



# 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

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to register](#)

Cost: \$ 50  
per participant  
+ applicable taxes

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

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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**

The facilitator for the morning will be Luc Audebrand, Associate Professor at Laval University and Chair in Educational Leadership in Social Engagement

- 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
  - Philippe 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?
  - Charles Montamat, General Manager, Grand Portage Paramedic Co-operative
  - Adrien Danielou, Director and member of the executive committee of the cooperative Les Productions 4 éléments
  - Kelly Storie, co-Executive Director, La Siembra Co-op
  - Alain Bridault, Orion research and consulting 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.

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



- 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**  
The facilitator for the afternoon will be Mathieu Dionne, Strategic Ally in Human Resources and Association Life, Quebec Worker Co-op Réseau
- 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.
  - Samantha Bélanger, paramedic and member of the Montérégie ambulance technician co-operative for 3 years
  - Frank Bezanson-Harris, Board Chair of Just Us Coffee Roasters Co-op, and a member for 13 years
  - Mélodie Martin Couture, Executive Director, founding member, Cirquantique Co-op, and a member for 5 years
- 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, Executive Director, Quebec Worker Co-operation "Réseau"
  - Hazel Corcoran, Executive Director, Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation
- 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
  - Successes
- 4:15** **Closing and thanks**
- 4:30** **Networking Reception (Ground floor of the House of Co-operation)**

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