Memo re: proposed bylaw amendments

To: CWCF Membership
From: Hazel Corcoran, for the Board of CWCF
Date: October 15, 2026

CWCF's Board of Directors is proposing amendments to the CWCF by-laws. The purpose of the amendments is three-fold:

1) to enable Regular Membership in CWCF of worker co-operatives incorporated outside of Canada and which have members in Canada,
2) to give to the Board of Directors the power to appoint up to two people to the Board, in order to increase diversity on the board, and
3) to rectify errors and deviations in the document.

As there are increasing numbers of worker co-operatives which cross borders, it makes sense to the Board to enable inclusion of worker co-ops which are incorporated outside of Canada but have members in Canada. Currently, the only worker co-ops eligible for CWCF membership are those incorporated in Canada.

Regarding director eligibility, CWCF's Board is made up at this point of seven board members. Five of the board seats are for regional directors (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies/ NWT/ NU, and BC/ Yukon), with two held at-large for a total of 7 directors. The CWCF Board believes that it would be strengthened by giving it the capacity to appoint up to two at-large board members which have lived experience with a variety of diversities. As stated in the definitions section, " 'Equity' means the ongoing process of identifying and overcoming barriers to achieve equal outcomes in the worker cooperative system and full participation in the worker cooperative community, which requires focusing on inclusion, diversity and accessibility."

These proposed changes are in keeping with CWCF's strategy to help to build the Solidarity Economy and to become more just, diverse, and inclusive.

Further, there are some minor changes made which are in the nature of correcting typographical errors and updating the bylaws.

These bylaw amendments are available in track-changes mode in this document.

The members of CWCF present at the virtual AGM on November 5th at 2:30 – 4:30 pm ET will vote on these proposed bylaw amendments. Any questions or comments may be sent to one or more of the following people:

Governance Committee Chair Daphane Nelson, daphane@coactive.ca
Co-Executive Director Christine Clarke, cclarke@canadianworker.coop
Co-Executive Director Kaye Grant, communications@canadianworker.coop
Outgoing Executive Director Hazel Corcoran, hazel@canadianworker.coop