

**EVER MORE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FOR ONTARIO COOPERATIVES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

**The Cooperation Council of Ontario enters into an important cooperation agreement
with the *Consortium de ressources et d'expertises coopératives***

Ottawa, March 31st, 2020 – The Cooperation Council of Ontario (CCO) is working to meet the growing needs of Ontario's cooperatives and social enterprises. For this purpose, it has become a member of the *Consortium de ressources et d'expertises coopératives*, a business solutions centre dedicated to collective enterprises. This collaboration will enable the CCO to call upon the additional services of more than 50 professionals specialized in consolidating and scaling up in the social and cooperative economy.

Thanks to this agreement, the CCO is improving the service offer to its members by including the Consortium's twenty or so areas of expertise, including organizational development, training, human resources, communications, computer support and accounting services. For Mr. Julien Geremie, Executive Director of the CCO, it is mainly a question of supporting and strengthening the support services of his organization. *"We already offer many consulting services for the development and growth of social enterprises and cooperatives in Ontario. By working with the Consortium, we can ensure that we can best meet the demands and needs that are outside our field,"* he explains. It is the CCO that will receive requests for services and will act as a bridge between the needs expressed and the Consortium's resources, if it is deemed appropriate they intervene.

Operating for non-profit purposes, the Consortium is a solidarity cooperative. To this day, it has some sixty member organizations, which means that its experts are involved in nearly 500 businesses in a variety of sectors: health, economic development, telecommunications, social inclusion, education, etc. *"Our organization is a fine example of mutualization,"* says Mr. J. Benoit Caron, Executive Director of the Consortium, before adding: *"Through it, our members are guaranteed access to the support they need, while developing and perpetuating a pool of expertise that resembles them."* Mr. Caron is pleased that his shared services centre can contribute to the mission of the Cooperation Council of Ontario.

About the Cooperation Council of Ontario

The Cooperation Council of Ontario is an Ontario non-profit social enterprise founded in 1964. The CCO works to promote, develop and innovate cooperatives and social enterprises (collectively called collective enterprises) in Ontario. They are major players in community economic development, they do social research and innovation, they are experts in organizational management and they build international business relationships between collective enterprises here and abroad.

About the *Consortium de ressources et d'expertises coopératives*

Founded in 2011, the Consortium is a solidarity cooperative motivated by the desire to provide each collective enterprise with access to specialized services. It brings together under one roof all the professional expertise relevant to the development and consolidation of collective entrepreneurship and offers it at the right cost. For more information: <https://leconsortium.coop/>

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