



Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation
Fédération Canadienne des Coopératives de Travail

**2006 AGM & CONFERENCE OF THE
CANADIAN WORKER CO-OP
FEDERATION:**

Taking Global to Local

**Thursday, November 16th to Saturday, November 18th, 2006
Edmonton, Alberta
Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 119 Street**

(All Plenary Sessions are in the Providence Centre Auditorium unless otherwise noted. All meals are in the Centre’s Dining Room.)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

NOTE: this first day of the Conference is able to serve as a **Stand-Alone Introduction** to the worker co-op movement if you are new to it -- if you choose the workshops that are part of the “Basics” stream. At the same time, it is an integral part of the Conference for all participants.

- 8 am** Breakfast
- 9 am** **Optional Tours of local worker and multi-stakeholder co-ops**
Co-op Taxi Edmonton; Multi-Cultural Health Brokers Co-op; WECAN Co-op (all TBC)
- Noon** Lunch
- 1:00 pm** **OFFICIAL START OF CONFERENCE**
--**Welcome** to the Conference by CWCF president **Mark Goldblatt** and CWCF executive director **Hazel Corcoran**
--**Greetings** from:
City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta, Federal government
--**Explanation of Regional Caucus & Developers’ Caucus, Peter Hough;**
--**Explanation of Youth Caucus**
- 1:30 pm** **Interesting New W.C. Developments from around the country - & beyond** (5-minute w.c. regional reports for each of 5 regions and 10 minutes for US/international news); plus 5-minute **co-op sector reports** (from each of CCA, CCC, ACCA and the Co-ops Secretariat) and report from the Youth Advisor.
- 2:30 pm** Break

2:45 – 5:15 pm WORKSHOPS - Session A (Choose ONE of the following)

Basics Stream	Advanced Stream	Developers’ Stream
1a. ABC’s of Worker Co-ops 1b. Opportunity identification and assessment: assessing a business concept for viability	2. Pricing for Profit: Relating the price your co-op charges for your goods or services to the bottom line, Peter Hough	3. Learning from the Hard Lessons: “Mistakes I Have Made, and How to Avoid Them”

5:15 pm Break

- 5:30 pm** **Supper, including caucuses.**
 Regional Worker Co-op Caucuses, Developers' Caucus. The purpose:
 For REGIONAL WORKER CO-OP CAUCUSES: Giving worker co-ops within each region a chance to network further, respond to conference content and talk about follow-up to specific initiatives in their regions. Discuss and, if possible, decide on director nominations (for BC/ Yukon, and Atlantic). Lasts 1 hour
 For DEVELOPERS: to have input into the two CCA committees looking this year at an approach for co-op development: on strategy, and on funding models.
 For BOTH: delegates to the CWCF AGM must be selected by each Region (up to 10 per Region, no more than 1 delegate per worker co-op), by the Developers as a class (up to 5), and by the Associate Members as a class if there are more than 5 (up to 5). Discuss resolutions to the AGM.
 [People who don't feel they technically fit into a regional worker co-op caucus, or the developers caucus will be welcome to whichever caucus they choose to attend. The Associate Members likely do not need to meet since there are usually not more than 5 present, and so they may either attend their regions' meeting, or the developers' meeting.]
- 7 pm** **KEYNOTE: WORKER CO-OPS AROUND THE WORLD, by JAVIER SALABERRIA**, President, International Worker Co-op Federation (CICOPA), President, Confederation of Basque Co-operatives, Mondragon, and member of the Board of CEPES (Spanish Entrepreneurial Confederation of the Social Economy)
- 8 pm** Option 1: **Youth Caucus**, followed by Networking, as below
 Option 2: **Free time**: Networking/ social time, and Worker Co-op Food/Trade Fair, featuring items from several worker co-ops, including fair trade / organic chocolate and other goodies.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 8:00** Breakfast
- 9 am** **Mondragon: What Have They Learned; and What Are the Challenges?**,
 Javier Salaberria
- 10 am** **Break**
- 10:15 – Noon** **WORKSHOPS – Session B (Choose ONE of the following)**

