

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STUDY: *Economic Impact of the Co-operative Sector in Canada.*

Cooperatives

- In 2015, there were 5,730 co-operatives that reported in Canada.
- Their volume of business was \$85.9 billion, with assets of \$503.2 billion. This represents 20.9% growth in volume of business and 42.5% growth in assets.
- Memberships totalled 31.8 million, and the number of reported full-time equivalent employees was 182,253. This represents a 13.3% increase in membership and a 2.5% increase in the number of employees.

The economy

- The co-operative sector in Canada contributes \$61.2 billion yearly to Canada's GDP, an increase of 12% since 2010.
- The sector injects \$34.3 billion in taxes to all orders of government, an increase of 11.1% in five years.
- The contribution of the co-operative sector to Canada's GDP in 2015 was estimated at \$61.2 billion, representing 3.4% of the national figure of \$1,813.9 billion.
- The cooperative sector must be recognized by the Government of Canada as a priority sector and an important sector contributing to the economic and social development of the country;
- All government business funding programs and agencies (e.g., Business Development Bank of Canada, Regional Development Agencies [RDA], Export and Development Canada, etc.) should be open to both co-operative and non-co-operative enterprises.
- Cooperatives are sustainable businesses that put social responsibility, community development and sustainable development goals at the heart of their day-to-day concerns, in order to improve the quality of life of all Canadians.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will allow us to strengthen the positioning of the co-operative sector as a significant driver of Canada's social and economic development.

3. PRIORITIES TO SHARE WITH CANDIDATES DURING THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

In this election year, this study represents an interesting opportunity for your organization to raise awareness among your elected representatives, so that they can include the following priorities in their election platform:

a. The priorities

We respectfully ask your consideration of the following priorities within your platform:

1. Identify a minister responsible for the co-operative sector.
2. Open the business infrastructure of the Government of Canada to the co-operative sector so that the following regional development agencies (RDA) respond effectively to co-operatives' needs:
 - RDA's (CanNor, WD, FedNor, FedDev Ontario, CED, ACOA)
 - Business Development Bank of Canada.
3. Enable Forestry Co-operatives, and all co-operative businesses in Canada, to continue receiving the small business deduction for active business income.

b. Why Is CMC Making These Requests?

1. To ensure that the co-operative sector has a distinct voice at the cabinet table that can advocate for regulatory, policy and budget decision-making to advance the sector.
2. To ensure that the leadership of these agencies is aware of the specific needs of co-operatives, and to ensure their inclusion in eligibility criteria.
3. To ensure that all Canadian co-operatives benefit from the small business deduction for active business income.

To follow up on the study findings, CMC encourages you to take the following actions to ensure that our elected leaders hear and understand these requests from all co-operators across Canada.

- Mention these requests:
 - At your next AGM/AMM;
 - At your next board meeting;
 - To candidates who are running in the next federal election in your constituency.
- Write to your MP and make the same requests, so that elected leaders understand that these requests are important for the entire co-operative sector. You can invite your members and employees to do the same.
 - To find your MP's contact information, [click here](#).
 - Please cc Daniel Brunette of CMC on your communications:
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