



Ottawa-Gatineau to Host National Worker Co-op Conference this fall

By Kenzie Love, Federation Executive Assistant

October 2, 2017

OTTAWA, ON. – The [Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation](#) (the “Federation”) has announced plans to host its 26th annual fall conference in Ottawa-Gatineau from November 2-4, together with co-hosts [CoopZone](#) and Quebec’s Worker Co-operation Network, [le Réseau](#).

The three-day Conference, which brings together many of the Federation’s 55 member organizations and 100+ indirect members from across the country, aims to strengthen Canada’s growing worker co-operative sector. It features a number of workshops, networking sessions, and guest speakers. This year’s keynote speakers are Senators [Lucie Moncion](#), former President of Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada, and [Murray Sinclair](#), former Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

A worker co-op, for the uninitiated, is a form of business where a company’s employees own and democratically manage the business. They share in both the business’ decision-making and its profit. Currently, there are an estimated 350 worker co-ops across Canada, employing 10,000 people. The Ottawa-Gatineau region is home to a number of worker co-operatives including Brierwood Apps, Coloc Studio Créatif, and La Siembra (Camino Chocolates).

The conference theme is “Radical Roots/Radical Routes of Worker Co-operation”, which will explore the radical history of worker co-ops and how this translates into a vision for a future of radical inclusivity.

While conference sessions will key in on this theme, there will also be workshops on financial management and human resources in a worker co-operative, as well as government relations and business strategy and more.

Executive Director Hazel Corcoran said, “I’m excited that the Federation is hosting its Conference on the border between Quebec and Ontario, a region with many worker co-operatives, and about the theme of *Radical Routes*. What this means to me is that instead of capital hiring labour with increasing inequality and a growing “precariat”, the worker co-op

movement has people hiring capital. The sessions at this Conference – notably but not only the Worker Co-op Management Intensive -- will help worker co-ops function more effectively.”

This bilingual Conference is open to non-members as well, and registration details can be found at www.canadianworker.coop/2017-cwcf-cz-conference.

Conference presenters include Mo Manklang, Communications Director, [U.S. Federation of Worker Co-ops](#); Omar Yaqub, a worker owner with [Alif Partners](#) Worker Co-op; and [Isabel Faubert Mailloux](#), Executive Director of the Quebec Worker Co-op Réseau.

Founded in 1991, the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation is a national, bilingual grassroots membership organization of and for worker co-operatives, related types of co-operatives, and organizations that support the growth and development of worker co-operatives.

-30-

For more information/interviews, contact:

Federation Executive Director Hazel Corcoran: hazel@canadianworker.coop, (403) 276-8250