Basics Stream	Advanced Stream	Developers' Stream
1. Story – telling for worker co-ops: including stories on : what is the most challenging thing your co-op has faced & how did you deal with it?	2. Director's liability	3. Applying co-op development lessons from Europe & beyond, to Canada, a panel including Javier Salaberria and Canadian co-op development specialists

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Collaborating with the Coop-Friendly Academy,** Parkland Institute, University of Alberta (TBC), & some of the partners related to the Social Economy Research program

1:30 – 5:00 **Annual General Meeting**
Including presentation of the Annual Report, report from the Director Nominating Committee, and decisions on resolutions including proposed amendments to by-laws.

(1/2 hour break half-way through)

6:00 – 7:30 **Banquet, & Worker Co-op Merit Award**

7:30 - 11:00 Entertainment: Music & Silent auction to raise sponsorship funds
There will be a performance, followed by a jam session with all participants who play or sing, to be asked to join in.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 **Building Diversity in the Worker Co-op Movement**
Report from the Diversity Committee of CWCF, the Immigrant and Refugee Co-op/CED Action Network, - with Ajamu Nangwaya

10:00 **FREE CONSULTING TIME:** explained / organized.

10:15 Break

10:30 **FREE CONSULTING TIME,**
Worker co-operators, those starting worker co-ops & others are invited to bring their questions & concerns to experienced worker co-op developers for 1/2-hour consultations. Whether around management, arranging financing, governance issues or any other aspect of running/ starting a co-op, these developers are prepared to help. For the most effective consultation, it would be appreciated if co-op members would give a summary of their question on the Conference **registration** form. Sign-up sheets will be also posted at the Conference. The goal will be to assign the questions to developers both experienced in the relevant area, and from the co-op's region if possible, in case any follow-up work is required: all to start in the main plenary room & meet from there. *(Participants are asked to submit a very brief report to CWCF staff to enable follow-up.)*

OR: (10:30) ATTEND A WORKSHOP – Session C (Choose ONE of the following)

Worker Co-ops Stream	For Developers or Worker Co-ops
(1) Building a Participatory Culture in the Workplace: in Governance, & Operations	(2) The Seven Co-operative Principles: Are They Enough? Len Krimerman, <i>Grassroots Economic Organizing</i> Newsletter, Connecticut, USA

12:00 Lunch

1:00 – 3:30 WORKSHOPS – Session D (Choose ONE of the following)

Worker Co-ops, Option 1	Worker Co-ops, Option 2	Developers' Stream
1. Co-ops Created by Immigrants and visible minority communities , Ajamu Nangwaya, Yvonne Chiu and Monjur Chowdhury	2. Conflict Resolution	3. Worker Co-ops and Labour: what is the potential for conversions in collaboration with the labour movement?

(In all of the above, 2 – 2:30 inter-workshop break)

3:30 - 4 Conference Wrap-up

4:00 -- End of formal Conference activities—

4:00 – 5:00 Hike on the Whitemud Ravine walking trail.

5:30 Supper (cost not included)/ informal socializing (for those staying over night or who would simply like to stay for the evening) – meet for supper, a film & music at the Power Plant, in conjunction with Parkland Institute conference

--NOTE: the following two events taken together have an extra charge of about \$10--

7:00 Global Visions Film Festival Pick (part of the Parkland Institute conference)

9:00 Parkland's Power Plant Party, featuring danceable music and more excellent company

Thank you for joining CWCF in launching a new year of exciting developments in workplace democracy.

Sponsorship for the participation of Javier Salaberria has been provided by:



Carrot Cache Community Resource Inc.

Registration Information

<u>COSTS</u> :	Members* of the CWCF (1st delegate) / Low income	\$145.
	Members of the CWCF (2nd, 3rd, etc.)	\$110.
	Non-members	\$395.

Rates include all lunches & dinners during the Conference**.

Special rate for Introductory Day or Evening:

All day Thursday, Nov. 16, 9 am – end; including 2 meals	\$45
Thursday evening Keynote +, Nov. 16 (7:00 pm onward)	\$10

[For registration fees in any other single time slot, please contact us.]

