



Share the Co-op Advantage Over Co-op Week!

Co-op Week is being celebrated from **October 16 to 22** this year - the same week as International Credit Union Day, which is on October 20! It is an opportunity for co-operative and credit union members, staff and enthusiasts provincially, nationally and globally, to celebrate the impact we have as a sector and as a movement. Co-op Week is also recognition of our continuing contributions to sustainable social and economic development both at home and abroad.

The **theme** of Co-op Week 2016 is “**Our Co-op Advantages**” and as the provincial association for Ontario co-operatives, we have one simple ask: **to share your views on why you choose to do business co-operatively**. We want you to do this loudly and proudly in public, online, and most importantly, with your family and friends!

Here are some quick and easy **CO-OP FACTS AND STATS** you could share:

- ◆ Co-operatives are community-focused businesses that balance people, planet and profit. They are formed to seize local opportunities or respond to local challenges.
- ◆ There are **1,300** co-operatives, credit unions and caisses populaires, located in Ontario.
- ◆ Ontario co-operatives have **49,000** volunteers - **10,000** of which are board members.
- ◆ Co-ops are in *every* business sector, and offer services from the cradle to the grave, from child care through to funeral co-ops!
- ◆ Co-operatives create **\$3.3 billion** in income for Ontarians.
- ◆ Co-operatives are value-based and member-owned and focused.
- ◆ More than **1 of every 7** people worldwide are a member of a co-op.
- ◆ Co-operatives operate in more than 90 countries and employ over 100 million people around the world.
- ◆ Twice as many co-ops remain in operation after 10 years as other types of business enterprise.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF CO-OP WEEK?

- ✓ **Explain** the various benefits of the co-operative business model for creating a sustainable economy in the province.
- ✓ **Celebrate** the significant contributions of co-operatives in their communities across Ontario.
- ✓ **Promote** the relevance of the co-operative model, its mission as a local and sustainable development tool, as well the [values and principles](#) that guide it. In other words, promote the [Co-operative Identity](#) – what makes us diverse and what unifies us!
- ✓ **Explore** inter-co-operation through Principle Six: Co-operation among Co-operatives!
- ✓ **Develop** a better understanding of the advantages of co-operation among officers, employees, members of the movement and the general public.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

There are many resources about co-operatives available at your fingertips. Here are a few, provincial, national and international tools to access with the click of a mouse!

Ontario:

- The Ontario Co-operative Association (On Co-op) [website](#)
- Find a Co-op in Ontario searchable [database](#)
- On Co-op's (29) [Fact Sheets](#) on Co-operatives
- An [Infographic](#) on the *Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Ontario*
- The Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO) [website](#)
- Central 1 Credit Union [website](#)

Canada:

- The Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) [website](#)
- The CMC's FREE Co-op Week 2016 [Poster](#) (PDF)
- The Canadian Credit Union Association (CCUA) [website](#)
- Conseil Québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité (CQCM) [website](#)
- The Saskatchewan Co-operative Association's [Co-op Week Toolkit](#)

International:

- The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) [website](#)
- The ICA's [Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade](#)
- The ICA's [Co-op Store](#), where you can purchase official co-op promotional items!

Finally, for those of you who have organized special events and celebrations, feel free to share your Co-op Week stories and photos with us on Facebook! Don't forget to use the handle **@ontariocoops** and the hashtag **#coops** so we can see you.

And most importantly...HAVE A HAPPY CO-OP WEEK!

