



Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation  
Fédération Canadienne des Coopératives de Travail

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## 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](#)

\* **coopzone**

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** NOTE: with the exception of Peter Robinson & the CWCF & CoopZone Board members/ staff, the speakers are not all confirmed.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28**

- Time TBC** Yoga / stretching
- 7:45 am** Breakfast
- 8:30 am** Tours (Optional): Possible visits - Vancouver Renewable Energy Co-op, Baseline Graphics Co-op, VanCity, MEC, Stanley Park
- 12 noon** Lunch (optional, at Theresa’s restaurant or at the Hotel - TBC)
- 1:00 pm** **OFFICIAL START OF CONFERENCE**
  - Welcome to the Conference by CWCF executive director **Hazel Corcoran**
  - Welcome to BC from BCCA &/or local politicians (TBC)
  - Speech on the potential of worker co-operatives by CWCF president **Alain Bridault**
  - 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><b>1. Worker co-ops 101 – Rationale, and the basics</b></p>	<p><b>2. The Case for indivisible reserves* - Building a worker co-op movement by Alain Bridault</b>          *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><b>3. Show me the money – Finding and accessing financing for worker co-ops (VanCity, CCEC, CWCF Fund; a worker co-op representative).</b></p>	<p><b>4. What Training is Available for Co-op Developers?</b>          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?</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 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      Small group discussion**

**9:00 pm      NETWORKING /SOCIAL TIME** including Worker Co-op Trade Fair

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**Time TBC      Yoga / stretching**

**7:45 am      Breakfast**

**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, moderator**

**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)**

1. Open Space #1	2. Open Space #2	3. Open Space #3	4. Financing and Growing Co-op Development: what role can developers play? For CoopZone members & staff only.
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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 – 4:30**      **CWCF Annual General Meeting**  
Including presentation of the Annual Report, report from the Director Nominating Committee, updates by CCA and CCCM, Board elections and decisions on resolutions. Will include a Strategic Planning exercise. *CoopZone / WCDN members and observers are welcome.*  
  
(30-minute break part-way through the afternoon, approximately 2:30 pm) (OR: wrap up by 3:30 pm)
- 4:30 pm**      **Break / suggestion of a walk through Vancouver**
- 5:30 pm**      **Reception, Location TBD**
- 6:00 – 8:00**      **Banquet (Second Keynote speaker - from VanCity), Worker Co-op Merit Award and Worker Co-op Best Practices Award - Location TBD**
- 8:00 - 11:00**      **Social Event, Location TBD**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

- Time TBC**      Yoga / stretching
- 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.)*

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

<p><b>1. Another World is Possible - Worker co-operatives and co-operative developers who are on the leading edge of the eco movement (Yuill Hebert, others)</b></p>	<p><b>2. Business problem-solving session: Two worker co-ops will have come prepared to present a challenge facing their co-op’s business, &amp; all present will discuss solutions.</b></p>	<p><b>3. Managing the democratic life in a worker co-op: role of members, the board &amp; managers/ co-ordinators (Alain Bridault) – Bilingual</b></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 NEW Member Benefit!: Unveiling of the CWCF / CoopZone Group Insurance Plan with Co-operators.**

**12 noon Lunch**

**Small group Lunch Speaker (optional): 5-minute Welcome from Shanghai Gung Ho! co- operative movement.**

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

<p><b>1. Worker Co-op Best Practice - The co-op which has won the Best Practice Award will present its story. (Watch this space for more – after the Award recipient is chosen.)</b></p>	<p><b>2. Gung Ho - The Worker Co-operative Movement in Shanghai; and Peter Hough or Marty Frost to tell a story about their experience in Shanghai; by Wang Zhikuan. (workshop TBD)</b></p>	<p><b>3. Marketing for worker co-operatives - What does your worker co-op do? What works and what does not?</b></p>	<p><b>4. Co-op Developer Workshop: The Co-op Development Scene in Quebec.</b> Quebec has a well-resourced co-op development infrastructure. What are its features? How does it work? What should be replicated in other regions and how can we help make that happen?</p>
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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!**