

Fundamental Symposium on Business Succession

Ottawa, June 6th, 2014 – The Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO) and several of its partners have organized the first bilingual symposium on business succession, specifically designed for Northern Ontario, to be held October 7th, 2014 in North Bay.

Distinct in its nature, this symposium will provide an opportunity for prospective buyers and sellers of businesses to formalize themselves with innovative tools to promote succession, mainly with alternative models such as collective ventures. The development of these tools is in progress, and they will be presented at the symposium. Notwithstanding, models of co-operative business and social enterprise will also be highlighted to illustrate the potential success of such projects. *“I am confident that these new tools will allow us to improve support to the countless business closures accumulating in Northern Ontario. Without such tools, the reality could become very worrisome for many communities as our local businesses close their doors”*, says Ethel Côté, a collaborator on the project, from the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal.

At the symposium, business networking will also be offered to allow potential buyers and sellers of businesses to discuss their mutual expectations and assess the potential for collaboration. *“It is with great enthusiasm that we lead these efforts in favour of collective entrepreneurship. This should be achieved through the successful succession of five pilot businesses in Northern Ontario over the next two years”*, added Luc Morin, executive director of the CCO.

This event has been made possible thanks to the commitment of several organizations that, together, have decided to accelerate the succession planning of businesses in Northern Ontario. In addition to the CCO, these organizations include the Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO), the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal (CCCR), the Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO), the Mouvement des intervenant.e.s en communication radio de l'Ontario (MICRO) and the Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité de l'Ontario (RDÉE Ontario).

The CCO and its organizing partners graciously thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Caisse Populaire North Bay for subsidizing this major event.

The CCO is the organization of choice for education, promotion, consultation and provision of advisory services to ensure the sustainable development of co-operatives and social enterprises in francophone communities across Ontario.

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