



CASC
Canadian Association for
Studies in Co-operation

ACÉC
L'Association Canadienne
pour les Études sur la
Coopération



**Co-operatives and our Common Future: Justice,
Resilience and Sustainability for a New Era**

L'Assemblée Annuelle 2026

**Annual Meeting Canadian Association for Studies in Co-
operation**

L'Association canadienne pour les études sur la coopération

June 7th - 8th 2026

York University, Toronto, Ontario Canada

The page features a white background with decorative elements: a yellow vertical bar on the left, a yellow horizontal bar at the top right, and a black vertical bar at the bottom left. The text is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Welcome to our 2026 CASC Conference

**Co-operatives and our Common Future:
Justice, Resilience and Sustainability for a
New Era**

About the Conference

This June marks a major moment of convergence for the co-operative sector. The Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) and Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) are convening researchers, activists, practitioners, and co-op supporters for two, back-to-back conferences at York University! As the presentations below illustrate, the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) is a multidisciplinary network of researchers and practitioners whose work involves the study of co-operatives and co-operation as it relates to: food and farming; fair trade; the social economy; solidarity economies; governance and organization; teaching practices; gender, equity and human development; and formal and informal alternative economic organizations governed to some significant degree by mutuality.

Our conference has received contributions that examine practical projects, democratic governance, and non-hierarchical relations as pathways toward more sustainable, equitable and just futures. Collective action and co-operatives deliver real power at a local level. As isolation deepens and communities face increasing precarity, climate crises, and systemic violence, locally rooted co-operative practices demonstrate how shared governance can produce meaningful social power and more resilient communities. We have gathered co-op researchers, students, and community members to contribute their research, questions, and experiences that explore how collective action, co-operation, and democratic participation can restore, trust, and revitalize communities.



CMC Congress and Partner Day: Monday June 8

Conference attendees are invited to register for events associated with CMC's Congress 2026, which runs from June 8 to 10, beginning with a Partner Day on June 8. Partner Day event details are at the end of this conference schedule. Most Congress activities—including the opening reception on June 8 and meetings on June 9 and 10—will be held in the Accolade East building on the Keele Campus.

The main Congress programming will run on June 9, followed by the CMC AGM on the morning of June 10. The Congress Gala will take place at the Schulich Executive Learning Centre and Conference Centre, located a short walk from Accolade East. Following the AGM, organized visits to Guelph and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) will offer attendees a first-hand look at how cooperatives are making an impact in the region. Networking breaks are built into the programming for this day.

Download the [Whova App](#) so you can check the schedule for more details.

Please note that registration for the CMC Congress 2026 is offered on an “à la carte” basis, allowing participants to register for the full event or only the specific sessions or segments they wish to attend.



Meet and Greet: 6pm Saturday at Duke of York

For those of you who are arriving the day before, please join us at the Duke of York at 6pm on Saturday. It is located at 39 Prince Arthur Ave, Toronto, ON M5R 1B2, 1 block north of Bloor, east of Bedford. It less than a two minute walk from the St. George Station, Bedford Exit

Internet Access Information

Visitors can use the 'AirYorkGUEST' Wi-Fi network, open across campus—no password required. Academic visitors from other institutions may use Eduroam for secure access.

