The ICA Principles in Large Co-ops: “Just for show”, or integral to success?

Réseau de recherche pour mesurer la DIFFÉRENCE COOPÉRATIVE

Measuring the Co-operative Difference
RESEARCH NETWORK

April 25th, 2013

• Ghislain Paradis, U Sherbrooke
• Dr. Sonja Novkovic, SMU
• Carol Hunter, The Co-operators
• John Restakis, BCCA

1. Voluntary and Open Membership - open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control - controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

3. Member Economic Participation - members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence - autonomous and controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information - provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives, and inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6. Co-operation among Co-operatives - serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community - work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.
The Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network
(“MCD” Research Network)

- A pan-Canadian multi-disciplinary research network
- The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) serves as the Hub
- Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- Examining the “co-operative difference”
- 6 free webinars each year

www.cooperativedifference.coop
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• that credit unions provide their communities, and
• the specific ways that credit unions help their members create wealth, financial stability, well being and skills.
• Focus on impacts.
Today’s Featured Speakers

Ghislain Paradis, Professor
Institut de recherche et d’éducation pour les coopératives et les mutuelles de l’Université de Sherbrooke (IRECUS)
Université de Sherbrooke

Dr. Sonja Novkovic, Professor
Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary’s University
Academic Co-Lead, Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network
Today’s Special Guest Respondents

**Carol Hunter**, Executive Vice-President
Member Relations and Corporate Services
*The Co-operators Group Ltd.*

**John Restakis**, Executive Director
*British Colombia Co-operative Association (BCCA)*
**Community Co-Lead**, Western Cluster,
Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network
Carol Hunter, Executive Vice-President
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DISCUSSION

*2 to mute or unmute your line
Thank you!

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