en ÉSS
- **Luc Audebrand**, de l'Université Laval, titulaire de l'axe 3 : Modèles d'organisation et d'action soutenables en ÉSS
- **Marie-Laure Dioh**, de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais, titulaire de l'axe 4 : Ancrages, développement et retombées de l'ÉSS dans les territoires.

Le financement obtenu, à la hauteur de 4 M\$ sur 5 ans, soit 800 000 \$ par an, permet d'attirer des chercheurs sur l'ÉSS et d'encourager la relève en recherche, le tout en partenariat avec les réseaux coopératifs, mutualistes, associationistes et de l'action communautaire. Ce financement résulte d'un processus de mobilisation de 32 cochercheuses et cochercheurs issus de 9 établissements universitaires et de 3 établissements collégiaux québécois ainsi que de 18 cochercheuses et cochercheurs issus de 15 milieux de pratique.



## Launching of the Research Network on Social & Solidarity Economy

For the past few months, various unveiling events of the Research Network on Social and Solidarity Economy Research (RNSSE) have been taking place across the four leading universities.

Funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et Culture, the primary goal of the RNSSE is to stimulate research on social and solidarity economy (SSE). To achieve this, the RNSSE aims to:

- create and foster a research community dedicated to SSE;
- co-construct and share knowledge and tools intended for the SSE ecosystem;
- support the training of the next generation in SSE, both in research and in practice.

These objectives will be achieved through targeted research project calls, support for organizing activities and events, granting scholarships, publishing research results, and designing knowledge transfer and mobilization tools involving both academic and practical SSE sectors.

Given its national scope, the SSERS is organized into four distinct axes:

- **Claude-André Guillotte**, from the Université de Sherbrooke, holder of Axis 1: Legal, institutional environment, and governance of SSE;
- **Valérie Michaud**, from the Université du Québec à Montréal, holder of Axis 2: Engagement, work, and care in SSE;
- **Luc Audebrand**, from Université Laval, holder of Axis 3: Sustainable organizational and action models in SSE;
- **Marie-Laure Dioh**, from the Université du Québec en Outaouais, holder of Axis 4: Anchors, development, and impacts of SSE in territories.

The funding obtained, amounting to \$4M over 5 years (i.e., \$800,000 per year), helps attract researchers to SSE and encourages the next generation of researchers, all in partnership with cooperative, mutualist, associative, and community action networks. This funding is the result of a mobilization process involving 32 co-researchers from 9 universities and 3 Quebec colleges, as well as 18 co-researchers from 15 practice-based organizations.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **International Journal of Co-operative Accounting and Management (IJCAM)**

#### **Call for Papers**

IJCAM publishes case studies and research monographs with a focus related to co-operative accounting and reporting, co-operative management, the social economy, and sustainable development, or with outside perspectives that could be of strategic value to both co-operatives and the social economy. Please submit your papers accordingly based on the topic, as follows:

--*Accounting and reporting*: Editor-in-Chief, Daphne Rixon, PhD, FCPA, FCMA:  
[daphne.rixon@smu.ca](mailto:daphne.rixon@smu.ca)

--*Co-operative management*: Senior Associate Editor, Peter Davis, PhD:  
[pd8@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:pd8@leicester.ac.uk)

[Find more information on the journal here.](#)

#### **Special Edition Call for Papers: Indigenous Issues and Co-operatives**

Together with Guest Editors, Dr. Heidi Weigand, Dalhousie University and Tammy Williams, Saint Mary's University, Halifax/Kjipuktuk, Canada, CEARC is issuing a call for papers with a focus on co-operatives and Indigenous issues.

Topics may include but are not limited to: decolonization, sustainability, adoption of the co-operative model by Indigenous groups, fit of the co-operative model with Indigenous values, facilitation of Indigenous self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and self-determination, preservation of Indigenous culture, creation of economic growth and jobs, and the role of co-operatives in addressing unmet needs of Indigenous people. Papers from both practitioners and academics are welcome.

**Submission Deadline: December 31, 2024.**

Submit your paper to: Dr. Daphne Rixon, Editor-in-Chief, IJCAM;  
Email: [daphne.rixon@smu.ca](mailto:daphne.rixon@smu.ca)

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### CWCF Conference 2024

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**Join us at the Global Cooperative Conference to celebrate how cooperatives build prosperity for all...**

The 2024 ICA Global Conference will hit **Indian soil for the first time in its 130 years!** New Delhi will host cooperators from around the world, who will explore the role of cooperatives in creating a collective, peaceful and prosperous future for all.

There will be inspirational speakers and provocative panel debates, and delegates will co-create cooperative visions and strategies during multiple break-out sessions. The conference theme, **Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All**, celebrates cooperatives as people-centred, purpose-led and progress-driven enterprises.