Conference Translation

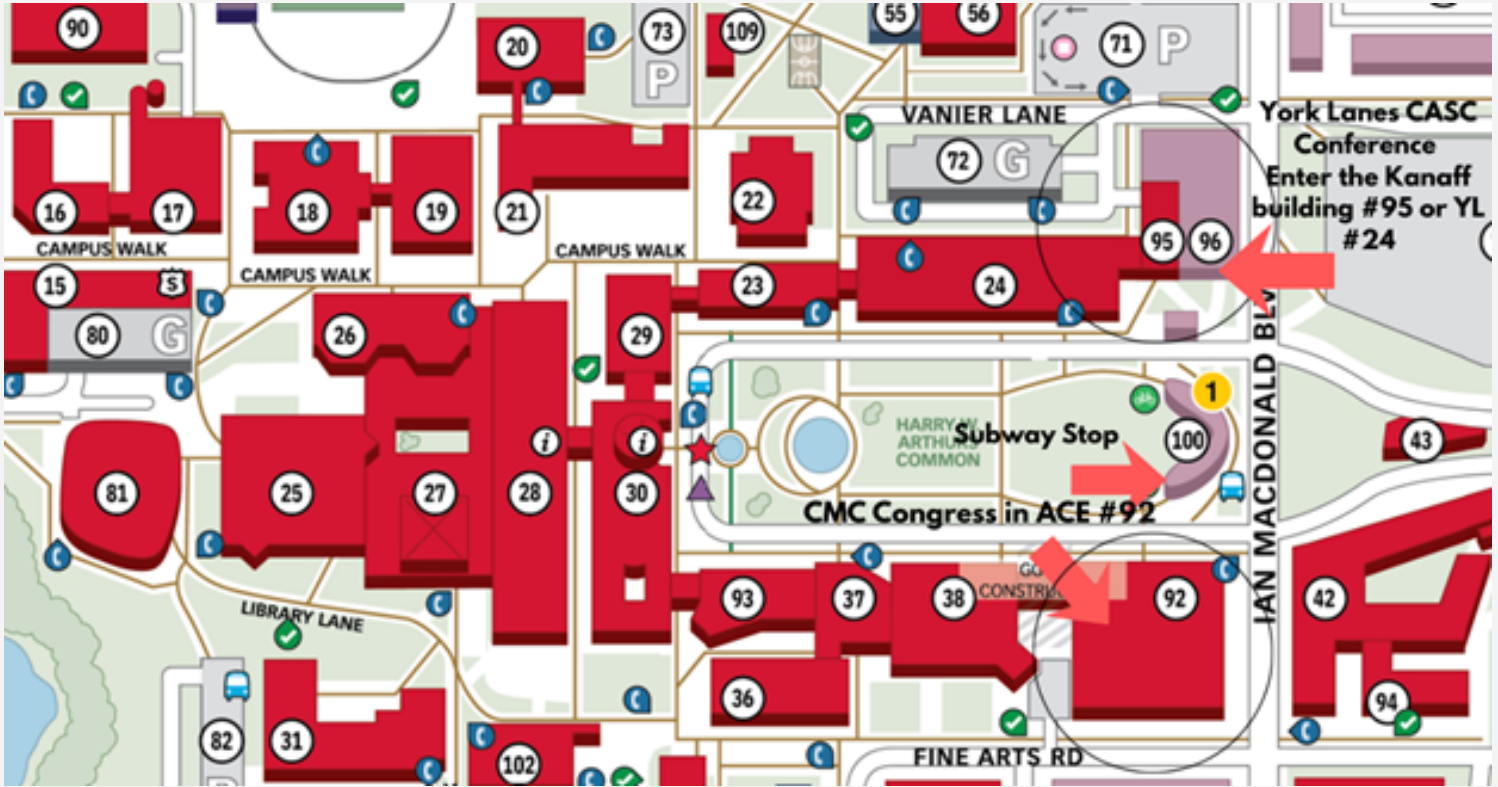
Thanks to support from CMC, the CASC Conference has access to Wordly Translation. Using your own device, you can access real-time audio and text translation during our plenary sessions by scanning a barcode on your phone or clicking a link (details to follow).

TTC Information

York University Keele Campus is accessible via Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) subway Line 1 (Yonge–University), with platforms at York University and Pioneer Village stations. Exit at the York University station. Take the escalator to the right and walk towards the Kaneff Tower. See map below. Signage for the conference will be posted.

Getting around York University

This map provides a visual on how to find the CASC conference and the CMC Conference. Also, below is a QR code with a link to York University's Interactive digital maps.



[Scan for YU Interactive Map](#)

CASC/ACÉC 2026 PROGRAM AT A GLANCE/ VUE D'ENSEMBLE DU PROGRAMME

Day One: Sunday, June 7, 2026

Registration

8:30 -9:00 AM

Location 280 York Lanes

Welcome

9:00 -9:15 AM

Room 280N York Lanes

Opening Plenary and Roundtable One

9:15 -10:45 AM

Title: Launch of Policy Forum – Cooperatives, policy and human development Marc-André Pigeon, Rafael Ziegler, Daniel Brunette
Moderator: Dionne Pohler
Room 280N York Lanes

