Tara Williams, MMCCU, RSM (she/her)



Tara is a biracial settler of Cantonese Chinese-American and White Canadian (English, Welsh, and Dutch) descent. She lives on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and sə́lílwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and recognizes the privileges and responsibilities that influence how she shows up.

With nearly 18 years of experience at Vancity Credit Union and a Master of Management in Co-operatives and Credit Unions from the International Centre for Co-operative Management at Saint Mary's University, Tara brings expertise in strategy, governance, human resources, member engagement, and organizational development. She is a founding worker-owner-member of GIA Consulting Co-operative, supporting co-operatives and values-driven organizations throughout their lifecycle.

Tara currently serves as Board Co-Chair of the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation, and Education and Training Manager at Cooperation Works!, where she also hosts the *Co-op Developer Stories podcast*. She remains actively involved in co-operative education and mentorship through Saint Mary's University.

Outside of work, Tara enjoys glassmaking at Terminal City Glass Co-op and leather craft with the Vancouver Tool Library Co-op and currently lives in an equity co-op.

Candidate Statement

Inspired by José María Arizmendiarrieta's words "The world has not been given to us to contemplate but to transform," I am passionate co-operator, connector, and advocate for building a stronger, more equitable Co-operative world.

As a worker-owner-member, co-operative developer, and current CWCF Board Co-Chair, I am committed to strengthening the movement and ensuring worker co-operatives have the tools, resources, and connections they need to thrive.

During my time on the CWCF Board, I have been proud to contribute to several committees. Through the Personnel Committee, I have supported succession planning and the development of a more inclusive and robust hiring process. On the Strategic Planning Committee, I have worked to centre member voices and renew our strategic focus. Through the Governance Committee, I have helped strengthen our governance practices, while my work on the Justice, Equity, Decolonization, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDDI) Committee has provided opportunities to learn and grow alongside members and supporters.

I also believe we have an opportunity to strengthen relationships across borders. Leaning into our Co-operative Principles and Values, I believe now is the right time to reinforce and build bridges with our Co-op colleagues across the globe to create a stronger co-op ecosystem.

I believe Worker Co-operatives are the best kind of Co-operatives and are a crucial part of the transformation that José María Arizmendiarrieta dreamed of in Mondragon. I would be honoured to continue serving CWCF members in building that future together.