



Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation
Fédération Canadienne des Coopératives de Travail

2010 AGM & CONFERENCE CANADIAN WORKER CO-OP FEDERATION*

Worker Co-operatives and Sustainable Development

Thursday, October 28th to Saturday, October 30th, 2010
Vancouver, B.C. – YWCA Hotel (733 Beatty Street)



The CoopZone Developers' Network is holding a Co-op Developer Forum in conjunction with the CWCF Conference. Items which are of special interest to co-op developers are in **GREEN**. However in general, CWCF members can attend developer workshops, & developers can attend CWCF workshops and all other parts of the CWCF Conference. CoopZone members can be members of CWCF's Worker Co-op Developers' Network thus they are invited to be full participants in all Conference activities. They also pay the member registration fee.

AGENDA WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29: 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Registration, YWCA, 1st floor

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 7:15 am** Yoga / stretching (led by Reba Plummer, 10th floor lounge)
- 7:45 am** Breakfast
- 8:30 am** Tours (Optional): Visits - Vancouver Renewable Energy Co-op, Baseline Graphics Co-op, MEC
- 11:30 am** Lunch (optional, at Rhizome Café, 317 East Broadway)
- 1:00 pm** **OFFICIAL START OF CONFERENCE**
 - Welcome to the Conference by CWCF Executive Director **Hazel Corcoran**
 - Welcome to BC from BCCA Director of Co-op Development **Carol Murray**
 - Speech on the potential of worker co-operatives by CWCF President **Alain Bridault** - Bilingual
 - Hazel Corcoran** will explain open space sessions
- 1:30 pm** **Interesting New Worker Co-op Developments from around the country - & beyond (Brief regional reports for each of 5 regions, the CoopZone Developers' Network, and US/international news).**
 - introduction of CWCF Board candidates
- 2:30 pm** Break
- 3:00 pm** **WORKSHOPS – Session A (Choose ONE of the following)**

<p>1. Worker co-ops 101 – Rationale, and the basics (Melanie Conn, Devco)</p> <p>Lounge – 10th Floor (Live-streamed)</p>	<p>2. The Case for indivisible reserves* - Building a worker co-op movement by Alain Bridault and Marty Frost - Bilingual.</p> <p>*An indivisible reserve in a worker co-op is property owned by the co-op/ the co-op movement which can never be divided among members, and is created by allocating a set percentage (e.g. 20%) of annual surpluses to the indivisible reserve, as a bookkeeping entry. It has been put into place by legislation various countries as well as in Quebec. Advocating for an indivisible reserve has often been used to leverage additional government support for worker co-ops. CWCF seeks to consult its membership on whether or not to advocate for this approach.</p> <p>Canfor Room – Main Floor</p>	<p>3. Show me the money – Finding and accessing financing for worker co-ops (Rebecca Pearson, Vancity; Murray Livergant CCEC; Peter Hough, CWCF Fund).</p> <p>Royal Bank Room – Main Floor</p>	<p>4. What Training is Available for Co-op Developers? CoopZone has just created a comprehensive training program for developers – soon to be rolled out. There are several other relevant programs: Ont. Co-op Mngt Certificate, St. Mary's Masters. Learn about these, and more. Also, how to market the CoopZone program? (Jen Heneberry via Skype, Sonja Novkovic, & Lynn Hannley)</p> <p>Boardroom – 7th Floor</p>
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- 4:20 pm** **Brief stretch break**
- 4:30 – 6 pm** **Caucus meetings (Regional meetings for worker co-ops, plus one developers' caucus meeting)**
 The purpose:
 For REGIONAL WORKER CO-OP CAUCUSES: Giving worker co-ops within each region a chance to network further, respond to conference content and talk about follow-up to specific initiatives in their regions. **Rooms TBD**
 For DEVELOPERS: members' meeting of the CoopZone Network/ Worker Co-op Developers' Network. Also to discuss any items of interest to developers, including growing the CZ membership , & working with the CDI Innovative Co-op Projects program. **Room TBD**
 For BOTH: delegates to the CWCF AGM must be selected by each Region (up to 10 per Region, no more than 1 delegate per worker co-op), by the Developers as a class (up to 5), and by the Associate Members as a class if there are more than 5 (up to 5). Discuss resolutions to the AGM.
 [People who don't feel they technically fit into a regional worker co-op caucus, or the developers caucus will be welcome to whichever caucus they choose to attend. The Associate Members likely do not need to meet since there are usually not more than 5 present, and so they may either attend their regions' meeting, or the developers' meeting, or have a break.]
- 6:00 pm** **Supper**
- 7:30 pm** **FIRST KEYNOTE: Peter Robinson, CEO, David Suzuki Foundation. The Role of Worker Co-ops in Building the Green Economy**
- 8:30 pm** **NETWORKING /SOCIAL TIME** including **Worker Co-op Trade Fair**
 (Optional: Small Group Discussion on the keynote theme)
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**
- 7:15 am** **Yoga / stretching (led by Reba Plummer, 10th floor lounge)**
- 7:45 am** **Breakfast** *Une table: en français pour ceux et celles qui parlent français.*
- 8:30 am** **Panel: • How can we promote the worker co-operative model as a way to help build the green and sustainable economy among environmentalists, social justice advocates, and social/ solidarity economy organizations?**
 (Yuill Herbert, Sustainability Solutions Group, moderator; Lindsay Cole, City of Vancouver; Maureen Cureton, Vancity; Kevin Millsip, Vancouver School Board)
- 9:30 am** **Small group discussions on the Panel topic**
- 10:00 am** **Break** (and time to finalize choices for Open Space Workshops)

10:30 - noon WORKSHOPS – Session B (Choose ONE of the following)

<p>1. Open Space #1: UN International Year of Co-ops, 2012, facilitated by Melanie Conn <i>(Live-streamed)</i></p>	<p>2. Open Space #2</p>	<p>3. Open Space #3</p>	<p>4. Financing and Growing Co-op Development (Lynn Hannley, Peter Hough, Marty Frost)</p> <p>Canfor Room – Main Floor</p>
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In an Open Space Workshop, participants indicate, in advance, the topics which they would like to have discussed. The most popular choices are covered, with facilitators available in each workshop. A truly creative process. *In French and/or English, depending on participants.*

12 noon Lunch

1:00 – 1:15 NEW Member Benefit!: Unveiling of the CWCF / CoopZone Group Insurance Plan with Co-operators, Dean Howard.