Networking and Coffee

10:45 -11:00 AM

Location: 280 York Lanes

Sessions 1, 2, & 3

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Session 1: Strategic Planning: Governance and Accountability Across the Co-operative Sectors,
Room 280N York Lanes
Session 2: Reimagining Economies: Women's Contributions to Social Change,
Room 280C York Lanes
Session 3: Building Networks of Indigenous Co-operatives (Hybrid)
Room 280A York Lanes

Lunch

12:30 -1:30 PM

Provided in 280N York Lanes

CASC/ACÉC 2026 PROGRAM AT A GLANCE/ VUE D'ENSEMBLE DU PROGRAMME

Day One: Sunday, June 7, 2026

Sessions 4 & 5

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Session 4: Histories, Media, and Equity in Practice, Room 280C York Lanes

Session 5: What Is Going On At Calgary Co-op? Room 280A York Lanes

Roundtable Two

3:15 -4:45 PM

Title: 'Building solidarity economy networks to advance justice, equity, diversity, decolonization and inclusion in the co-op ecosystem', Julia Fursova, Derya Tarhan, Susanna Redekop

Moderator: Erin Mackie

Room 280N York Lanes

CASC AGM

5:00 -6:00 PM

Location: 280N York Lanes

Dinner

7:00 -9:00 PM

Location: Off Campus at Dinner: Bosphorous Turkish Cuisine -\$50, per ticket

Pay through conference registration form or E Transfer to CASC

-Address: 4205 Keele St #16, North York, ON M3J 3T8

-16-minute walk, 1.1 km

-5-minute drive

Use of public transportation to the location is not recommended



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CASC/ACÉC 2026 PROGRAM AT A GLANCE/ VUE D'ENSEMBLE DU PROGRAMME

Day Two: Monday June 8, 2026

Coffee and Networking

8:45 -9:15 AM

Location: 280 York Lanes

Welcome and RoundTable One

9:15 -10:45 AM

Title: Mobilizing co-operative knowledge in business school classrooms: A roundtable on the co-op case writing consortium, Dr. Sara Penner, Dr. Anthony Piscitelli, Dr. Dionne Pohler, Natalie Kallio
Room 280N York Lanes

Coffee Break

10:45 -11:00 AM

Location: 280 York Lanes

Sessions 6, & 7

11:00 -12:30 PM

Session 5: Co-operatives: Impact and Implications, Room 280N York Lanes
Session 6: Youth and Locality: Pathways for Learning, Room 280A York Lanes

LUNCH provided and Networking with Affinity Groups

12:30 - 4:15 PM

Join CMC Affinity groups such as, **BLACK CO-OPERATORS | COOPÉRATEURS. TRICES NOIRS.ES; Developers' Gathering | Rencontre de développeurs; Indigenous Cooperators' Gathering | Rassemblement des coopérateurs et coopératrices autochtones; Financing Sources and Opportunities | Sources et les opportunités de financement; Emerging leaders - from gen x to gen next | Relève émergente – de la génération X à la génération suivante**

-These are standalone registrations. Full schedules can be found [here](#):

Located in ACE Building (see map below for details)



Closing Remarks

4:30 PM

Room 280N York Lanes

CASC Conference

Panel Sessions

Day One: Sunday June 7, 2026

Session One: Strategic Planning: Governance and Accountability Across the Co-operative Sectors

11:00 -12:30 PM

Moderator: Sonja Novkovic (Saint Mary's University)

Joy Schnittker (Conestoga College), Anthony Piscitelli (Conestoga College), Principled Uncertainty: Cooperative Board Decision-Making in Practice

Sean Geobey (University of Waterloo), Investment Cooperatives as Transitional Structures for Succession Planning: Learning from a Living Case Study

Thomas W Gray (Rural Business-Cooperative Service, United States Department of Agriculture), Rebecca Savoie (International Cooperative Research Group), Cooperative Organization as an Intervention to Address Some of the Complexity of Multi-generational Legacy Property

Glenn Valliere (Arctic Co-operatives), Strategic Planning and Sewing Together Diverse Perspectives – a practitioner's view of creating strategic plans in an Indigenous-owned co-operative federation

Denyse Guy (Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada) – Co-operatives Development Ecosystem

