

**Building a Resilient and Equitable
Economy Post-Covid:
What Worker Co-operatives Do**

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October 23 at 1 pm (Atlantic) 12pm (Eastern)

Introductions

- Using the Chat Box, please, introduce yourself:
 - Name
 - Location
 - Name of Your Co-operative/Organization
 - Why you registered for this webinar

Principles: The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community

Resilience of the Cooperative Business Model in Times of Crisis

International Labour Organization - 2009

- In Europe in 1800s
 - Rural cooperative banks in Europe
 - Agricultural supply and marketing cooperatives
 - Cooperative bank for townspeople, providing credits to enable artisans and small businesspeople
- In USA in 1930's Great Depression
 - To ensure credit unions made credit available to "people of small means"
 - Housing co-operatives in New York where co-operatively owned housing is the most common form of apartment ownership

Resilience of the Cooperative Business Model in Times of Crisis

International Labour Organization - 2009

- **Western Europe** - Worker owned co-operatives – 1970-80's
- **Argentina** – 2000's workers took over upwards of 200 firms which were going bankrupt
- **Global** - In 2009 after the global financial crisis when massive public bail-out of private, the investor-owned banks worldwide, “There are some 49,000 credit unions serving 177 million members in 96 countries, under the umbrella of the World Council of Credit Unions that continue to operate despite the current financial crisis.” UN

Quebec and Canada

- More than 6 out of 10 cooperatives survive more than five years, as compared to almost 4 businesses out of 10 for the private sector in Québec and in Canada in general. More than 4 out of 10 cooperatives survive more than 10 years, compared to 2 businesses out of 10 for the private sector.”

North-Eastern United States

New Frameworks Natural Design Co-operative

Transformation of the construction industry towards a new paradigm of socially and ecologically driven design and construction



Play Andrew Video here.

New Frameworks Natural Design Co-operative

1. What does the co-operative model have going for it they will be helpful in addressing this complex challenge?
2. What are the challenges in applying the co-operative model to address this complex challenge?

Why are cooperatives good in a crisis?

Values and Principles of Co-operatives

- Co-operatives are based on the values of **self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity**. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of **honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others**.

**Do cooperatives succeed only in crisis
or also in crisis?**

- **Both!**

Seven Co-op Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community

2. Democratic Member Control

- **Good Stories:**
 - **Mondragon Co-operatives** – Response to 2008 Economic Downturn
- **Disappointing Stories**
 - **MEC**
 - Control Taken from Members and Vested in the Board
 - **Co-op Atlantic**
 - Control Taken from Local Individual Members and Vested in the Board

3. Member Economic Participation

- Members contribute and take risk
- Manage their business
- Receive a patronage rebate/bonus if there is a profit or accept the deficit
- Not get rich quick scheme, but moderate financial livelihood

6. Co-operation among Co-operatives

- **New Frameworks Natural Design Co-operative (Andrew Gansenberg)**
- **Mondragon**
 1. Where does your co-operative buy goods and services?
 2. How do your Co-op Councils and Federations of Worker Co-ops (CWCF) support and encourage co-operation?

CO-OP WEEK



OCTOBER 11 - 17

REBOUNDING WITH
CO-OPERATIVE VALUES



Thanks!

Roundtable Evaluation

1. 1 to 10 rating
2. Why?
3. Suggested improvements