



EVIDENCE FROM THE LITERATURE

What enables conversion to co-operatives in Canada?

Literature on co-operative development and specifically conversions of organizations to co-operatives was analysed to see what factors enable co-operative development and conversions to co-operatives in Canada.

THE ENABLERS

Knowledge & Awareness	Owners & Employees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About co-ops in general and as a conversion option in particular • About how to set a co-op up • About how to manage a co-op 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners & employees aware of the co-op option • Owners who trust the employees • Employees willing to bear the risk and invest • Employees willing to manage
Influencers & Developers	The Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-op developers • Professional service providers like lawyers and accountants • Co-op educators to increase knowledge and awareness of stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high propensity to mobilize • That values the collective good • Aware about co-ops as valid and viable forms of service providers

In Canada, development of co-operatives and conversions to co-operatives are driven by the desire for equity and sustainability that comes with knowledge and awareness.



THE TALE OF TWO CONVERSIONS

What enables conversion to co-operatives in Canada?

Aron Theatre and Battle River Railway are examples of organizations faced with closure converting to co-operatives.

Not only did the businesses survive, they are now thriving and have emerged as vibrant community focal points.



WHAT WORKED?

Community involvement & participation

The co-operative developer

Professional service providers

A real value proposition

The conversions worked because the local community, involved co-op developer and inputs from professionals. The co-operatives are working because they are meeting real needs of the community in a viable manner.



MAPPING THE POTENTIAL FOR CONVERTING WORKPLACES AND COMMUNITY SPACES TO CO-OPERATIVES

The Succession Crisis	The Co-operative Solution
<p>Quarter of a million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Canada have no succession plans and facing an uncertain future and closure.</p>	<p>Conversion to co-operatives offer a viable, democratic and sustainable solution to the succession crisis.</p>

The Conversions to Co-operatives Project

1. To identify the necessary enabling environments for conversions to co-operatives in Canada
2. To build capacity for conversions to co-operatives in partnership with Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada

What will the project deliver?

1. Create an understanding of what enables conversions to co-operatives in Canada
2. Develop a model for conversions to co-ops
3. Make knowledge about the conversion model and resources available to the public

And what will that do?

1. Help create a vibrant co-operative development ecosystem in Canada
2. Keep business and capital within communities
3. Save jobs, keep them local and create job opportunities

For more information about the project, contact:



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