



# FREEDOM DREAMS

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION



# Susanna Redekop

- Mother of 3
- 12 years in co-op development and support
- Masters student, York University 2022
- Convener, ecosystem builder



Co-ops are a means of:

## **Uplifting a People's History**

- Some of the earliest forms of co-operative development found in India and China
- *Ubuntu*: South African concept of achieving ourselves by sharing ourselves with others is basis of all life and interactions
- The solidarity economy, *economia solidaria*, can be attributed to people's movements in South America
- In the Indigenous communities of Turtle Island "cultural patterns of economic co-operation were clearly engrained in the fabric of every tribe."
- In 19th century Europe, the Rochdale Pioneers formulated the prototype for the 7 Co-operative Principles

Source: Shenaz Hossein, C. (2020). Locating the Contributions of the African Diaspora in the Canadian Co-operative Sector. *International Journal of Co-Operative Accounting and Management*, 21–45. <https://doi.org/10.36830/IJCAM.202014>

Freedom Dreams' webinar series [Transformation On Our Own Terms](#), on BIPOC co-op histories, existence, resistance







# Solidarity Economy Principles



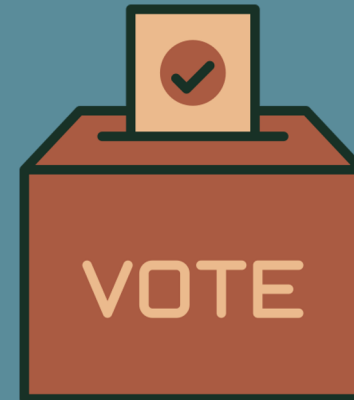
Accountability &  
Relationship



Shared Resources &  
Shared Vision



Liberation  
Culture



Democracy &  
Process



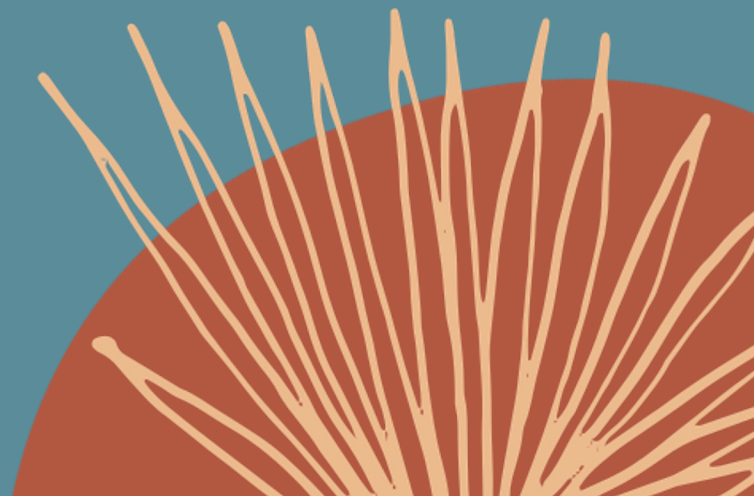
Education & Leadership  
Development



"No one is free until  
everybody is free"



Fannie Lou Hamer, civil  
rights activist, founder of  
Freedom Farm Co-  
operative





# Accountability and Relationships



- We value relationships over transactions and single outcomes.
- We hold space for movement reflections and accountability to each other and our values.
- We respect the traditions and legacies of the work we are doing.
- We don't throw people organizations away, and we don't let harm slide. We embrace conflict as generative and clarifying.

*“Nothing about us, without us”*

# What does that mean?

...what does that mean for us?

- **Controlled by the people**  
More meaningful representation is needed in decision-making positions
- **Moving beyond words toward action**  
Policies are a start, actions are harder but need to have follow through
- **Made for the people**  
The structures exist to serve a community's needs; investing back into the community



# Care-Centered Practices

Rethinking how we care for each other



**Barter and trade  
networks**



**Mutual Aid**



**Buying Clubs**



**Emergency Food and  
Community Supported  
Agriculture**





# Thank you for being here today

@freedomdreamscoop

info@freedomdreamscoop.ca