

Converting Business to Social Purpose Organizations: for Equity-Denied Groups

Information Webinar, February 9th 2023

Chat Records

Edited for relevance and brevity

TIME	FROM	MESSAGE
11:23:51	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	“Social Purpose Organization” is a term / phrase which the federal gov’t created, not CWCF. Just so you know why we are referring to these as “SPO’s”.
11:25:17	Anna (she/her)	Are you aware of any labour unions that run an SPO?
11:30:39	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	<p>Anna, I can respond that there are unionized worker co-ops. E.g., the Glitter Bean Cafe Co-op in Halifax (SEIU - which also has unionized several US-based co-ops.</p> <p>Also Seize the Means Video Production Co-op in Vancouver & others in Vancouver, all associated thru the Union Co-op Initiative. And the Paramedic Co-ops in Quebec (a CSN union).</p>
11:32:46	Daphane Nelson	<p>Anna, The Union Cooperative Initiative www.unionci.ca is a unionized cooperative incubating union cooperatives</p> <p>👍 👍</p>
11:33:07	Martín	Atautsikut yes
11:34:22	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	<p>However other than unionized worker co-ops, I’m not aware of other unions involved in a SPO, except in a more traditional way (like unionized credit unions).</p> <p>In addition to the link for the UCI Daphane gave, I’d also suggest this: US Union Co-op Council http://unioncoops.org/ in which Canadians are also invited to participate.</p> <p>👍</p>
11:35:52	Martín	<p>We could maybe add union based crédit unions as an example.</p> <p>👍 👍</p>

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11:36:08	Sydney	Yess understood! You've got this - doing the good work ❤️ let me know how it goes for you
11:40:14	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Interesting, good suggestion, Martin. The only thing is that outside Quebec, I'm not sure how many CU's would consider themselves to be SPO's, even though they are. We can think about this idea...
11:42:42	Daphane Nelson	I think we consider ourselves SPOs we just don't tell enough stories of how we support our communities ❤️
11:47:43	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Agreed, Daphane! 👍 👍 ❤️ ❤️
11:50:14	Mohammed Zaqout	Great examples Juliet ❤️
11:52:13	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Juliet is so right. Everything in the co-op sector including the worker co-op sector, and also other SPO's - is not perfect, especially on racial diversity, in some corners on gender diversity etc. The co-op sector needs to keep learning from people like Juliet to tell us what we need to know/ what we don't know to improve justice in this movement and these movements. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️
11:54:32	Daphane Nelson	Absolutely! And her point to approach this with curiosity is well noted and appreciated. So much love and support Juliet!!
11:55:44	Juliet Kego	Thank you so much for the opportunity and feedback. Great to see you Mohammed, congratulations on your engagement, safe travels! 🙌 ❤️
11:56:22	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Congratulations, Mohammed! ❤️
11:59:55	Kristen, NL Federation of Co-ops (she/her)	I love Solid State! ❤️



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12:01:24	Juliet Kego	Solid State Co-op is awesome! I visited your office during the last CWCF conference in Vancouver, great model/space. ❤️ ❤️
12:02:10	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Agreed about Solid State! Also, Mohammed's story of his early experience in Canada reminds me of the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op in Edmonton. There is a beautiful 10-minute video on their website (River City Bridges), which you can find on their website, here: http://mchb.org/media-and-stories/). I highly recommend the video, & think there should be an "MCHB" in every city in Canada. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️
12:07:07	Juliet Kego	Incredible work with LightWork, yes, a need for transformative safe and brave spaces to learn and unlearn. ❤️
12:10:19	Anna (she/her)	This is a meaningful nuance in the language we use. Thank you so much, Mohammed. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️
12:13:54	Juliet Kego	Thank you Mohammed, for sharing specifics on actions/examples that foster a sense of belonging for all demographics. ❤️
12:17:53	Russ	I calculated the ratio of highest paid to lowest paid employee at Google/Alphabet over the pandemic: 5,800 to 1. Across the USA corporations it's about 560 to 1, and in Canada 365 to 1. Worker co-ops (including large ones) are about 10 to 1 (or lower). 🙄



