

CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS' DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES

WHEREAS :

1. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2025 the International Year of Cooperatives, highlighting their impact around the world by accelerating efforts to implement the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
2. The members of CMC wish to reaffirm their commitment and convictions in this year of valuing and promoting the contribution of co-operatives to the development of Canada;
3. Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada is the voice of Canadian co-operatives, that it plays an essential role in mobilizing the Canadian co-operative movement, and that it represents the Canadian co-operative movement internationally.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT :

1. We reiterate that co-operative and mutual enterprises are more egalitarian and inclusive, in a context where the concentration of wealth is worsening social inequalities and increasing poverty, and where no economic mechanism is able to restore balance in communities here and around the world;
2. We affirm that co-operative and mutual enterprises foster democracy and create collective wealth through the equitable distribution of social and economic benefits, and by prioritizing their collective use by their members, be they consumers, producers or workers;
3. We continue the evolution of the co-operative and mutualist movement by adapting these enterprises to the aspirations of new generations and to constantly changing environments, as well as by expanding innovations in business models;
4. We prioritize our actions on a human scale by strengthening the skills, commitment and well-being of the co-operators and mutualists who drive the movement;



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5. We raise awareness among new generations of the values of solidarity, mutual aid and civic participation by giving them enriching entrepreneurial experiences;
6. We support all components of the co-operative and mutual development ecosystem in developing strategies to innovate, intercooperate and prosper in collaborative spaces;
7. We promote education programs on cooperation and mutuality that develop the potential of the next generation with proven content;
8. We prioritize co-operative conversions as a response to the lack of entrepreneurial succession in thousands of Canadian SMEs;
9. We deploy our collective action throughout Canada so that co-operatives and mutuels enhance their role as agents of change in communities and continue to respond proactively to current socio-ecological challenges;
10. Together, we promote Canada's immense co-operative and mutual expertise around the world by supporting international co-operation initiatives;
11. Together, we're working to create local jobs that can't be displaced, to provide access to essential products and services for communities, and to support collective entrepreneurship;
12. We pledge to use this declaration to promote Canadian leadership in co-operation.