

# coopzone

You're right. There is a better way.

## Co-op Development Training Program Starting each Fall

Co-op development is a challenging process that requires a diverse array of skills. Becoming an effective co-op developer requires not just knowledge and creativity, but most of all practice working with many different types of co-ops. CoopZone is offering various levels of training: a **Foundation Program** and an **Advanced Program (Years 1 and 2)**, and an **Introduction to Co-op Development** course for those who wish to understand the process, but not work as developers.

[www.coopzone.coop/Courses](http://www.coopzone.coop/Courses)



### Who are we?

The CoopZone Developers' Network Co-operative is a network of people and organizations that help to start, develop and support co-operatives.

### Our Vision

To enhance the quality of life in Canada by promoting and supporting the growth and development of co-operatives, through mobilizing co-operative developers committed to the vision and objectives of the co-operative movement.

### For More Information

To learn more about this course, please go to: [www.coopzone.coop/Courses](http://www.coopzone.coop/Courses), or write to the Course Director, Eric Tusz-King - [CoopZoneTraining@gmail.com](mailto:CoopZoneTraining@gmail.com).

### Language of Training Program

This program is offered in English only. Ce programme n'est offert qu'en anglais.

# The Co-operative Development Training Program

## FOUNDATION PROGRAM

This one-year program will provide you with basic skills and information to provide initial development, facilitation and project management services to new, existing and expanding co-operatives. It is expected, by the end of the program, that participants will be able to carry out a credible pre-feasibility analysis of a potential co-operative. The program will also connect participants to the networks and resources that a group requires to successfully complete the full co-op development process.

This program is designed for individuals who are in the position of advising people who are interested in exploring the creation of a co-operative enterprise.

## ADVANCED PROGRAM: Years 1 and 2

This two-year program will provide you with advanced skills and information to provide development, facilitation and project management services to new, existing and expanding co-operatives. It is expected, by the end of the advanced program, that participants will be able to provide total development services to a co-operative. The program will also connect participants with other colleagues working in the field as well as those working with specific co-op sectors.

This program is designed for people who are interested in working with developing and existing co-operatives.

**INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM:** The Introductory course is appropriate for people interested in understanding the types and roles of co-ops and the basic co-op development process but who will not be active developers. This is a good option for those who work in credit unions, co-ops or other workplaces and who have an interest in co-op development.

## Benefits of the Program

- On-line distance education program in a collaborative team environment.
- Participate in discussions on-line, group conference calls and webinars.
- Incorporate the courses into your existing career.
- Learn about co-operatives and the development process within your own context.
- Network with other practitioners.
- Have the benefit of an experienced mentor.

The courses were designed by some of Canada's most experienced co-op developers in order to share the skills, knowledge and experience required to assist with the full co-op development process from start-up, as well as to provide ongoing assistance to existing co-operatives.

## The Co-operative Advantage

Co-operatives and credit unions are community-based organizations that care about the financial "bottom lines" of their businesses, but also about the well-being of their members and the quality of life in their communities. They bring many obvious benefits to their members such as sharing costs or financial dividends. But the process of being an active member brings other rewards, such as allowing member-owners to solidify social and economic links in the community. Membership also provides a common ground, and supports, to reduce isolation and build skills.

- Purpose is to meet the common needs of their members.
- Use a system of one-member/one-vote.
- Share profits among their member-owners on the basis of how much they use the organization.

# Course Length & Deadline

## Foundation Program

- **1-year Program**
  - **mid-September- May**
  - Application Deadline: mid-August

## Basic introductory Program

- **1-year Program**
  - late October – March
  - Application deadline: early October

## Advanced Program

- **2-year Program**
- **Each of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years:**
  - **mid-September – May**
  - Application Deadline: mid-August
- **The 1st year is not a prerequisite for the 2nd year.**

## Tuition

- **Per-Year Tuition: Tuition is \$2,900 per year for the Foundation Course, and each year of the Advanced Course, typically paid in two installments. Tuition for the Basic Introductory Course is \$1,500 for the year. CoopZone can provide a tax credit receipt. Depending on your background, it may make sense to take only one year of the Advanced Course. The fee includes written resource materials worth approximately \$150.**
- **For those who find this financially prohibitive, some partial bursaries are available.**

## For More Information

To learn more about the Program, please write to Course Director Eric Tusz-King at:  
[CoopZoneTraining@gmail.com](mailto:CoopZoneTraining@gmail.com).

**Information webinars** (each, one hour long) will be held at noon Eastern Time on each of May 26th, June 24<sup>th</sup> and tentatively on July 15th. To register, please contact Hazel Corcoran, [hazel@canadianworker.coop](mailto:hazel@canadianworker.coop), by the prior evening.