

2019 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Canadian Worker Co-op Federation and CoopZone

October 24-26, 2019

Tatamagouche, N.S

Tatamagouche Centre

Theme: Building Resilient Communities Ecology, Equality, and Workplace Democracy

Construire des communautés résilientes L'écologie, l'égalité et la démocratie au travail

As with all businesses, the climate crisis presents a challenge for worker co-ops. Unlike with many other businesses, however, it is one that worker co-ops are well-positioned to respond to because of their roots in their communities, voluntary and open membership, and democratic structure. The impacts of climate change pose disproportionate risks for historically marginalized groups. But developing a green economy by growing and strengthening the worker co-op movement also helps to empower people with the prospect of new employment opportunities, more livable communities, and more control over their labour. Through following sustainable practices and/or working directly in the green economy to help address the climate crisis as well as building equality and democracy in the workplace, worker co-ops can help transform our world to a better economy, society, and environment for everyone.

In addition to covering this important theme at the Conference, there will be a Worker Co-op Intensive session, a CoopZone hosted intensive session, workshops on topics of practical interest, and great networking opportunities.



Time		Wednesday, October 23	
		Optional Casual Evening	
5:30 pm		Supper (optional add-on for early arrivals)	
6:30 pm to 10pm		Evening Networking at the Tatamagouche Centre	
Time		Thursday, October 24	
8:00 am		Breakfast (included for those staying at the centre)	
8:15 am		Registration starts	
9:00 to 10:00am		Welcome, from CWCF (Reba Plummer), CoopZone (Pascal Billard), Introduction to the Theme and Ice-Breaking Activity.	
10:00 am to 5:00 pm		<p>Intensive #1 – Human Issues in a Worker Co-op: How to attract and engage members, not just employees</p> <p>Facilitated by Jessica Provencher</p> <p>The key objective is to provide members with information and tools that will help them design their governance and human resource processes in ways that will attract new members, engage all members/employees and contribute to the success of their co-op.</p> <p>Topics to be included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benefits and value of Membership 2. Training from a Worker Co-op Lens How to train people to deal with conflict, democratic decision making– tools and resources. 3. Compensation as a Philosophy (with Sonja Novkovic and Cian McMahon, International Centre for Co-operative Management, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary’s University) <p>To include a presentation from The Co-operators.</p>	<p>Intensive #2 – CoopZone The Circular Economy: An Opportunity for Cooperatives to Get Involved in the Green Economy!</p> <p>L'économie circulaire, une opportunité pour les coopératives de s'impliquer dans l'économie verte!</p> <p>To include a presentation from The Co-operators.</p>
		All-day Management Intensives	
		12:30 - 1:35 Lunch	
		Break (included) plus a walk break after lunch	
		15-minute breaks at 10:30 am & 3: 00 pm	
5:00 to 5:15		Facilitated wrap-up of day one	
5:30 pm		Supper (included)	
6:30 pm		Movement break/ walk on the adjacent TransCanada Trail along the Waughs River	
7:00 to 9:00 pm		<p>Evening Keynote and Awards presentations: Keynote speaker Hannah Martin will present on the Challenges of Climate Change, and of First Nations Communities</p>	

Friday, October 25	
8:00am	Breakfast (included for those staying at the centre)
8:15am	Registration starts
9:00 to 10:30	Forum #1: Worker Co-operatives: Building Resilient Communities How can worker co-ops help address climate change challenges, and build equality and resilient communities? (with possible subtheme on the Co-op Movement and First Nations)
10:30 to 10:50 am	Networking break
10:50 to 11:10	Co-op Showcase: Co-op Ignite sessions (3) Participating in the Green Economy
11:10 to 12:20	Regional Caucus Meetings
12:20-12:30	Group photo
12:30 to 1:15pm	Lunch (included)
1:15 to 1:45pm	Movement break/ walk
1:45 to 3:15pm	Workshops:
	<p>A1) Member Peer Coaching: Peer Coaching Groups are grounded in Action Learning theory. This format includes Ongoing, highly focused process among 4-6 people who use coaching to help each other address real, current, important problems and opportunities in their worker co-ops and work– and learn at the same time. In highly structured meetings, members help each other primarily by sharing thoughtful questions to report, clarify and frame the priorities and then to generate relevant and realistic actions to address the priorities. The questioning is a hallmark of Action Learning. Facilitated by Eric Tusz-King and Kaye Grant</p> <p>A2) Building Your Co-op’s Financial Viability</p>
3:15 to 3:35pm	Networking Break
3:35 to 3:50pm	Award Presentation - or movement break
3:50 to 5:00pm	CWCF AGM Part 1: Reports CWCF AGM Part 2: Financial Statements and Budget
5:00 to 5:15	Facilitated wrap-up of day two
5:30 to 6:30pm	Supper (included)
7:00 to 10:30pm	Mix and Mingle Networking Party, Waldegrave Farm

Saturday, October 26	
8:00am	Breakfast (included for those staying at the centre)
8:15am	Registration starts

9:00 to 10:30	Forum Topic #2: The Social & Solidarity Economy & Worker Co-ops: What is meant by the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)? How and why do worker co-ops collaborate with the SSE, and where across the world is this working well and helping to scale up worker co-ops? With Sonja Novkovic, Academic Director, Cooperative Management Education at Saint Mary's University and Chair, ICA Research Committee
10:30 to 10:50	Networking Break
10:50 to 11:20	CWCF AGM Part 3: Elections and Resolutions
11:20 to 11:45	Co-op Showcase: Co-op Ignite sessions (3) Living Workplace Democracy – followed by Q&A
11:45 to 12:05	Facilitated wrap-up of the Conference
12:05 to 12:30	Noam Chomsky Video (for those with interest) or walk/networking break
12:30 to 1:15	Lunch (included) / Board reorganization meeting (option of to-go lunch)