



Presenters



Kathy Bardswick

Our Keynote speaker, Kathy Bardswick, CEO, The Co-operators will speak on ***Solidarity in the Co-op Movement*** on Thursday afternoon.

Since joining The Co-operators in 1978, Kathy has held progressively senior roles within The Co-operators group of companies, culminating with her appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Co operators Group Limited on March 1, 2002. From 1998 to 2002, she served as Chief Operating Officer of two subsidiaries, The Sovereign General and L'Union Canadienne.

Under Kathy's leadership, The Co-operators has prospered and grown, and is recognized today as a leader in the Canadian insurance industry as well as the co-operative sector. She has led a transformation of the organization as it adopted more sustainable business practices over the past several years. The accomplishments have earned a number of honours for The Co-operators in recent years. It is listed among Aon Hewitt's 50 Best Employers in Canada; Corporate Knights' Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada; the Top 50 Socially Responsible Corporations by Maclean's and Sustainalytics; and in 2013 was ranked #1 on Corporate Knights' Most Sustainable Co-operatives in the World list. Kathy was named one of the 2014 Top 25 Women of Influence by Women of Influence Inc.

Kathy is a member of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and serves as Chairperson of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction. A leading advocate for

the co-operative sector, Kathy is a member of the board of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), is a past Chair of the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation, and currently serves as a member of its executive. She has provided leadership to The Conference Board of Canada as a member of the board and the executive committee, and served as Vice-Chair of the University of Guelph's Board of Governors.



Jamie Bohach

Jamie Bohach, Strategic Client Manager, Western Region, The Co-operators:
Topic: *The Co-operators: Co-op Guard & Member Benefits*

Jamie has over 18 years of experience in the insurance industry, including over five years with The Co-operators where he worked extensively with the Advisor Sales team before moving to the Strategic Client Manager position. Prior to joining Co-operators Life in 2011, Jamie worked for the Provincial Insurer in Saskatchewan where he held a variety of leadership roles.

Jamie holds his Level 3 General Insurance license and has completed the Chartered Insurance Professional (CIP) designation through the Insurance Institute of Canada. He has also just completed his Fellow Chartered Insurance Professional (FCIP) designation and will graduate in November of 2016.



Alain Bridault

Alain Bridault, ORION: Topic: *Managing the Democratic Governance Process in a Worker Co-op*

Alain Bridault has completed doctoral studies in Sociology and holds two Master's degrees (Sociology and Co-operation). He has worked for over 30 years in community and co-operative development in Quebec and other areas of French Canada. He has taught development and management of collectively-owned enterprises at the university level. He has also conducted various research projects in the areas of business succession, entrepreneurial potential of business groups, and social determinants of entrepreneurship. Alain was one of the four founding members of

ORION worker co-op in 1986, where he is currently the director of research services and consulting. With regard to Alain's involvement in the worker co-op sector, he was a co-founder and president of a forestry co-operative from 1980 to 1985. He was also chairman of the provincial committee on worker co-operatives, which became RQCCT under his presidency (1986-89). It was during this mandate that he introduced the CJS (Youth Service Co-ops) within Quebec. Alain was elected to the Board of CWCF in 2008 and became the President in 2009. He joined the Executive Committee of the international worker co-op organization, CICOPA, in early 2011. He joined the Board of the RESEAU in 2012 and the Executive Committee of the RESEAU in 2013. Alain joined the Board of CQCM in the winter of 2014-15.



Andy Broderick

Andy Broderick, VP, Impact Market Development, Vancity and Managing Director, New Market Funds: Topic: *Financing Worker Co-ops*

Now VP of Impact Market Development at Vancity after 5 years serving as head of Community Investment, Andy is also a managing director of New Market Funds, a non-profit owned fund management company raising and deploying capital that both serves community needs and achieves risk-adjusted market returns. Andy was head of development (1996-2000) then President and CEO (2000-2009) of Housing Vermont. There he founded Green Mountain Housing Equity Funds raising over \$150 MM for affordable housing and Vermont Rural Ventures, a CDFI investing in lower income neighborhoods in Vermont. Andy current serves on the board of the Tsawwassen First Nation Economic Development Corporation.



Celia Chandler

Celia Chandler, Lawyers: Topic: *Legal Issues in a Worker Co-op*

Celia Chandler is a partner at Iler Campbell LLP, Ontario's go-to counsel for progressive organizations of all types and sizes; among them are many worker co-ops.

