



British
Columbia
Co-operative
Association

Co-operatives

Relevance Now and in the Future

CCA Webinar – April 14

Five Crucial Roles

- Provision of Social Care
- Protection of Community and Culture
- Making trade fair
- Management of global commons
- Humanizing Economies

Provision of Social Care



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- The emergence of social co-ops raises key questions about the nature of social care, the role of the state, the private market, & civil society.
 - From a social & economics perspective, social care revolves around the notion of “relational goods” and the types of organizations that are best suited to provide such goods.

- Relational goods are those goods such as care giving, which are services to *persons* and which are characterized by the exchange of *human relations*.
- In relational goods the quality of the personal relationship is at the core of what is exchanged between the provider and the recipient and can be optimally produced only by the provider and the recipient *together*.

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- Social co-ops are uniquely suited to the provision of social care because they can transform people from being merely the passive *recipients* of care, to being *protagonists* in the design and delivery of their care.
 - The future role of social co-ops is seen not only as a source of social care, but also as a means to hold government accountable for the provision of public services.

Making Trade Fair

- Fair Trade
- Development and diversification of regional economies:
 - Emilia Romagna
 - Mondragon
 - SOFA
 - UCIRI
- Democratization of Trade agreements and institutions (IMF, World Bank, WTO)

Protection of Community and Culture

- Evangeline region, PEI
- UCIRI, Oaxaca Mexico
- Food, art, cultural identity

Management of global commons

- Water
- Fisheries
- Climate Change
- Sustainability

Humanizing Economies

- Articulating a humane vision and theory of economics - reframing economics in terms of reciprocity
- Creation of co-operative institutions to embody and advance this vision
- Need for greater integration and scaling up of co-op infrastructure: regionally, nationally, internationally
- Role of co-ops in repairing social capital



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To be continued...