*Members' rate applies to Regular, Associate and Developer Members of CWCF, as well as low-income individuals. It also applies to any worker co-op, solidarity co-op or worker-shareholder co-op which is a member of any other worker co-op federation or CDR ("Regional Development Co-op"), as well as staff of worker co-op federations and CDR's. If your organization does not fit into any of these categories and the non-member rate is out of reach, please talk to us! Further, a few subsidies for registration (full or partial) will be available, on an exceptional basis, this year; please speak to us to explore this possibility as well. We do not want people staying away due to the fees. **Conference registration fees cover supper on Thursday, lunch and supper on Friday, and lunch on Saturday. Taxes and gratuities included. Breakfast is an additional \$6.00/day, and lunch on Thursday is \$10.

ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE CENTRE:

*****IMPORTANT:** Please do not contact the Centre, but rather contact the CWCF directly. To offer these rates to groups, the Centre only block-books rooms; it does not handle individual room requests. Thank you.***

Accommodations will be at the Providence Renewal Centre. The Centre's accommodations are available in two varieties: (1) a single room with a shared bathroom facility; and (2) a double room, one double bed and one single bed, with a private bathroom. If you prefer to billet with a local resident, we *may* be able to arrange this. The rates on-site are as follows:

(Per night, per person, taxes included:)

<i>Single room with shared bathroom facility</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>
<i>Double room with private bathroom</i>	<i>\$60.00 (same rate for 1 or 2 people)</i>

Rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Your first choice may not be available. Phone number for the Provincial Renewal Centre: (780) 430-9491; their web site is: www.providence.ab.ca. However, please make your room reservations through CWCF as we have block-booked all available rooms.

OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS: There are several hotels near the Centre,, all on Gateway Blvd , also known as Calgary Trail.

Options within a 5-minute drive of the Renewal Centre include the following. You will have to make your own arrangements and CWCF has not block-booked any rooms as we do not expect a lot of participants to

use this option.

(1) Econo Lodge
4009 Gateway Boulevard
(780) 438-7979
Approximately \$75 + tax double/single

(2) Super 8 Motel
3610 Gateway Boulevard
(780) 433-8688
Approximately \$109 + tax double/single

(3) Greenwood Inn
3610 Gateway Boulevard
(780) 431-1100
Approximately \$119 + tax double/single

TRAVEL GENERALLY : We encourage you to book flights with the Canadian Travel Co-op / Carlson Wagonlit (1-800-263-5241), or Drum Travel Co-op (1-416-964-3388), both worker co-ops. *Please let them know you are attending the CWCF Conference.* Some individuals from Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC may be car-pooling to the Conference; please indicate on the registration form if you are interested in joining or starting a car-pool.

Air Transportation: Edmonton is served primarily by the Edmonton International Airport.

Ground Transportation from the Airport: Taxi fare from the airport to the Providence Renewal Centre is approximately \$40. For a slightly cheaper option, you can take the Sky Shuttle downtown route for \$15 one way or \$25 open ended return (pick-up point next to door #7 on the arrivals level) to the Delta South Hotel. From there, the taxi ride to the centre is approximately \$10. We will also try to arrange carpooling or taxi-pooling upon request.

TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDY

A transportation subsidy is available to active worker co-op members who choose to fly (and who come from outside of a 1/2-day driving time/radius into Edmonton) to assist them to attend. This amount will be approximately 1/2 the seatsale airfare cost. If you require this subsidy, please indicate this on your registration form. Remember that large savings can be realized by booking your flight early. Please book early, as the individual subsidy, and possibly the number of subsidies, will be limited. CWCF will also subsidize the cost of car-pooling from out of town.

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

Unfortunately we are not able to offer simultaneous interpretation, English-French, this year. However, upon request we can provide whispered interpretation.

REGISTRATION FORM

The electronic Registration Form is available on the CWCF web site, at www.canadianworker.coop/english/index_e.html ; click on the second bullet.