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12:19:50	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	<p>In response to Mohammed's comments, I'd also like to share this song (not by me despite the link) about the refugee experience in Canada, called "Better Days." It was written by my husband Greg O'Neill & donated to the Multicultural Health brokers Co-op.</p> <p>Also, their members made a request to Greg to write a next song about being accepted & integrated into Canadian society.</p> <p>Juliet, Mohammed or others: if you have any lyrics to suggest, please send them my way to give Greg for the sequel.</p> <p>https://soundcloud.com/hazel-corcoran/better-days</p> <p>❤️</p>
12:20:01	Juliet Kego	<p>Huge gaps! @Russ Cooperatives definitely create more equity and this would have wider consequences for the larger society with respect to quality of life, insecurity, housing crisis etc</p> <p>👍</p>
12:21:43	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	<p>Russ, I think in most WC's in Canada it's more like 3 to 1 or in some, 2 to 1 or even at parity.</p> <p>👍</p>
12:21:47	Juliet Kego	<p>Thanks a lot Hazel. Would be interested in sharing some suggestions. I'll save the link.</p> <p>❤️</p>
12:22:02	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	<p>Excellent, Juliet! Thanks.</p> <p>❤️</p>
12:22:21	Kristen, NL Federation of Co-ops (she/her)	<p>Thank you very much to all the speakers, what a fantastic group of individuals who are doing incredible work. Very inspiring.</p> <p>❤️</p>
12:22:38	Esther (she/her) - WEC	<p>Thank you so much, this was a great session! I really enjoyed it!</p> <p>❤️</p>
12:23:06	Russ	<p>Thank you for the great presentations, and for the CWCF to organize and offer this webinar. Much appreciated.</p>

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12:23:58	Joy	Thank you all! Very inspiring and grounding! ❤️ ❤️
12:24:20	Sheelagh	Excellent session, thank you. Will we receive this recording or slides? I think you said we would. Also, can we receive the "chat" section as well as there are many links and ideas shared. ❤️
12:25:22	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Yes, we will share the recording, slides and we should be able to also share the contents of the chat. We will as long as it's technically possible. Rebecca or Kaye? I think it is. 👍
12:26:47	CWCF Support - Rebecca Smyth	Yes, the chat will also be available after this session! 👍
12:27:03	Sheelagh	That's fantastic, thank you! ❤️
12:27:15	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Kaye & Rebecca, that's great, thanks.
12:28:22	Russ	Juliet, you are really hitting important points about awareness and education, thank you.
12:28:30	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	We also need to filter it up (or down) to the broader co-operative sector which is not using an intersectional lens or thinking nearly enough about JEDI challenges... at least mostly not. 👍
	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Also, my email address is: hazel@canadianworker.coop . All CWCF staff are reachable thru our website, too. http://canadianworker.coop/board-staff
12:30:26	Kate	I have to go, but thank you everyone!
12:34:08	Joy	Thanks again! Excellent!
12:35:51	Juliet Kego	Russ, thank you so much, our work with you has also been pivotal to our confidence/capacity to advocate more openly.
12:37:41	Martín	Thanks so much - have to go

TIME	FROM	MESSAGE
12:37:54	Michelle	Thank you for convening these speakers and the space for this conversation. I need to step out for another meeting. I hope there will be more conversations around this? Best regards to all.
12:37:55	Russ	It's a pleasure working with your group Juliet, thank you.
12:38:04	Juliet Kego	Marcelo, thank you for that point about logos on products ♥
12:39:06	Daphane Nelson	I think it's a matter of creating those relationships as well. I have worked with Indigenous business through a CF office here, called Community Futures of Central Interior First Nations which has more information about on and off reserve businesses. http://cfdcofcifn.com/ https://www.stolocf.ca/ https://www.haidagwaiifutures.ca/
12:40:26	Marcelo	Agree with Hazel!
12:40:52	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Marcelo, good thanks. Where are you based - is it in Canada or the US?
12:41:16	Marcelo	Vancouver, BC, Canada
12:41:42	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	ok, great!
12:42:01	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Excellent suggestion, Daphane.
12:42:34	Daphane Nelson	thank you, I worked with that organization for 2 years and understand the nuances rosa is mentioning. Unfortunately, I can't stay any longer. Many thanks to all
12:42:57	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Also, Rosa, sorry that I didn't see your name in the list. I'm glad you're still here to hear the responses. :-)
12:43:19	Jer	Thank you everyone, this has been wonderful
12:43:22	Rosa	Thanks!
12:43:54	Hazel Corcoran, CWCF (she/her/elle)	Thanks so much to all the presenters & Janielle! Excellent session you all have given here!
12:44:01	Sheelagh	Thank you!