



**NEWS RELEASE  
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## **RELEASE OF THE *STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR IN CANADA IN 2015***

**The Ontario Co-operative Association promotes and supports co-operatives, which play a significant role in capturing opportunities for new business, creating stronger and more vibrant local economies, increasing community engagement and building a more sustainable social economy overall.**

Guelph, June 21, 2019 — During Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada (CMC)'s Congress 2019, [Scott Banda](#) of Federated Cooperatives Limited and [Guy Cormier](#) of Desjardins Group released the *Study on the Economic Impact of the Co-operative Sector in Canada in 2015*. Led by Dr. Fiona Duguid in partnership with George Karaphillis, the study confirms that co-operatives are an economic driver that contributes to the development of the Canadian economy.

Conducted earlier this year using data collected in 2015 from 5,730 co-operatives, this study is one of the most comprehensive ever done, and provides a comprehensive portrait of Canadian co-operatives. Among other things, it presents descriptive statistics for 2015, five- and ten-year trends, and the economic impact of the sector on the Canadian economy.

Commenting on the study, Peter Cameron, Acting Executive Director of the Ontario Co-operative Association stated: *"The co-operative sector should be recognized as a key sector and important economic driver. Ontario's 1,500+ co-operatives alone operate in 1,900 locations and in 400 communities, employing over 57,000 people. They are an integral part of the social and economic fabric of the province, and play a key role in building a more sustainable and equitable economy."*

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STUDY**

#### Co-operatives

- 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.

About the [Ontario Co-operative Association](#) (OCA) - Co-operatives are a different kind of business model, driven by people, planet and profit. OCA supports, develops, educates and advocates for Ontario's 1,500+ co-operative businesses. We exist to strengthen and unite the co-operative movement and we believe that co-operatives are the solution to creating stronger communities, which help to build a better world.

[About CMC](#) - Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is a member-driven association that supports, promotes and unites co-operative and mutual organisations. CMC strives to advance the co-operative economy by organizing co-op development, advocating with government and conducting research to improve public policy. CMC serves as a common table for co-operatives and mutuals in Canada. The co-operative and mutual movement in Canada comprises more than 31.8 million memberships from approximately 8,000 co-operative and mutual enterprises.

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