



Conseil de la coopération
de l'Ontario



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

OTTAWA, June 20, 2019 — During Co-operatives and Mutuals 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, Julien Geremie, Executive Director of the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO), stated: "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."

"Since 1964, the CCO has been supporting cooperatives which are at the heart of an important movement for the Francophone and bilingual communities in Ontario," noted Hosni Zaouali, President of Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario. "The cooperative sector provides entrepreneurship in rural areas, women, immigrants and young people, while supporting social innovation, economic and community. This report demonstrates that cooperatives are not only there to accompany the transformations of our society, they have been leading these transformations for over 100 years

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 Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario](#) - The Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario is the organization of choice for education, promotion, collaboration and advisory services to ensure the sustainable development of French-language and Bilingual cooperatives and social enterprises in Ontario. The CCO has offices in Ottawa, Toronto, Sudbury, Windsor and Temiskaming Shores, Winsor and Thunder Bay.

[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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