Room #: 280N York Lanes

Session Two: Reimagining Economies: Women's Contributions to Social Change

11:00 -12:30 PM

Moderator: Christine Clarke (Freedom Dreams Co-operative Education)

Christabell P J (University of Kerala), Advancing Food Sovereignty through Agricultural Cooperatives: Lived Experiences of Women's Groups in the Global South

Fiona Duguid (Saint Mary's University) Erin Mackie (SOCODEVI), The HONOR Project: Honoring rural women's contribution in Ukraine

John Simoulidis (York University), Food Cooperatives and the Food Sovereignty Movement in Gaza: The Urban Women Agripreneurs Forum (UWAF) and Gaza Forum for Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (GUPAP)

Kacie G. Hopkins (York University), Weaving together home, women, and crafting to make diverse social economies in the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia and West Virginia

Room #: 280C York Lanes

Session Three: Building Networks of Indigenous Co-operatives (Hybrid)

11:00 -12:30 PM

Moderator: Judith Harris

Discussants: Melody Stevenson (Sagkeeng First Nation); Karen Monkman (Four Winds Connection)

Room #280AYork Lanes

CASC Conference Panel Sessions

Day One: Sunday June 7, 2026

Session Four: Histories, Media, and Equity in Practice

1:30 -3:00 PM

Moderator: Manuela Valle-Castro (Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives)

Zhenya Khvatova (Toronto Metropolitan University), Constructive Counter-Hegemony of the Russian Co-operative Movement, 1860s–1918

Irum Chorghay (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), This project investigates worker co-operatives as counter-hegemonic interventions in media systems

Dr Julia Fursova (University of New Brunswick), Dr Derya Tarhan (University of Guelph), Dr Ola Tjornbo, Calling In: Advancing equity, diversity, decolonization and inclusion in the Canadian worker co-op movement.

Christine Clarke (Freedom Dreams Co-operative Education)– Strengthening Equity and Access

Sean Geobey (University of Waterloo) Sean Campbell (Union Co-operative), Bridging the Equity Gap: Credit Union Innovation for Community Land Trust Housing Acquisition

Room # 280C York Lanes

Session Five: What Is Going On At Calgary Co-op?

1:30 -3:30 PM

Moderator: Glenn Valliere (Arctic Co-operatives)

Brett Fairbairn (University of Saskatchewan), Historical Roots of Calgary Co-op's Distinctive Approach

Marc-André Pigeon (Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy), Financial Aspects of Calgary Co-op's Development

Dionne Pohler (Cornell University), Internal and External Governance at Calgary Co-op

Room # 280A York Lanes



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CASC Conference

Panel Sessions

Day Two: Monday June 8, 2026

Session Six: Co-operatives: Impact and Implications

11:00 -12:30 PM

Moderator Luc Joseph Theriault (University of New Brunswick)

Gaëlle Crête (Conseillère à la vigie coopérative et mutualiste), Marie-Josée Paquette (Coopératives et mutuelles Canada), Actualisation de la vie associative dans un organisme national coopératif : Le cas du Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité,

Joy Schnittker (Conestoga College), Anthony Piscitelli (Conestoga College), Democracy in Motion: Confronting Oligarchy in Large Cooperatives

Anthony Piscitelli (Conestoga College), Danya Goldsmith-Milne (Conestoga College), Katharine McGowan (Mount Royal University), Director Journal as Isomorphic Pressure on Cooperative Directors

Samuel Barco (SOKIO Coop), Co-operative International Engagement in Canada: A Wider Reading

Room # 280N York Lanes

Session Seven: Youth and Locality: Pathways for Learning

11:00 -12:30 PM

Moderator: Kacie Hopkins (York University)

Stan Yu (Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives), Exploring the Impact of Co-operative Youth Education Programs in Canada – The Perspectives of Alumni

Sabrina de Losada Casab (Green Campus Co-operative), Youth, Fair Trade, and Cooperative Power: A Story of Participation and Impact

Darryl Reed (Shiv Nadar University), Solidarity, Social Capital and Wealth Creation: Examining Small Producer Pathways to Growth in the Face of Economic Concentration

Paul Asare Anim (University of Guelph), Sustainable Energy Solutions for Greenhouse Agriculture: The Role of Ag Energy Co-operative to Producers of Ontario's Vegetable Sector.

