

# CO-OP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community and co-operative development co-ops foster local initiatives by encouraging collective solutions to social, economic and environmental issues. These co-ops generally grow out of support from local businesses—including other co-operatives and mutuals—as well as from individuals and institutions active in their communities. To achieve their mission, community and co-operative development co-ops offer business incubators, start-up support services, micro-loans, training and other services.

Many of these co-ops offer services to any kind of community development initiatives but several of these co-operatives are dedicated to promoting and developing the co-op business model, such as provincial co-op associations (17), regional development co-operatives (12), developer co-ops, and Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC).

“THE SURVIVAL RATE OF NEW CO-OPS IS ALMOST TWOFOLD THAT OF TRADITIONAL BUSINESSES—AN AVERAGE THAT REMAINS CONSISTENT BOTH AFTER 5 YEARS AND 10 YEARS OF OPERATIONS.<sup>1</sup>”

## The power of co-operative development co-ops

The support offered by development co-ops helps launch an average of 300 new co-operatives in Canada each year. Studies have shown the survival rate of new co-ops is almost twofold that of traditional businesses—an average that remains consistent both after 5 years and 10 years of operations.<sup>1</sup> The application of the sixth co-operative principle of co-operation among co-operatives is indeed a key to this success.

working together  
strengthening our contribution  
coast to coast to coast  
shared leadership & networking  
co-operatives and mutuals  
strategic cooperative s

## Our members in this sector



**coopzone** is a network of people and organizations that help others to start and develop co-operatives. Its key activities are: a website with resources on co-op development and a listing of members, a listserv, tele-learning sessions, a network of lawyers and a distance training program.



# Nearly 200

PEOPLE WORK IN CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT



<sup>1</sup> MDEIE, 2008- Carol Murray, 2011 - Richard Stringham, Celia Lee, 2011