



Testimony by Paula Williams, MA, MSc, BSc

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Learning to improve knowledge and skills is a passion of mine. In cooperatives, my field of work, this certainly applies, thanks in part to Canada. My participation therefore, in the 2020 CYL Virtual Camp was not accidental.

For years now, I've had great admiration for the emphasis and effort placed by Canada in solidifying and promoting the importance of the cooperative model of business. Accordingly, a prompt yes was given to Carol's invitation to participate in the 2020 virtual CYL, and oh how privileged we felt!!

After extending the invitation to schools and other individuals, and sharing all the information received, we embarked on this international learning process of exploring the co-operative principles while enhancing our communication, leadership and team-building skills. The methodology of teaching used - learning through games - was an effective strategy. Not only did it enhance our understanding, but served as the catalytically agent which obviated space, time and place. Before you knew it, we were all friends. This warm, welcoming atmosphere and acceptance of each other truly represented the cooperative spirit!

Notable activities such as Hang Out and Culture Night allowed for even more togetherness. Identifying the similarities between Canada and Dominica was a favourite. Can you guess a few? Am giving away two, but the easiest I must confess: both speak English and are members of the Commonwealth. Keep thinking, there are several more!!

The cultural night was a sparkle. Dressed in our national apparel, we could not help but proudly flutter the Dominican Flag. The educational sessions Co-op 101 and Making Box were interesting and informative. They are the biggest take away.

These sentiments also reflect the overall impression of the Dominican team which included teachers Mrs. Diana Scotland & Miss Marcia Dublin, and students Rael Robinson, Justin Bougoneau, Kaylonn Burke, Jessica Laurent, Vijayia Caprice, Jemimia Mills, from the Dominica Community High School.

To Carol Fleming and the rest of the team, we express our perpetual thanks and look forward to even greater collaboration. As our country persists in embracing cooperatives as a model of development, this partnership is perceived as helping to build a stronger foundation.

What better way to sum up CYL 2020 experience by referencing one of the core activities ‘the Making House...’

Time to share.

Foundation: Who or what is my main support

Door: What other people know about me

Window: What other people think about me

Roof: My greatest achievement

Chimney: What I would like to contribute to the world

Walls: People who give me extra support