Room # 280A York Lanes

Partner Day: Monday June 8

Partner Day events run from 9am–5pm. Click on the link and scroll down for full schedules:

-Indigenous Cooperator's Gathering (9am–5pm)

- Leaders from co-operatives established by and for Indigenous Peoples, will come together to share and explore what can be done to enable and promote economic resiliency and opportunities in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities through the co-op model. Participation is free for Indigenous (self-identified) participants, representatives of Indigenous co-operative enterprises or allied Indigenous organizations, and invited guests. Non-Indigenous individuals can attend as observers, for a fee that will cover their food, beverage and attendance-related expenses. Space is limited

-Canadian Black Co-op Network (9am–5pm)

- Under the auspices of the newly-formed Canadian Black Co-op Network, established and emerging leaders from co-operatives and mutual aid associations established by and for members of the Black community, will come together. The intent is to share, learn and explore what can be done to enable and promote economic resiliency and opportunities through the co-operative enterprise model. Participation is free for self-identified participants. representatives of Black co-operative enterprises or allied organizations, and invited guests. Space is limited.

-Developer's Gathering (9am–5pm)

- This gathering, coordinated by the CoopZone Developers' Network Co-operative, will look at the needs and opportunities related to front-line co-op development activities. This day is free and open to members of CoopZone and other interested parties, however space is limited.

Partner Day: Monday June 8

Partner Day events run from 9am–5pm. Click on the link and scroll down for full schedules:

[-Emerging leaders - from gen x to gen next](#)

(p 1: 1:30–3pm; pt 2: 3:30–5pm)

- Join us for Emerging leaders – from gen x to gen next, an energizing and interactive session at the CMC Congress! Designed for both emerging and established co-op leaders aged 35 and under, this program is open to all participants who are 35 years old or younger, from across Canada. It's your opportunity to connect, collaborate, and create lasting impact within your community and beyond. Dive into engaging activities, sharpen your advocacy skills, and discover how young leaders are shaping and strengthening the co-operative movement—right now!

**Scan here to see all
CMC Congress events,
locations, and
registration details!**



TIPS FOR MODERATORS AND PRESENTERS ASTUCES POUR LES PRÉSIDENTS ET LES PRÉSENTATEURS

Guidelines for Moderators

- As session moderator it is your responsibility to be in the allocated room at least 10 minutes before the session begins to meet the presenters and ensure that their audio-visual needs are appropriately met.
- In the time before the audience arrives, make sure that you have some information from all of the presenters about how they would like to be introduced.
- The order of presentations is set out in the Conference Program. Each concurrent session is scheduled for 90 minutes.
- The amount of time for questions and clarification will depend on the starting time and time taken for introductions.
- There should be approximately 15 minutes for general discussion at the end of the session.

During the Session

- • Introduce the speakers
- • Monitor time: Provide a 5-minute and 2-minute warning.
- • Start discussion after the presentations are completed. If there are no questions, have one or two questions ready to ask to get the ball rolling
- • Acknowledge and thank speakers and audience for their participation.

Tips for Presenters

- Be prepared - you will have about **20 minutes to present depending** on the number of presentations in your session. After five minutes you should be presenting your results.
- Know what's important: highlight the most significant findings. Those with an interest in more detail will follow up with questions.
- Focus on purpose, method, findings and recommendations.
- Don't use power point as a virtual text only.
- Highlight a few points which are easy to read and graphically interesting.
- Practice your presentation and have any technical equipment ready to go.
- State your final conclusions and end on time.



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Since 1974

L'Association Canadienne pour
les Études sur la Coopération
Depuis 1974

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co-operative research and education events



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**Thank you to all who have helped us make this
conference successful!**

Conference Organizers

John Simoulidis

Kacie G. Hopkins

Derya Tarhan

Stan Yu

CMC Leadership

Daniel Brunette

CASC Board Members

Fiona Diguide

Emi Do

Anne-Marie Merrien

Juliet 'Kego Ume-Onyido

Luc Joseph Theriault

Rafael Ziegler

CASC Assistant

Josie Ward

Volunteers

Abie Paul

Barka Silim

Diya Prashantham

Sabrina de Losada Casab

Zhenya Khvatova

And

ALL New and Old CASC Members!

Food and Catering:

