

BC Co-op Developers Community of Practice

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, June 9th, 12-1:30pm

12-1:30 PT via

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85191363694?pwd=RXNNKzVmci9FaC9lekVWN1hVazdQQT09>

Facilitator: Elvy Del Bianco

In Attendance: Zoe Creighton, Marty Frost, Elvy del Bianco, Melanie Conn, Kevin Harding, James Grieve, Joy Emmanuel, Tara Williams, Chris Galloway, Danielle Soucie, Paul Cabaj, Stephen Elliott-Buckley, Daphane Nelson, Marty Frost, Catherine Fisher

Action items from last meeting:

- Landing page, developers to upload documents, info etc. – Danielle to take on landing page management moving forward, developers are encouraged to continue to add resources they see fit.
- Standard Pay: A list has been created pricing out the work that co-ops might need from developers. The list still needs to be validated, and shared on the landing page.

Minutes from last session were reviewed, and the agenda was approved.

2. Updates from Vancity

- Elvy Del Bianco provided the Vancity Update. A meeting on June 24th will take place, bringing together various parties in BC interested in co-op development in the province. Including community, academic, and co-operative partners.
- This community of interest is gathering, as various partners have an interest in pressuring the government into making an investment into community development, and co-operative development in BC.
- The end goal of the group would be multi-year funding from the government for community and co-op development.

1. Updates from BCCA

- Paul Cabaj provided BCCA updates. The two organizations (ACCA and BCCA) continue to work closely together.
- Government Relations has been busy, including an upcoming meeting with the Minister of Finance. Many discussions are happening at both organizations, potentially affecting the Community of Practice in the future.
- For example, co-op childcare and indigenous childcare opportunities are in the process of forming in BC, and could eventually use the help of co-op developers.
- A conversation with the Minister of Agriculture has also lead to supports that will enable more consultation, including online discussion surrounding agriculture co-ops in mid fall, and a conference next spring.
- B/ACCA is still waiting to hear on findings from Western Diversification to enable backend support for financial co-ops and credit union across both provinces.

- **Action Item:** Marla to share Annual Report, BCCA AGM + Gr Priorities Discussion slide deck, and GR package.

3. Updates from Developers on Projects (Landing Page)

- Kamloops Community & Economic Development Co-op, Daphane Nelson
 - Project proposal is to create a community and economic development co-op in Kamloops, BC. There is a lot of interest, and Zoë has offered some of her time to consult with the group.
 - A follow up meeting for those who are interested will take place shortly. Zoe to help initially, and then will be brought back to the community of practice.
- Learning Partners, Melanie Conn and Tara Williams
 - This business concept is already functioning, run by volunteers, and now the group would like to convert to the co-op model.
 - They are seeking the assistance of other co-ops for information and ideas about onboarding members, governance expertise, etc.
 - Melanie is looking for other co-ops that could possibly help/follow up with them. This brought up an interesting point, that maybe groups would like their email circulated to other co-ops for assistance, networking etc.
 - **Action Item:** In follow up survey, Zoe will add, “is your group comfortable having your email shared with other co-ops/developers, etc?”
 - **Action Item:** Marla to circulate Co-op Café registration link, as it offers an opportunity for people to meet one another, have discussions, etc.
- Sophia Home Care Co-op, Elvy del Bianco and Tara Williams
 - On hold, still working on business canvas with separate scenarios, etc.
- Louder than 10, Marty Frost and Chris Galloway
 - Group of contract workers that do organizational development, communications, etc that are looking to transition to a worker co-op.
 - Still in early stages, but moving forward with help from the co-op Conversion resources and program with the Worker Co-op Academy
- Fuse Coaching – Kevin Harding
 - Group of 3 coaches/counsellors creating a co-op. Draft incorporation documents are prepared, they may need a lawyer but have that in their budget.
 - Their incorporation documents are to be reviewed, with any initial problems, one-page reports, etc.
 - The group used 2 half-day workshops for consultation, which worked very well and reduced costs for them (10 hour of costs).
- Victoria Curb Side Co-op, Joy Emmanuel
 - Slowed down, and have not heard much back from the group recently.
 - A feedback questionnaire was sent to the group but not submitted back. This should be put into our system.
 - **Action Item:** Feedback survey to be sent to Kevin for review

- Empowering Youth Film Development Co-op, Stephen Elliott Buckley
 - Covid has slowed the group down, but it is moving forward towards incorporation.
- BC Craft Farmers Co-op, James Grieve
 - James Grieve is working with BCCA member, BC Craft Farmers Co-op, which is a cannabis co-op developing platforms, supply chain efficiencies, etc.
 - Referral came from Co-operatives first.
 - Zoë also worked closely with them on their incorporation.
- King Fisher Farms, Joy Emmanuel
 - Jay has finished her work with them. The group has existing co-ownership of a property, and 2 sets of bylaws were created for them.
- Hub City Cycles, Joy Emmanuel
 - Strategic planning and re-locations taking place.
 - Worker members are the most motivated, and the recommendation is to use their existing network and build out services to include training for bike skills, etc.

4. Sharing Practices and Discussion

- a) Referral Process/System:
 - Zoe requested feedback on the referral system in place to build more effectiveness over the next 6 months.
 - Kevin noted that the referral system can always be improved, and the challenge is making sure there is an incentive to bring groups back. There needs to be a reason for people to bring their groups back to this community of practice table.
 - Joy noted that there is at times not enough information about where the group is at, or what the group knows before they are handed off to a developer.
 - BCCA has taken down model rules, etc to avoid reverse engineering co-op rules, policies, etc previously happening.
 - **Action Item:** Zoe to add to referral feed back from “what other co-op resources and information have you received?”
- b) Shared Documents & Landing Page:
 - <https://bccacoop.org/programs-services/consulting-services/co-op-developers-community-of-practice-hub-temporary/> password: BuildMoreCo-ops
 - Access is through website, resources have been put on the webpage, but Danielle asked for developers to upload any documents they find useful.
 - The privacy settings allow anyone to upload documents, but Danielle will organize them.

5. Mentoring Items

- a) Mentor/Mentee Updates
 - Melanie and Tara have been working together on Language Partners, and Elvy and Tara have been working together on Sophia Homecare Workers.
 - Elvy and Mario are working on Deep Democracy group – going well, Elvy facilitating discussions and Mario is going over draft rules and MOA.

- Marty and Chris Galloway working on Louder than 10, documenting the process, and results, going well. The group is also working with the Worker co-op academy.

b) Mentorship Pilot Overview

- Does the document need amendment, any changes etc? Various developers rely on the document differently.
- Melanie refers to it often as it provides a structure, others not as much, dependent on mentor/mentee and groups/projects. Overall, the document is useful.
- Would be nice to get feedback from mentees as well.

6) New items

a) Invitation for New Rules Templates

- The templates circulating in emerging co-ops are somewhat inadequate. The group is working on building templates that reflect current values and realities of the sector.
- Support from BCCA and Vancity to work with this group towards creating new template
- Call for co-op developers to help with this, Kevin Harding, Catherine Fisher, Melanie Conn and Marty Frost volunteered.

b) System Development Task Force

- The group is beginning to build out systems and resources, including the process around referrals and the framework around mentorship.
- As a group pieces are in place, but is in need of a more robust system to track everything.
- Resources are needed to make this happen, and part of the group convening to discuss government funding will budget for these resources.
- The Task Force will be looking at a high level - what is it exactly we need to develop, the work that would go into it, and maybe hiring out someone to develop it. Kevin Harding, Danielle Soucie, Elvy del Bianco and James Harding volunteered for the task force.

c) Ideas Shared Professional Development (legal issues)

- What are some common issues that groups usually need assistance with, and how can we offer assistance/monetize?
- Legal services, securities act/commission and informing if, or if not, groups will be subject to it (Securities lawyer), business evaluations, etc.
- There is also an opportunity to reach out to other organizations that would like to learn about co-op development. This represents a potential revenue stream, offering courses to lawyers, CPAs, etc on the co-op model.
- Community service co-op legislation they want charitable status, it would be useful to have a lawyer who is experienced in charities, etc.

7) Next Meeting

- **Action Item:** Zoe and Marla to Schedule next meeting for July 28th, which will be an informal meeting where Kevin will present to the group. Next regular meeting will be scheduled for September 4th. From there, 6 months of meetings will be schedule din advance.
- **Next Facilitator:** Kevin on July 28th. At this meeting, the facilitator for the regular meeting in September will be assigned.