



Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada recognizes the release of the Government's report on the Motion M-100 consultations

OTTAWA, April 5, 2019 - CMC is very pleased by today's press release by the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, which recognizes that Canada has a strong and innovative co-operative business sector.

Minister Bains just released the *What We heard: M-100 Consultations Report*, based on Motion M-100, which received unanimous support in the House in 2017. The motion called for the Government of Canada to recognize the important role co-operatives play in the economy, and today, Minister Bains highlighted the need to take further steps and remove barriers to help them thrive.

We fully agree with, and proudly endorse, the statement that “*Canada is home to an innovative and growth-oriented co-operative business sector that has great potential for the Canadian economy.*” CMC is delighted to see the Government of Canada reference the Co-operative Sector as a business sector, something that we have advocated for and that has been recognized.

CMC is looking forward to continued collaboration with the Government of Canada to solve challenges together and remove barriers for this innovative and sustainable business sector of our economy. Together, we can raise awareness of the co-operative business model and enable greater access to federal programs and services for co-operatives and mutuals.

“On behalf of CMC's national membership, I'd like to thank Alexandra Mendès, MP for Brossard–Saint-Lambert, and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, for Motion M-100 and the *What We Heard: Motion-100 Consultations Report*.

The Co-operative Sector in Canada for financial and non-financial co-operatives represented 3.4% of GDP, a volume of business of over \$85B, and assets of over \$500B in 2015. We know that democratic capitalism has a critical and lasting role to play in the future of Canada.”

Doug Potentier,
Chair, Board of Directors, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Federated Co-operatives Ltd.

“We are very pleased that the *What We Heard: Motion-100 Consultations Report* confirmed the significant contributions of the co-operative sector to both the traditional

and social economies of Canada. Financial and non-financial co-operatives represent just under 200,000 jobs in rural and urban communities - in every province and territory.

As called for in the report, we look forward to continuing to work with the Government of Canada to make co-operatives and mutuals eligible for all relevant federal programs and services.”

André Beaudry
Executive Director, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada

About CMC: Canada's 8,000 co-operative and mutual enterprises account for 3.4% of the country's GDP. Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada is the national/bilingual association that unites, promotes and supports the development of the co-operative economy. CMC does so by facilitating co-op development, advocating with governments and conducting research to improve public policy. CMC's members are reflected throughout the Canadian economic landscape including in finance, insurance, agri-food and supply, wholesale and retail, housing, health, forestry, education, funeral services, public utilities and community development.

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