Celia has found her niche mostly working with housing co-ops on human rights issues in member and employment matters.

Celia is a regular speaker for the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada and its various Ontario federations. With her law degree from UVIC, she is very pleased to be speaking in Vancouver and at the CWCF conference for the first time.



Isabel Faubert-Mailloux

Isabel Faubert-Mailloux, Executive Director, Quebec Worker Co-operative Network / Réseau de la coopération du travail du Québec: Topic: *Quebec Réseau presents its Parcours Coop or “Co-op Journey”*

Diplômée en gestion des coopératives et détentrice d’un MBA spécialisé en entreprises collectives, Isabel Faubert Mailloux est directrice générale au Réseau de la coopération du travail du Québec.

Elle oeuvre auprès des coopératives de travail depuis 15 ans à divers niveaux : promotion, accompagnement, formations, développement et gestion de projets. Elle se passionne tout spécialement pour la démocratisation des milieux de travail et les processus de participation aux prises de décision en entreprise. Isabel Faubert Mailloux est co-auteur de cinq cahiers de recherche produits par la Chaire de coopération Guy-Bernier (coopératives sociales italiennes, coopératives en milieu autochtone, commerce équitable et instruments de financement de l’économie sociale).

Isabel Faubert Mailloux is Executive Director of the Quebec Worker Co-op Network (“Réseau”). Isabel has a degree in Cooperative Management and holds an MBA in Collective Enterprises. She has worked with worker co-operatives for 15 years in various areas: promotion, support, training, development and project management. She is especially passionate about increasing democracy in the workplace and in participatory decision-making processes. Isabel Faubert Mailloux is co-author of five research papers produced by the Guy Bernier Chair in Co-operatives at the University of Quebec at Montreal (Italian social cooperatives, cooperatives in Aboriginal communities, fair trade, and financing instruments in the social economy).



Marty Frost

Marty Frost, DEVCO: Topic: *Strengthening your Co-op's Value Proposition*

Marty Frost has been working in and for cooperatives and for non-profit enterprise for more than 35 years. While in his 17 years as member and general manager of CRS Workers' Co-operative, Marty was given time to lead in the development and launch of the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation, and served for 18 years on the steering committee and then the board of that organization.

He also had the opportunity in 1989 to study at the Mondragon Cooperative system in Spain. In 1983, Marty got involved in the development of Tidal Flats Housing Co-op, where he lived for the next 13 years. While there, Marty spent 2 years with the Co-op Housing Federation of BC working on the development and launch of COHO Management Services Society, and a further 4 years on the Finance Committee and board of the Co-op Housing Federation of Canada.

In 1996, Marty and some friends launched FWC Development Cooperative (Devco), now one of English speaking Canada's leading co-op development agencies. In that role, Marty helped to launch CoopZone, the national Co-op Developers' network, and continues to act as a mentor in their on-line training courses. Marty is currently a director of CCEC Credit Union.

Since 1996, Marty has worked to develop and support roughly 220 co-operatives and more than 55 non profit societies, helping to develop community based enterprises in 9 provinces and 2 territories in Canada, as well as in China, Indonesia and Mongolia.



Derek Gent

Derek Gent, Executive Director, Vancity Community Foundation: Topic: *Business Strategy Fine-Tuning, the Social Venture Institute Approach*

Derek Gent leads a community foundation associated with Vancity Credit Union based in Vancouver, BC. Since its humble beginnings around a kitchen table 70 years ago, Vancity has grown to represent more than 500,000 members across their region, with

59 branches and \$20 billion in financial assets. Prior to his current role, Derek worked in the venture capital arm at Vancity, focused on impact investing through a portfolio of social enterprises, aboriginal ventures, alternative energy, cooperatives, and nonprofit real estate development. He has an MBA from Queen's University and started his professional career working in microcredit with BRAC in Bangladesh and then Pacific Coast Savings in Victoria, BC. As a volunteer, Derek currently serves on the board of Imagine Canada, an important umbrella organization representing the interests of charities and nonprofits across the country, as well as the boards of New Market Funds, Cooperators Foundation, Responsible Investment Association and as City Co-chair for Aga Khan Foundation Canada.



