



### **Russ Christianson – Biography**

For over three decades, Russ Christianson has been working with communities, co-operative enterprises, unions, environmental organizations and private businesses to meet their strategic goals and develop good governance practices. He has helped launch over two hundred co-operatives, with a seventy percent success rate (for which he gives the founders credit).

Russ is the creator of the *Co-operative Sustainability Scorecard*, and in 2003, he received the Co-operative Spirit Award for *Outstanding Contribution to the Ontario Co-operative Association (OCA)*. He has volunteered on the OCA's Co-op Development Committee since the

1990s, he is co-chair of the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation's Business Succession Committee, and is the Treasurer of CoopZone.

As a volunteer in his own community of Campbellford, Russ was the founding President of the Aron Theatre Co-operative and the Campbellford Seymour Community Foundation. He is currently the Chair of the Northumberland County Food Policy Council.

Russ lives on a reforested farm with his partner, Heidi Schaeffer, just north of Campbellford, Ontario. He graduated from Queen's Commerce in 1981 and received a Masters of Industrial Relations from the University of Toronto in 1983.