

## Cooperative Principles

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprises. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. Cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. The seven cooperative principles guide the operation of all cooperatives:

1. voluntary and open membership
2. democratic member control
3. member economic participation
4. autonomy and independence
5. education, training and information
6. cooperation among cooperatives
7. concern for the community

**For more information contact:**

### Cooperative Development Services

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Information is also available from any  
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives office.

**[www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture)**

Prepared by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

# Cooperative Development Services

## The Cooperative Advantage

Today, in Manitoba, cooperatives deliver a wide range of goods and services including financial services, groceries, dry goods, daycare, fuel for vehicles and home-heating, rural fitness centres, TV and internet cable distribution, insurance and more. Co-ops are ordinary people doing extraordinary things, together.

## Cooperative Development Services

Our advisors are available to provide support and assistance to new and existing cooperatives. Services include:

- general information about cooperatives
- information about financial and non-financial assistance for cooperative development, cooperative start-ups and expansions
- financial assistance programs for cooperative start-ups and expansions
- guidance and support for individuals, groups and organizations wanting to develop cooperatives
- policy and program development to address identified needs and opportunities in cooperative development

## General Assistance

*If you are thinking of starting a co-op you can get help with:*

- **deciding** if a cooperative is the best form of ownership for the project
- **recruiting** potential members
- **setting up** and holding an information meeting
- **communicating** your idea and its benefits, including the community benefits
- **measuring** and evaluating your project as it moves forward

## Distinct Services

**Incorporation** – can provide information and advice before you file a request to the Registrar of Cooperatives to incorporate your enterprise. While our advisors offer counselling assistance in the incorporation of new cooperatives, professional assistance from lawyers and accountants is strongly recommended.

**Counselling Services** – can provide basic information and advice to help emerging cooperatives make informed decisions about their projects, as well as links to other cooperatives and community economic development organizations.

**Regulatory** – can help you interpret and comply with the requirements of *The Cooperative Act and Regulations*.

**Pathfinding** – can provide technical assistance, financing, and access to other programs and assistance, including training options.

