



CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS CANADA'S LANDSCAPE REPORTS AND PROCUREMENT GUIDE



Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge





INTRODUCTION

As part of its mandate related to the [Investment Readiness Program](#), Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) collaborated with partners to complete landscape reports on various segments of the sector. The individual landscape reports were principally focused on co-operatives that were established by members from, or primarily serving, an underrepresented community in Canada. These landscape reports:

- Help gain a better understanding of the stakeholders, trends, and recurring themes within identified segments.
- Serve to inform and catalyze interactions between peers, government stakeholders, impact investors and other interested parties.
- Provide information which can include, but is not limited to commonalities in industry, size, geographical location, years in operation.

Lastly, CMC would like to thank Dr. Ushnish Sengupta from the [NORDIK Institute](#), for his assistance with this report.

THE REPORTS

These reports touch on various groups, people and communities found in Canada and were created in collaboration with [NORDIK Institute](#), [Community Researchers](#) and [Blumbergs Canadian Charity Law](#). Each landscape report details nuances in terms of benefits and needs of each community, people, or type of co-operative. We encourage you to read the reports and engage in dialogue within your organizations, with other co-operatives, and with the co-operatives described in these reports. In addition to these reports, CMC was proud to launch “[Using the Power of Purchasing: A Simple Guide to Co-op Procurement](#),” in collaboration with [Buy Social Canada](#). This guide explains the potential impact of co-operative purchasing as a means of contributing to strong and inclusive local economies, all while achieving [Principles 6 \(Co-operation among co-operatives\)](#) and [7 \(Concern for community\)](#).

You can find the reports and the procurement guide on the [CMC website](#), or by clicking the links below.

- [Ethnocultural and Newcomer Co-operatives Report](#)
- [Indigenous Co-operatives Report](#)
- [Francophone Co-operatives in a Minority Language Setting Report](#)
- [Anglophone Co-operatives in a Minority Language Setting Report](#)
- [Co-operatives Serving People with Disabilities Report](#)
- [Women Co-operatives Report](#)
- [LGBTQIA2+ Co-operatives Report](#)
- [Co-operatives with Charitable Status Report](#)
- [Using the Power of Purchasing: A Simple Guide to Co-op Procurement](#)



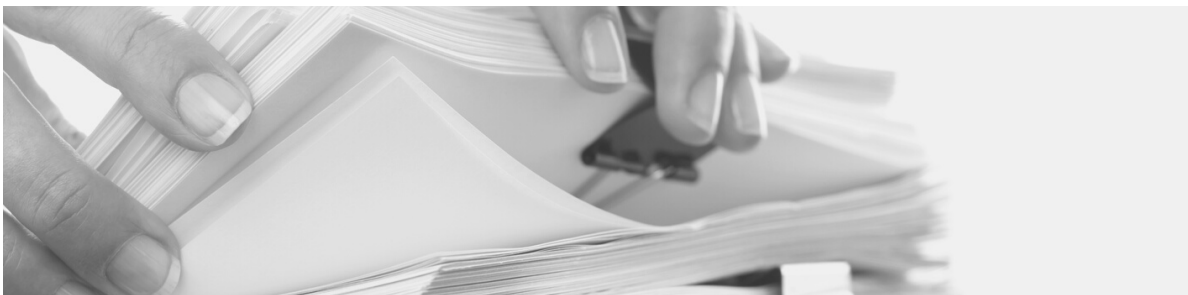
CHALLENGES

Although there are intersectional overlaps between many of these communities and groups, the landscape reports separated out the unique characteristics and challenges relevant for each, to the greatest extent possible. It is important to note that organizational priorities and needs varied from co-operative to co-operative, and the leadership survey focused on specific questions corresponding with the Government of Canada's Investment Readiness Program priorities. As such, results differed across the board, however, there was a recurring need for new products, business plans, and technical expertise.

Furthermore, the top recurring challenges of funding and human resources, were found throughout the surveys. These results closely mirror the [Top Co-op Issues \(2022\) report](#), created by the [Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives \(CCSC\)](#).

In the report prepared by the CCSC, co-operatives stated that their most pressing issue is a lack of public awareness and knowledge of the co-operative model. This was followed by access to capital/financing as the second most pressing issue, leaving the need for strong co-operative leaders in third. As stated above, the challenges related to human resources were also prominently featured in the IRP reports, as many co-operatives depend on volunteers due to limited funding to hire paid staff. This particular concern has affected management structure and succession planning, as the sector needs experienced people from different communities to strengthen and grow.

Finally, the [“Using the Power of Purchasing: A Simple Guide to Co-op Procurement”](#) was produced to help showcase and enable the potential impact of purchasing from co-operatives. It includes a few clear and easy steps to get started, as well as sample policies and case studies. The creation of this guide aligned itself with the IRP 2.0 goal of investing in social purpose organizations’ capacity to participate in social procurement markets in Canada. As such, the guide includes examples from [Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada](#), [Co-operators](#), [Assiniboine Credit Union](#), the [Canadian Worker Co-operative Foundation](#) and [Just Us! Coffee](#).



CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS CANADA

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Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is the national apex organization for Canadian co-operatives and mutuals. Our member-focused association unites, engages and leads the co-operative movement by advancing its priorities nationally, as well as internationally through the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Our goals are to build bridges, break barriers and create durable opportunities for the co-operative sector in Canada.

Co-operation Across Canada Map

CMC maintains the [most comprehensive database, map and online directory](#) of co-operatives, credit unions, caisses populaires and mutuals in Canada. CMC encourages everyone to use this free resource as often as possible when learning more about co-operatives, finding local co-operatives as well as sourcing and procuring co-operative and mutual product and services. To flag any information that you deem to be missing or incorrect, you may email corrections or research requests to info@canada.coop. By helping to update this directory, you will be providing CMC with the information needed to unite, promote, and contribute to the development of the co-operative economy through advocacy, communications, engagement, networking, and education.



co-operatives | coopératives
and mutuals | et mutuelles
canada

INVESTMENT READINESS PROGRAM

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Funded by the Government of Canada, the [Investment Readiness Program \(IRP\) 2.0](#) was the second \$50 million iteration of a grants and contributions program designed to support social purpose organizations (SPO's), helping them to contribute in solving pressing social, cultural, and environmental challenges across Canada. The aim of this program was to help SPOs across Canada build their capacity to participate in the growing social finance market, and prepare for the Government of Canada's broader investment in social finance, via the [Social Finance Fund](#). The Social Finance Fund and IRP are the first initiatives to result from the [Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy](#).

For more information on IRP 2.0, please visit the [the program's website](#). There, you will find numerous [resources](#), [Glossary of Terms](#), [stories](#), [partner listings](#), [downloadable data](#) and more. CMC also invites you to look at the [map of funded projects in IRP 2.0](#), the listings of [co-operatives who received funding](#) in both rounds, as well as other [CMC resources](#).

The logo features a stylized letter 'R' composed of three distinct shapes: a vertical cyan bar on the left, a dark blue semi-circle on top, and a lime green triangle at the bottom right.

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