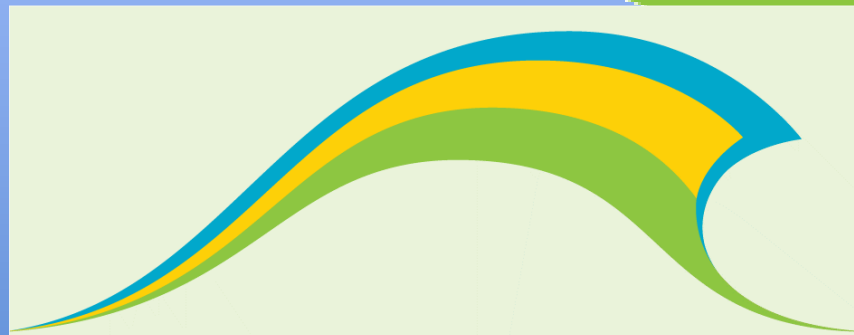


Young Members' Involvement in Governance of Housing Co-ops

Réseau de recherche pour mesurer la
DIFFÉRENCE COOPÉRATIVE



Measuring the Co-operative Difference
RESEARCH NETWORK

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- **conducted as part of MCDRN**

Research Question

Regarding young members' involvement in governance of housing co-ops, what are the:

- benefits to co-ops**
- benefits to young members**
- means of promotion**

Rationale

ICA's Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade (2013):

Identity

Participation

“... exploring [young people’s] mechanisms for forming and maintaining relationships, and considering whether established traditional mechanisms for participation and engagement can and need to be adapted.”

Rationale

“34% [of responding co-ops...] have 1 person under 30 years of age on their Board; 35% of those have more than one person under 30 on their Board.”

Students Commission report for CHF

Rationale

Under 18: Participatory, turning of age, and scholarship activities

16 – 30: Recruit/support YM to boards, AGMs, educational workshops, and forums

- learning, exposure, and representation

24 – 30:

- A) support relevant professional development for YM

- B) promote co-ops to young people

30+: Bring older and younger members together in training/ed to change older members' attitudes



[CHF Canada Home](#) > [Co-op housing](#) > [Young members](#)

Young members

Young members, those under 30 years old, are the future of our movement. Investing in our young people, and ensuring that they have a voice and opportunity to grow in the management and governance of our sector is an important part of leadership renewal, and the long-term success of our co-ops.

In 2013, CHF Canada launched the [Young Member Engagement Strategy](#). The strategy is a comprehensive plan for young member engagement for the entire co-op sector. We encourage all CHF Canada's members to choose activities that will encourage young member engagement.

The strategy includes information on a number of resources available to help your co-op engage young people, including

+ [What is a housing co-op?](#)

+ [Our diversity](#)

+ [Young members](#)

[Co-operative youth camps](#)

+ [Seniors resources](#)

+ [Finding a housing co-op](#)

+ [Starting a housing co-op](#)



Justin Ellerby
Edit Profile

- News Feed
- Messages 63
- Events 2

GROUPS

- Admin
- Think Young: Emergi...
- Canadian Worker ... 2
- Cooperative Mov... 20+
- Empty Glass for Water 3
- Bee Love School ... 20+
- J st 4
- Ellie's Clan 2
- Save the Domes 8
- Q&Q HOME STYLE 20+
- Davis Bike Collec... 20+
- Create Group

APPS

- Games
- Mindjet
- EcoCity
- Pokes 1
- Zoom Coop
- SCRABBLE
- On This Day
- Skype



Think Young: Emerging ...

Members

Events

Photos

Files

Notifications

Create Group



All Members (22)

Find a Member

Add People



Justin Ellerby
UC Davis
Added by Simone Swail
about 3 months ago



Michelle Maldonado
Works at Co-op Housing Coordinator
Added by Simone Swail
over a year ago



Lindsay Denise
Ontario College of Art and Design
Added by Simone Swail
over a year ago
Add Friend



Deyra Jaye Fontaine
Public Affairs at Aga Khan Foundation Canada
Added by Simone Swail
about 11 months ago



Wajiha Syed
McMaster
Added by Simone Swail
over a year ago
Add Friend



Chad Meda
Joined over a year ago
Add Friend

ABOUT

22 members

Open Group

This group is intended for young co-op housing members (under 30). Every year people attending C... See More

22 members (1 new) · Message · Invite by Email

Add People to Group

SUGGESTED GROUPS

See All



You Hold the Key - Fix the Co-op H...
Michelle Maldonado joined
Join



DanceLife Salsa Group Toronto
5,873 members
Join

Literature Review

Volunteering among young people

Benefits of volunteering in co-op governance

Promoting volunteerism in co-op governance



Lit Review:
Volunteering among young people

**May be precedent for (/not) future
volunteering**

Family, work and/or school may deter

**But moreso, school supports
volunteerism**

Self-oriented > altruism



Lit Review:
Volunteering among young people

**Quality of life, health, and
capacities... yes.**

Employability... maybe?

Lit Review:

Benefits of volunteering in co-op governance

Learning Outcomes

Self-governance, Management, Leadership,

Attitudes and Values, “Vocational” skills,

Political efficacy/confidence,

Context of social housing,

Community engagement

Lit Review:

Promoting volunteerism in co-op governance

Foster social and educational activities

**Emergent volunteerism, not
pre-formalized**

Encouragement without “volun-telling”

**Leverage opportunities for personal and
professional development**

Methods: Data

- **Sampling: co-ops and individuals referred to us by CHF**
- **Separate sets of semi-structured interviews**
- **3 housing co-ops: 2 staff, 6 members under 30, and 4 members over 30 (... so far!)**
- **more respondents not yet analyzed**

Methods: Analysis

- Thematic coding analysis using NVivo**
- Unit of analysis is respondent type (staff, young member, older member), not co-op**

Draft Findings and Discussion

- Benefits to young members**
- Benefits to co-ops**
- Means of promotion**

Draft Findings and Discussion: **Benefits to young members**

- **sense of community (although...)**
- **confidence**
- **single parents *might* benefit esp.**

Draft Findings and Discussion: **Benefits to young members**

acquisition of skills:

- interpersonal, governance, financial, CV-building**
- experience relevant to associated sectors**

Draft Findings and Discussion: **Benefits to young members**

acquisition of skills:

- experience relevant to associated sectors**

“I started working with a local credit union shortly after attending that [CHF] AGM...”

Draft Findings and Discussion: **Benefits to young members**

acquisition of skills:

- interpersonal, governance, financial,**
- CV-building**

Draft Findings and Discussion:

Benefits to co-ops

- enthusiasm/ renewal**
- social connectivity throughout co-op**
 - in-person and Web-based**
- continuity of governance or just generalized reciprocity?**

Draft Findings and Discussion:

Means of promotion

- Role of staff appears to be crucial on many levels**

“A lot of the kids that grew up in the co-op know me better than some of the people in their family...”

- But they don't want to “play favorites”**
 - ... except when they do.**

Draft Findings and Discussion: **Means of promotion**

Window of opportunity?

“... [We] hand out newsletters [just to] get them to take pictures or have a photo contest, so just coming up with some ideas to get them... engaged right away.”

But then again...

Draft Findings and Discussion:

Means of promotion

Young members' involvement in governance ← sense of community ← (often informal) social activities

e.g; sharing food, which ← shared indoor common space



Thanks!

Questions?