Jessica Gordon-Nembhard

Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Professor, Dept. of African American Studies, City University of New York (CUNY), and member, Grassroots Economic Organizing Collective: Topic: *Solidarity Works, Reflections from the WC Movement*

Author of *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice* and 2016 inductee into the U.S. Cooperative Hall of Fame (www.heroes.coop), Jessica Gordon Nembhard is a political economist and Professor of Community Justice and Social Economic Development (in the Africana Studies Department at John Jay College, City University of NY).

She is also Director of John Jay's McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, and an affiliate scholar with the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives (University of Saskatchewan, Canada). Dr. Gordon Nembhard has numerous publications on cooperative economics, community economic development, credit unions, wealth inequality, community wealth, and Black political economy. In addition, she is the 2014 recipient of the "ONI Award" from the International Black Women's Congress, and the 2011 recipient of the "Cooperative Advocacy and Research" Award from the Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy.

She is a member of the Southern Grassroots Economies Project, the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, the Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy, and The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, as well as a board member of the Association of Cooperative Educators, Grassroots Economic Organizing (GEO) Newsletter, Green Worker Cooperatives, and the US Solidarity Economy Network; and the Chair of the Shared Leadership Team of Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE) DC.

Gordon Nembhard is a former board member of the National Economic Association (past President and past Treasurer), a founding board member of the Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (currently on the advisory board), and a co-founder of the Democracy Collaborative. Jessica is the proud mother of Susan and Stephen, and the grandmother of Stephon and Hugo Nembhard.



Peter Hough

Peter Hough, Affinity Consulting, Co-author: *People and Co-ops: Maintaining Mutual Respect and Dignity within Your Worker Co-op*

Peter is the principal of Affinity Consulting a practice engaged in co-operative development, research, training, and management. Peter has over 30 years of experience as a member, manager or director of worker and consumer co-operatives. In addition Peter has assisted with many co-operative start-ups, developing bylaws, conducting training programs, completing feasibility studies and business plans, and providing post start-up mentoring. Peter assisted in developing and administering the Co-op Index.



Rebecca Kemble

Rebecca Kemble (US FWC Past President, and City Councillor, Madison, Wisc.: Topic: *Solidarity Works, Reflections from the WC Movement*

Rebecca Kemble was elected to the Madison Common Council representing District 18 in April, 2015. As an Alder, Rebecca backed the city's Worker Cooperative Development Initiative. She currently serves on 12 City of Madison commissions and committees, including the Common Council Executive Committee, Economic Development Committee, Equal Opportunities Commission, Food Policy Committee, and the Transit and Parking Commission.

Rebecca is a worker-owner at Union Cab Cooperative and the past President of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives. She is currently the President of CICOPA North

America, the sub-regional body of the worker cooperative sector of the International Cooperative Alliance. She is also the Vice President of CICOPA Americas and serves on the Executive Board of CICOPA worldwide. At Union Cab, Rebecca works weekend night shifts as a taxi driver and has served on the Cooperative's Education and Strategic Planning Committees. She helped develop and implement innovative peer support systems including the Steward and Mediation Councils that have become integral parts of Union Cab's democratic governance and management structures.

Rebecca is also a writer for *The Progressive* magazine, and a founding member and editor at the Wisconsin Citizens Media Cooperative. Rebecca earned a PhD (a.b.d.) in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and lives with her husband, daughter, parents and sister in Madison, WI.



Seth Klein

Seth Klein, BC Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: Topic: *The Leap Manifesto and the Worker Co-op Movement*

Seth is the BC Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a public policy research institute committed to social, economic and environmental justice. He has been a social activist for over 30 years.

Under his direction, CCPA-BC has grown to 14 employees, and publishes regular research reports on topics such as poverty and inequality, taxes, climate justice, and health care.

Seth served for eight years as co-chair of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, and is on the Advisory Committee of the Metro Vancouver Living Wage for Families campaign. He is a co-founder of *Next Up* (a leadership training program for young people committed to social and environmental justice).



Tracey Kliesch

Tracey Kliesch, General Manager and CEO, CCEC Credit Union: Topic: *Financing Worker Co-ops*

Tracey is the General Manager and CEO of CCEC Credit Union in Vancouver. CCEC is an autonomous and independent financial co-operative founded by local community organizations and activists in 1976. Today it is owned by its more than 3400 members.

Tracey has worked in the credit union sector for more than 12 years and within that time has also completed multiple postings with credit unions internationally.

Tracey holds a Master's degree in Co-operatives and Credit Union Management from St. Mary's University and she teaches Co-operatives and Community Economic Development at BCIT.