

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:

**The Co-operative Loans
and Loans Guarantee Board**
c/o Cooperative Development Services

605-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0N4

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

www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture

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The Co-operative Loans and Loans Guarantee Board

The Cooperative Advantage

Today, in Manitoba, cooperatives deliver a wide range of goods and services including financial services, groceries and 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.

The Co-operative Loans and Loans Guarantee Board

Manitoba's Co-operative Loans and Loans Guarantee Board provides financial help to cooperative organizations and supports the growth and development of the sector. The Board provides loan guarantees to viable cooperatives that are unable to get financing elsewhere on reasonable terms.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a loan guarantee, co-ops must demonstrate the following:

- The required financing is not available on reasonable terms from other sources but would be available with assistance.
- The funds will not be used for refinancing or for payment of existing debt.
- The loan is for productive purposes and is necessary to the success of the project.
- There is reasonable evidence that the co-op will be viable and able to repay the loan.
- There is reasonable security available.
- Members have sufficient equity in the project so that their risk is at least equal to the amount of the guarantee being requested.
- Normal cooperative principles and business practices are, and will continue to be, followed.

Terms and Conditions

- Each co-op applying for financial help is assessed based on individual circumstances.
- Repayment terms will vary based on arrangements with the lender.

Making An Application

The Board meets regularly to review applications. Contact Cooperative Development Services for an initial consultation. Advisors can also provide you with:

- general assistance in preparing your application
- general information about cooperatives
- additional information about assistance programs for starting or expanding cooperatives