

A photograph of two women shaking hands in a professional setting. The woman on the left is wearing a white floral shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a green blazer. They are both smiling. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A laptop is visible in the bottom right corner.

# In Our Hands

A free co-operative business program for newcomers!

# Thank you to our Sponsors and Partners!



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Background
- Program Overview
- Community Champions
- Support Network
- Questions & Answers



# Introductions!

- My name is...
- I am from...
- I speak...
- My profession is...
  
- My dream job or business is...



**Iva Jankovic**  
BCCA, Program  
Manager



**Elaine Flores**  
RDN, Program  
Coordinator

# Background

Business offers many opportunities for newcomers, but starting a business in a new country can be difficult!

**Starting a co-operative business with other newcomers is a great way to:**

- Pool capital and resources
- Share the risk and the reward
- Grow your network
- Collaborate with others in a supportive environment
- Co-own and democratically control a shared enterprise

Language  
Barriers

Different  
Laws

Small  
Network



Confusing  
Information

Accessing  
Finance

People and  
Knowledge

Getting  
Certified

Little Credit  
History

High Risk

# Program Overview

In Our Hands provides you with the tools, information, knowledge and connections you need to start a successful co-operative business!

Hands-On  
Workshops

Self-Paced  
Online  
Courses

Peer  
Support



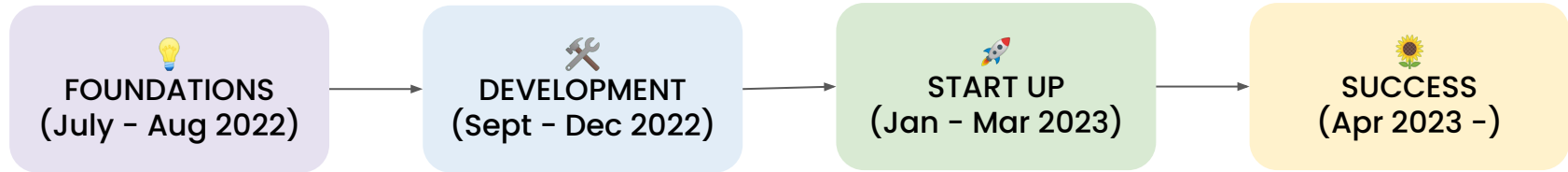
Financing  
Support

Mentorship  
& Coaching

Networking  
& Marketing

# Program Overview

- 4 courses
- 1 hour of online, self-paced learning per week
- 1 hour of hands-on teamwork per week (remote or in-person)
- Monthly workshops
- Monthly mentorship sessions



# FOUNDATIONS (July - August 2022)

An introductory course for individuals and groups interested in starting co-operative businesses.

## **Topics Include:**

- Solidarity Economics
- Global Histories of Co-operation
- Co-operative Business Model
- Co-op Principles and Values
- Examples and Types of Co-ops



# DEVELOPMENT (September – December 2022)

An intensive co-op incubation program designed to take your co-op from idea through to incorporation.

## **Topics Include:**

- Ownership Structure Modelling
- Business Planning
- Feasibility Assessment
- Capitalizing your Co-op
- Incorporating your Co-op

# START-UP (January - March 2023)

Essential tools, information and support to see your co-op through its first three months.

## **Topics Include:**

- Customer Discovery
- Product/Service Development
- Getting to Market
- Legal, Insurance and Risk
- Co-operative Governance
- Your first Annual General Meeting

# SUCCESS (April 2023 – Ongoing)

Networking, professional development and mentorship for your co-op's long-term success.

## **Topics Include:**

- Financing for Scale Up
- Market Development
- Member Engagement
- Marketing your Co-op Advantage
- Co-operative Partnerships
- Effective Management

# Community Champions

A network of volunteers helping to translate and communicate across languages and cultures!

## What they do:

- Translate informational and program content
- Facilitate communication and collaboration in multilingual teams
- Interpret conversations with mentors, partners, and potential customers

**We speak over 20 languages!**

Do you speak multiple languages?  
Become a Community Champion!

Привіт!

ਸਤਿ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ



# Support Network

In Our Hands partners with other organizations to create a network of expertise, support, and services for newcomer co-operatives.

## What partners do:

- Co-host workshops on special topics
- Provide mentorship, coaching, and advice to newcomers and newcomer co-operatives
- Offer services tailored to newcomers and newcomer co-operatives throughout the In Our Hands program and ongoingly (e.g. financing, training, certification, etc.)
- Become business partners of In Our Hands co-operatives

Do you have programs, services or expertise that could support newcomer co-operatives? Partner with us!



# Apply for the Fall 2022 Cohort

[www.bcca.coop/programs-services/in-our-hands/](http://www.bcca.coop/programs-services/in-our-hands/)

[iva@bcca.coop](mailto:iva@bcca.coop)

[elainef@ruraldevelopment.ca](mailto:elainef@ruraldevelopment.ca)

