NORTH AMERICAN WORKER CO-OP SUMMIT

2019

Monday, **June 17**, 2019
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Quebec's House of Co-operation and Solidarity Economy
155 boul. Charest East, Quebec G1K 3G6
Room 2 and 3

Room 2 = Room without translation / Room 3 = Room with translation

CLICK HERE to register

Cost: $ 50
per participant
+ applicable taxes

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MEETING THE CHALLENGES of Worker Co-ops **in 2019**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

9:00 **Arrival of participants**

9:15 **Welcome, by Hazel Corcoran, Executive Director of the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation**

9:30 **Co-op Governance: Challenges and Conditions for Success**

a) Presentation of the different perspectives for strengthening the governance of worker co-operatives as seen by the different federations (5 to 10 minutes per Federation)

- Stéphanie Morin, CHRP, Senior Advisor in Human Resources Management and Co-operative Life, Quebec Federation of Forestry Co-operatives
- Philipe Morissette, Legal Advisor, Quebec Federation of Paramedic Co-operatives
- Isabel Faubert Mailloux, Executive Director, Quebec Worker Co-operation "Réseau"
- Hazel Corcoran, Executive Director of the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation

b) Panel: How to juggle the different roles in a worker co-operative? (facilitated by Alain Bridault) (5 minutes per co-operative)

- Charles Montamat, General Manger, Grand Portage Paramedic Co-operative
- To be confirmed, La Siembra
- To be confirmed, P4E Co-operative

10:45 **Health Break**

11:00 **Video Keynote, by Noam Chomsky**

Noam Chomsky is a US political theorist and activist, and professor emeritus of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Besides his pioneering work in linguistics, Chomsky is internationally recognized as one of the most critically engaged public intellectuals alive today. Chomsky continues to be an unapologetic critic of both American foreign policy and its ambitions for geopolitical hegemony and the neoliberal turn of global capitalism, which he identifies in terms of class warfare waged from above against the needs and interests of the great majority.

Chomsky is also an incisive critic of the ideological role of the mainstream corporate mass media, which, he maintains, "manufactures consent" toward the desirability of capitalism and the political powers supportive of it.

11:30 **Presentation by André Beaudry, Executive Director of Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada**

11:45 **Presentation by Gaston Bédard, Executive Director of Conseil québécois de la coopération et la mutualité**

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 **Motivation to create or join a worker co-operative: yesterday, today and tomorrow (facilitation Mathieu Dionne)**

Panel of co-operatives:

- Michel Michaud, President of the Nord-Côtière Forest Co-operative and a member for more than 40 years.
- Marius Legendre, Director of Operations of the North Shore Coastal Co-operative and a member for one year.
- To be confirmed, Paramedic cooperative member of the FCPQ
- Frank Bezanson-Harris, Président de la Coopérative Just Us Coffee Roasters, et membre depuis 13 ans.
- To be confirmed, ALTE worker co-operative

2:00 **How can Federations meet the needs of worker co-operatives?**

- Services currently offered
- The expectations of the co-operatives vis-à-vis their federation

Room 2 : Paramedic and forestry co-operatives

Discussion facilitated by (to be determined)

- J. Benoit Caron, Executive Director of the Quebec Federation of Paramedic Co-operatives
- Jocelyn Lessard, Executive Director of the Quebec Federation of Forestry Co-operatives

Room 3: Co-operatives in sectors other than paramedic and forestry sectors

Discussion facilitated by Alain Bridault:

- Isabel Faubert-Mailloux, Director General of the Labor Co-operation "Réseau"
- Hazel Corcoran, Executive Director, Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation

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2:45 **Return to Plenary (Room 3)**

Summary of discussions: highlights of the exchanges

3:00 **Health Break**

3:15 **Presentation of CWCF's New Strategic Plan, by Hazel Corcoran**

3:45 **Esteban Kelly: the State of Worker Co-operatives in the US**

- Types/ characteristics of worker co-operatives being created
- Type of WC Creation: Start-ups and/or transfers of existing businesses to workers?
- Challenges
- Sucesseses

4:15 **Closing and thanks**

4:30 **Networking Reception (Ground floor of the House of Co-operation)**

Organized events in cooperation between

CWCF FCCT

Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières

Fédération des Coopératives des Paramédics du Québec

Réseau COOP
La Fédération des coopératives gérées par les travailleurs