The 4 key themes of the conference contribute in their own, unique way, to world peace, democracy, climate crisis and the need for systems change. Plenary speakers and break-out sessions together share their **latest findings and insights** on subject matters. See agenda here: [ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 - International Cooperative Alliance AISBL \(icanewdelhi2024.coop\)](https://icanewdelhi2024.coop). Registration here: <https://icanewdelhi2024.coop/welcome/register>

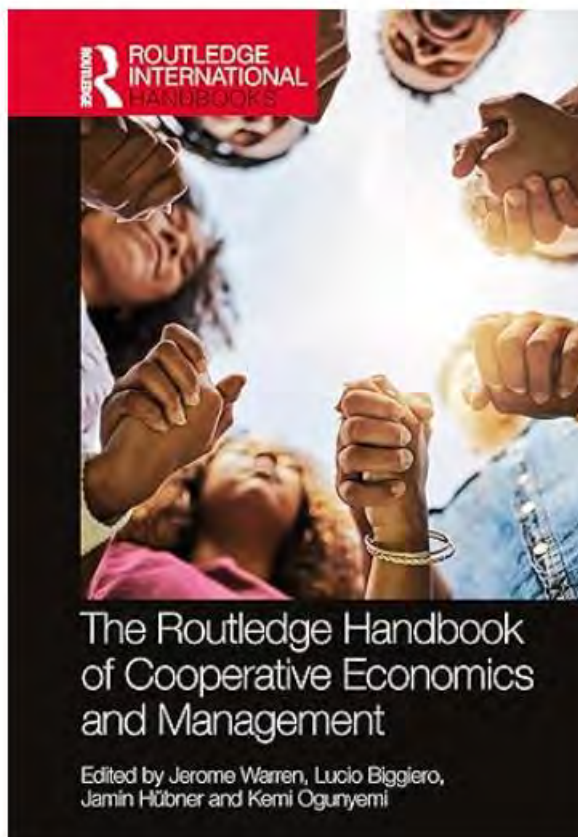
**...and kick-off of the 2025 United Nations International Year of Cooperatives!**

The event officially launches the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025 (IYC2025) in the presence of global leaders, academics and practitioners. The IYC takes the theme “**Cooperative Build a Better World**”, to inspire cooperators worldwide to work together to strengthen the international cooperative movement, of which the ICA is the beating heart.



## WORTH READING

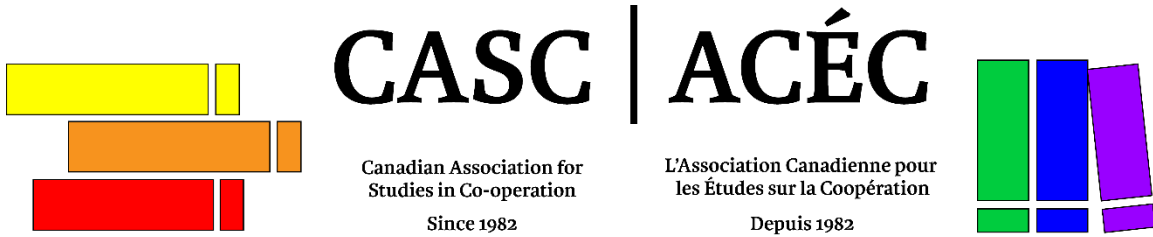




Cooperatives have spread across virtually all continents. Today, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) recognizes over 3 million cooperatives with 1 billion cooperative members or about 12% of the human population, and serving many more members of the public, collectively owning anywhere between \$750 billion and \$1.75 trillion in assets. This handbook provides a comprehensive introduction to the subject and the current state of affairs with regard to the study of cooperation in the economy generally and of the cooperative and related sectors particularly.

It highlights the essential issues and debates, and provides a future research agenda, outlining the distinctions and similarities between individual and (inter)organizational cooperation, and explores the connections of cooperative economics and management to fundamental ethical principles. The book examines competition and the similarities and differences between competitive economics and cooperative economics, identifying to what extent and how cooperative economics and management is more capable of addressing the problems of global neoliberalism, such as ecological collapse, wealth inequity, value capture and distribution, including via online platforms, and social/relational problems.

The book offers a variety of new research and theory-building from various disciplines, particularly focusing on the fields of economics and management, but extending beyond these disciplines to domains such as sociology, psychology, anthropology and political science. It will become the standard reference work for a broad and large audience of scholars, researchers and students, but also interested professionals, policymakers, regulators, and cooperators in the field, wishing to orient themselves in a global, rapidly developing movement and field of study, with reference to issues of producing and allocating resources, focusing on the impact of cooperation on issues like risk, trust, the development of preferences, institutional governance, networks and inequity.



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Membership rates for the 2024/25 CASC year are regular members \$175 and students, retired individuals, and the underwaged \$55. Benefits include the following:

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- *Journal of Co-operative Studies* (3 issues per year)

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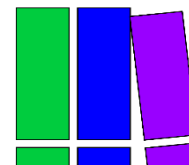
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L'Association Canadienne pour  
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Les frais d'adhésion à l'ACÉC en 2024-2025 sont de 55 \$ pour les étudiantes, les personnes retraitées, et les personnes sous-payées; 175 \$ pour les autres personnes. Au nombre des avantages, les membres reçoivent :

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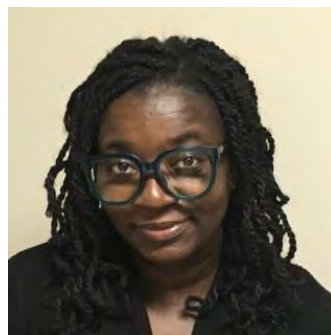
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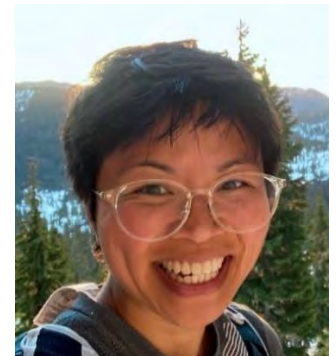
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