



2021 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Theme: Building Better Together / Mieux construire ensemble

November 16-18, 2021, Virtual



(Image developed by artist Molly Graham for the Social Justice Co-operative of Newfoundland, Winner of CWCF's 2020 Arts and Cultural Youth Grant)

Building Better Together:

Worker co-operatives have demonstrated resilience and solidarity throughout the Covid19 pandemic, although many have faced significant challenges. We will share strategies of worker co-ops in dealing with crisis such as the pandemic. Further, this theme will cover how communities would benefit from building more worker co-operatives, including through the lens of racial and economic justice. As always, there will be sessions on topics of practical interest for worker co-operators.

This Conference will feature simultaneous interpretation, by [Coopérative L'Argot](#). The Conference registration link (in English) is available [here](#).

Time (EASTERN TIME)	Tuesday, November 16, 2021
11:30 am	Ice Breaker (or networking social connections), led by Sandra Allen , Shift Delivery Co-op and CWCF Board member, Vancouver
12:00 (noon) to 1:30 pm	<p>Welcome and Land Acknowledgement, & housekeeping, from CWCF, by Reba Plummer, Urbane Cyclist, CWCF Board President, Toronto</p> <p>Keynote Panel: Global view of what the effect of COVID has been on the Worker Co-op Sector. What's the big picture? What strategies have Worker Co-ops used to survive and thrive in the face of the pandemic? And: How can Worker Co-ops show the way? Worker Co-op models to building better together: Challenges and opportunities</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Francesca Zaganelli, Membership Coordinator, CICOPA, Brussels - Kelly Storie, Executive Director, La Siembra Co-op, Ottawa - Jonny Sopotiuik, Founding Member, VALU Co-op, Vancouver - Hazel Corcoran, Executive Director, CWCF, Calgary - Esteban Kelly, Executive Director, USFWC, Philadelphia <p>Facilitator: Victor Beausoleil, Executive Director, SETSJ, Toronto</p>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Off-line Break
2:30 to 4:00 pm	<p>Peer learning sessions Facilitator: Jessica Provencher, Réseau COOP & CWCF Board member, Québec</p> <p>Participants will choose two break-out rooms of the following three topics; one-half hour each:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benefits that worker co-ops can provide. <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jaime Cuevas Mercado, REM Solar Worker Co-op, San Juan, Puerto Rico - Sandra Allen, of Shift Delivery Co-op (presenter & facilitator) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How to attract talent to our sector. How can we grow if we can't attract talent? What does your co-op do to attract workers? <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colin MacDougall, Sustainability Solutions Group WC, Ottawa. (facilitator) - Danielle Turpin, Home Care Workers' Co-op, Peterborough, ON <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How to get members engaged in the governance of the co-op / training on co-op governance

	<p>Speaker: - Joey Pittoello, Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-op, Grand Pre, NS. (facilitator)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isabel Faubert, Executive Director, and Matthieu Dionne, Coordinator of Advisory Services and Human Resources, Réseau COOP, Montreal <p>(There will be some discussion on the focus of Pandemic experiences and learnings regarding the above topics)</p> <p>Ignite presentations by Worker Co-op Academy groups: 1) <i>Oasis Lavender Farm Co-op (forming)</i>, Summerland, 2) <i>the Massage and Holistic Co-op (forming)</i>, Calgary</p>
Evening 7:00-8:30 pm	<p>CoopZone Developers Network session, re: Co-op Conversions, Co-op Development Challenges, & CoopZone, featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matthew Green, Member of Parliament (Hamilton, ON) - Meg Ronson, CoopZone Training Program Director - Russ Christianson, Co-op Developer - Colin B. Anthes, Community Wealth Candidates - David Gray, Project Equity <p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Norris, CoopZone Administrator

Time	Wednesday, November 17, 2021
12:00 (noon) to 1:30 pm	<p>Building on anti-racism in worker co-ops: practical tools to build real diversity, inclusion, and racial justice, and need for a culture shift (planned by CWCF’s Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (“JEDI”) Committee as part of their action plan)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susanna Redekop, Local Food and Farms Co-op Network and Master’s student, Toronto (facilitator & presenter) - Lucenia Ortiz, Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op, Edmonton - Mike Degagne, Northeast Regional Co-op Coordinator of LFFC & the Black River Co-op Co-chair, Timmins, ON - Wunmi Akinlosotu, CEO/Founder Blooming Ladies, Blooming Ladies Co-operative - Reba Plummer, for CWCF’s JEDI Committee to present the Action Plan
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Off-line Break
2:30 to 4:00 pm	<p>Annual General Meeting (Parliamentarian: Peter Hough, Board President, SSG, Berwick, NS).</p> <p>With brief presentations by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hugues Bourgeois, Interim Executive Director, Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada, and - Alexandra Wilson, Board Vice Chair (TBC), Co-operators - Francesca Zaganelli, Membership Coordinator, CICOPA, Brussels

	<p>CWCF AGM Part 1: Reports</p> <p>CWCF AGM Part 2: Financial Statements and Budget</p> <p>CWCF AGM Part 3: Elections and Resolutions</p> <p>Award Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worker Co-op Merit Award – presented to Eric Tusz-King, by Frank Bezanson-Harris (Just Us! Coffee Roasters, and CWCF Board) - Worker Co-op Best Practices Award – presented to London Brewing Co-op by Reba Plummer
6 – 7:30 pm	<p>Freedom Dreams Education Co-op Workshop</p> <p>Nourishing Belonging: Forging Co-operation in Food and Farming.</p> <p>When resources were scarce, BIPOC folks worked the land together in a spirit of abundance. In their third workshop, Afri-Can FoodBasket founder and farmer Anan Lololi joins us for a look at how co-ops offer a sustainable approach for small-scale food and farm businesses. (Registration is at this link.)</p>

Time	Thursday, November 18, 2021
12:00 (noon) to 1:30 pm	<p>Worker Co-op Financing Workshop:</p> <p>Successful financing: What are financiers looking for? What are some financing tools that are available?</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bernard Ndour, MCE Conseils & CWCF Fund Investment Committee, Montreal – on what financiers are looking for - Julia Vlad, Canadian Co-operative Investment Fund, Toronto - Brian Iler, Iler Campbell, Toronto - on investment shares, bonds, etc. - Hazel Corcoran, CWCF’s Tenacity Works Fund & RRSP program, Calgary <p>Facilitator: Erin Hancock, International Centre for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax</p>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Off-line Break
2:30 to 4:00 pm	<p>Worker Co-op Marketing Workshop:</p> <p>Marketing/visibility - including marketing the Worker Co-op advantage</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russ Christianson, Co-op Developer, Campbellford, ON - David Thuss and Emma Maganja, London Brewing Co-op, London, ON (2021 Winner of WC Best Practices Award) – to present their best practice on organic/ local/ messaging - Isabella Robinson, Molotov Communications Co-op, Montreal <p><u>Facilitator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jared Blustein, The Allium Restaurant Co-op, and CWCF Director, Calgary
Closing	

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