1:15 – 2:00 CWCF Annual General Meeting
Including presentation of the Annual Report, report from the Director Nominating Committee, updates by CCA (Jill Kelly – Vice President) and CCCM, Board elections and decisions on resolutions. **CoopZone / WCDN members and observers are welcome.**

2:00 – 4:00 Facilitated Strategic Planning exercise for CWCF.
(30-minute break part-way through the afternoon, approximately 2:30 pm) (OR: wrap up by 3:30 pm)

4 pm: BOARD RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING, Board room.

4:30 pm Break / suggestion of a walk to Rhizome Café (car-pooling available too)

5:30 pm Reception, Rhizome Café (317 East Broadway)

6:00 – 8:00 Banquet (Second Keynote speaker - Andy Broderick, VP, Community Investment, Vancity: *Vancity's Vision for Change/ Transforming the Economy.* Followed by presentation of Worker Co-op Merit Award (Marty Frost**) and Worker Co-op Best Practices Award (**Dominion Newspaper/Media Co-op**) – Rhizome Café** (317 East Broadway)

8:00 - ??? Musical jam night/ sing-along, either at YWCA Hotel. Social time & closing of the silent auction. **Closing of silent auction: 9:30 pm.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

7:30 am Yoga / stretching (led by Reba Plummer, 10th floor lounge)

8:00 am Breakfast

8:50 am FREE CONSULTING TIME: explained / organized.

9:00 am FREE CONSULTING TIME with a Developer (for worker co-ops & new developers)

Worker co-operators, those starting worker co-ops & others are invited to bring their questions & concerns to experienced co-op developers for 1/2-hour consultations. Whether around management, arranging financing, governance issues or any other aspect of running/ starting a co-op, these developers are prepared to help. **In addition, developers who are newer to the field can sign up for a session with an experienced developer.** For the most effective consultation, it would be appreciated if registrants would give a summary of their question on the Conference **registration** form. Sign-up sheets will be also posted at the Conference. The goal will be to assign the questions to developers both experienced in the relevant area, and from the participant's region if possible, in case any follow-up work is required: all to start in the main plenary room & meet from there. *(Participants are asked to submit a very brief report to CWCF staff to enable follow-up.) Lounge – 10th Floor.*

OR: (9 am) ATTEND A WORKSHOP – Session C (Choose ONE of the following)

<p>1. Another World is Possible - Worker co-operatives and co-operative developers who are on the leading edge of the eco movement (Yuill Hebert, Sustainability Solutions Group; Chris Diplock, Vancouver Renewable Energy Co-op; Eric Tusz-King, EnerGreen Builders Co-operative; David Daughton, moderator).</p> <p>Canfor Room - Main Floor</p>	<p>2. Business problem-solving session: Two worker co-ops will have come prepared to present a challenge facing their co-op's business, & all present will discuss solutions.</p> <p>Boardroom - 7th Floor</p>	<p>3. Managing the democratic life in a worker co-op: role of members, the board & managers/ co-ordinators (Alain Bridault) – Bilingual.</p> <p>Royal Bank – Main Floor</p>
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10:30 am Break

11:00 am Plenary Speaker - Ian MacPherson, Vision for the Co-op Movement in the next 100 years: What are the Opportunities? The Challenges? Ian MacPherson is the founder and past Director, BC Institute for Co-op Studies (now called the Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy), University of Victoria.

11:45 am Presenting *The Co-operators*, Doug Wright, VP, Co-op Business Development

12 noon Lunch

1 – 2:30 pm WORKSHOPS – Session D (Choose ONE of the following)

<p>1. Worker Co-op Best Practice - The co-op which has won the Best Practice Award will present its story. (Hillary Lindsay,</p>	<p>2. The Social Economy and Sustainability: addressing environmental as well as social sustainability challenges. Research</p>	<p>3. Marketing for worker co-operatives - What does your worker co-op do? What works and what does not? (Moderator Lee Fuge,</p>	<p>4. Co-op Developer Workshop: The Co-op Development Scene in Quebec. Quebec has a well-resourced co-op development infrastructure. What are its features? How does it work? What should be</p>
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Dominion Newspaper/ Media Co-op). Canfor Room – Main Floor	results from the Social Economy Research Hub. (Rupert Downing and Rachelle McElroy). Lounge – 10 th Floor	with Vanessa Hammond, Sol Kinnis & Cynthia Olivas). Royal Bank Room – Main Floor (Live- streamed)	replicated in other regions and how can we help make that happen? (Pascal Billard, and André - Jalbert via Skype - Bilingual). Boardroom – 7 th Floor
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2:30 pm Conference Wrap-up

3:00 pm -- End of formal Conference activities--

**Thank you for joining CWCF and CoopZone in launching a new year of exciting
developments in workplace and co-operative democracy!**