



COMMUNIQUÉ

**Co-op Week 2020**  
**A historic mobilization to support the co-operative and mutualist model**

**OTTAWA, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020** – Co-op Week 2020 was a mobilization of the co-operative and mutual enterprise sector of unprecedented scope in recent years, due in significant part to nationwide concerns expressed following the announcement of the sale of Mountain Equipment Co-op, our country's largest retail co-operative.

To wrap up Co-op Week, CMC held a National Town Hall titled **One Co-op, Every Co-op**. This event brought together Canadian co-operators and mutualists to reflect on solutions to better protect the interests of co-operative members and preserve the democratic principles that co-operatives and mutuals are founded on and operate by. Indeed, "MEC's situation revealed gaps in our provincial/federal legal framework surrounding co-operatives which we will need to address." observed André Beaudry, CMC's Executive Director.

Attended by more than 150 guests from across the country, as well as internationally, the meeting demonstrated the interest of more than two thirds of participants in having CMC establish national tables to address gaps in our legal framework and assess the potential for a national governance program that could be linked to an accreditation model. CMC will be inviting its membership and members of the broader co-op/mutual sector to recommend experienced sector leaders and experts in the field, who will contribute their time and expertise towards the success of these national tables, and plan our next steps as a pan-Canadian community.

Today, we are launching our **One Co-op/Every Co-op Fundraising Campaign**. CMC will incur new government relations, program review/development, legal services, communications and external relations costs in support of the above activities. As a small-scale organization with a national/bilingual mandate, we invite members and the broader co-op/mutual sector to support our efforts by making a special contribution to the new **One Co-op, Every Co-op Fund**.

"We would like to invite all Canadian co-operatives and mutuals to be part of the solution by participating in the **One Co-op, Every Co-op Fund**. By working together, we can ensure that the interests of our members are protected, and that Canada's co-operative and mutual sector thrives." concluded John Kay, Chair of CMC's Board of Directors.

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