

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES



Health and social services co-operatives were born from communities' desire to offer health services, home care, daycare and social insertion services tailored to their local needs. The social economy model is based on community solidarity and aims to provide solutions to local social issues and to offer local health services.

There are 535 of this type of co-operatives in Canada, 112 of which can be found in health care and 419 in social services.

The first health care co-operatives appeared in Québec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia before universal health care.² With the shortage of doctors in Canada since the 90s, there has been growth in the number of health care co-ops in recent years, mostly in Québec.

Home care co-operatives offer help with domestic tasks and everyday living, such as housekeeping and personal care.

Canada is also home to a large number of co-operative daycares and preschools (375). These co-ops help families by offering early childhood care and education services in their communities.

The co-operative model is also used to professionally integrate people with intellectual, mental or physical handicaps by operating companies adapted to their abilities.

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The power of health and social services co-ops

St-Étienne-des-Grès is a great example of a town where health and social services co-operatives have had a big impact on the community. A multi-year study showed that this community's socioeconomic situation improved, in comparison to that of similar communities, since the founding of its health services co-op. Among the benefits noted were an increase in population, a reduction in unemployment, a rise in household incomes, a drop in the number of lonely seniors and a lower average age of the population.³



IN NUMBERS¹

535
CO-OPS

126,000
MEMBERS

4,166
EMPLOYEES

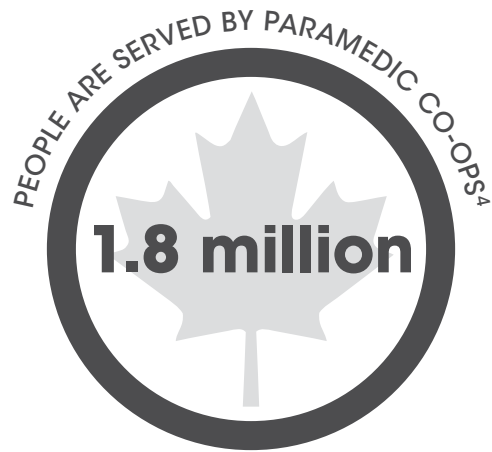
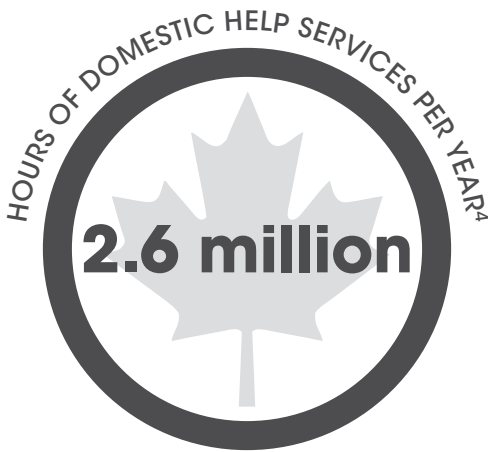
\$248 billion
IN REVENUES

Our members in this sector

The **Fédération des coopératives de santé et de services à domicile du Québec** groups 60 co-operatives and non-profit organizations offering home care services and personal assistance to over 35,000 users across Québec. It is also the umbrella organization to 35 health services co-operatives, which provide communities with family medicine practices and other services promoting health and prevention.

In 2011, health co-ops from across Canada established the **Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada** (HCCFC) as a sister-organization to the FCSDSQ. The overall purpose of the HCCFC is to promote and support health care co-operatives across the country.

The **Fédération des Coopératives des Paramédics** includes 7 of the 8 active Québec-based paramedic worker co-operatives and holds 118 of the 393 licences held in Québec. Co-ops that are members of the Federation represent over 1,000 workers—about a third of Québec's ambulance technicians.



¹ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2010 & 2012 ² Luba Panayotof-Schaan, 2009
³ Pierre Pélouin, 2009 ⁴ Consortium coopératif québécois de services fédératifs, 2014