

Young Co-operators at Futurpreneur Canada!

Ottawa—August 27th, 2019—Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) welcomes today’s announcement made in Vancouver by the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion, on the renewal of the financial agreement for Futurpreneur Canada. This agreement formalizes that this national program will now offer services and programs to young entrepreneurs who want to start co-operative businesses.

Christina Baker, President of Canada’s Emerging Co-operators (CEC)—CMC’s emerging leaders committee—says: “On behalf of all emerging Canadian co-operators, I would like to thank Minister Ng for this decision that will allow us to access financial resources and other services including mentoring through Futurpreneur.” She goes on to say: “Through workshops offered in schools we, the co-op sector, know millennials are interested in the co-operative business model. This model is aligned with the values and priorities of Canadian youth. The additional support young co-operators will be able to access through Futurpreneur will motivate them to start their co-operative businesses.”

John Kay, President of CMC’s Board of Directors, adds that “Co-operative businesses are more resistant to recessions. The jobs created by new co-operative enterprises receiving Futurpreneur’s support will be sustainable.” He concludes by saying, “This announcement is a victory for CMC, who advocates that co-operative enterprises have the right to all programs that other businesses can access.”

We are also very pleased to recognize that, of the \$38 million in funding Futurpreneur will receive over the next five years, \$3 million is earmarked to support Indigenous entrepreneurs.

Mary Nirlungayuk, Vice-President of Corporate Services at [Arctic Co-op](#), a member of CMC, says: “I appreciate the fact that this agreement will allow young Indigenous entrepreneurs to create co-operative businesses contributing to the socio-economic development of their communities.”

CMC is committed to working with Futurpreneur Canada to provide programs and services that will meet the needs of Canada’s young co-operators.

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[About CMC](#)—Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is a national bilingual association that supports, promotes and unites Canada’s 8,000 small, mid-size and large co-operative and mutual enterprises. CMC strives to advance the co-operative economy by organizing co-op development, advocating with government and conducting research to improve public policy. According to the study titled [Economic Impact of the Co-operative Sector in Canada](#), the co-operative and mutual economy represents 3.4% of Canada’s GDP and almost 200,000 jobs in communities across Canada.

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