

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	
5:30 pm	Optional Casual Evening	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	Intensive #1 – Human Issues in a Worker Co-op: How to attract and engage members, not just employees <i>Facilitated by Jessica Provencher</i> 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. Topics include	Intensive #2 – CoopZone The Circular Economy: An Opportunity for Cooperatives to Get Involved in the Green Economy! L'économie circulaire, une opportunité pour les coopératives de s'impliquer dans l'économie verte! Des opportunités à explorer pour créer de nouvelles cooperatives. Opportunities to explore to create new cooperatives	Co-operation and Our Future: Peripheral or Central. Coopération et notre avenir: périphérique ou central. Presenters: Pascal Billard, President, CoopZone J. Tom Webb, President, Global Co-operation and Adjunct Professor at Sobey School of Business
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 Waugh's River		
7:00 to 9:00 pm	Evening Keynote: and Award presentation Keynote speaker Hannah Martin will present on the Challenges of Climate Change, and of First Nations Communities. The evening activities will include a choice of a documentary screening, games or a bonfire.		

Friday, October 25

8:00am 8:15am	Breakfast (included for those staying at the centre) 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) <i>Facilitated by Eric Tusz-King</i>		
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:		
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <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. <i>Facilitated by Eric Tusz-King and Kaye Grant</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>A2) Building Your Co-op’s Financial Viability</p> <p>Explore what financial viability is, find out how other worker co-ops define and measure their financial viability and have a chance to explore how you might utilize the information in your co-op.</p> <p>With presentations by two worker co-op members about their co-op’s financial viability. Including: Colin MacDougall, SSG</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Peter Hough</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<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. <i>Facilitated by Eric Tusz-King and Kaye Grant</i></p>	<p>A2) Building Your Co-op’s Financial Viability</p> <p>Explore what financial viability is, find out how other worker co-ops define and measure their financial viability and have a chance to explore how you might utilize the information in your co-op.</p> <p>With presentations by two worker co-op members about their co-op’s financial viability. Including: Colin MacDougall, SSG</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Peter Hough</i></p>
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3:15 to 3:35pm	Networking Break		
3:35 to 4:05pm	Presentation on The Co-operators’ approach to Environmental Sustainability by Wendy Carruthers, introduced by John Harvie		
4:05 to 5:05pm	CWCF AGM Part 1: Reports CWCF AGM Part 2: Financial Statements and Budget		
5:05 to 5:20	Facilitated wrap-up of day two		
5:30 to 6:30pm	Supper (included)		
7:00 to 10:30pm	Mix and Mingle Networking Party		

*Late resolutions are due by 7:00pm

Saturday, October 26

8:00am 8:15am	Breakfast (included for those staying at the centre) 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 Rick Proven with Sun Certified Builders Co-operative will present on their experience. <i>Facilitated by Wilf Bean</i>
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)