

# Women's Community Co-operative 'A WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE'

September 2025

## WOMEN IN LABOUR: AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE

On September 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate Labour Day. Strong women in Canadian labour have fought for and won crucial advancements, including achieving the right to vote, securing rights to property, wages, and establishing the foundations for gender equality as well as human rights in the workforce. Through organizing and advocacy, they have pushed for policies like federal pay equity legislation, national childcare systems, and protections against workplace harassment, while also contributing significantly to the economy through their labour and purchasing power. They have fought for human rights while also having to fight for the right to be included as 'person's'.

Women on the whole have laboured since the beginning of time beginning with bearing children - where labour can be pretty intense. They are strong labourers who have increasingly entered diverse sectors. While women have historically faced barriers and discrimination in the workforce, the women's movement and changing societal views have led to greater participation and demand for their contributions in physically and mentally demanding roles.

Women play a pivotal role in nurturing, guiding, and strengthening the family unit, many through generations and they do it all with a smile on their face and with a feeling of contentment. Wow!!

Here's to strong women. May we know them, may we be them, may we raise them!

### Construction Update!

Phase 1 & Phase 2 have been completed.



Phase 3 began the last week of August and will include the last section of the parking lot as well as the sidewalks extending to the city sidewalk. There will be new concrete to the exit doors on both the north & south sides of the building and the pad at the front door.

Estimated completion date is October 1, 2025.

Thank you for your patience!!

### NEIGHBOUR TO NEIGHBOUR - 50/50 DRAW

The 50/50 Draw team is working to secure some new patio furniture for the South end of the building. With the retaining wall, stairs and patio completed, they would like it to be a space that is not only used for rentals, but for members to sit in a quiet and comfortable setting. The profits from the 50/50 draws will be collected and used to benefit all of the members here at Women's!

Please consider supporting this endeavour for the greater good of us all. As usual, tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Cathy, Dawn or Jackie will be around soon selling tickets! They thank you in advance for your support!!

A special THANK YOU to Vicky for donating 2 captain's chairs for this beautiful new space!!

### Events Committee Returns!

The Events Committee is back at it with the first of their events being held on Labour Day Monday! We hope you've signed up to attend and bring your favourite dish! It's their hope that everyone comes & has a fabulous time celebrating the un-official end of Summer!

### 7 Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary, Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Economic Participation
4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern For The Community

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Created By: kathy daixon photographer

### REMINDER

DO NOT leave garbage or recycling on top of the blue Recycling bins in the garbage room or on the floor!! This prevents access to the Recycle bins.

Blue recycling bags filled with recyclables need to be separated (one for plastics/one for paper products) OR they must go in the garbage bin!

When in doubt, throw it out!!!

# Understanding the Seven Cooperative Principles

Co-operatives around the world share the same seven principles as defined by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). These principles are guidelines by which co-ops put their values into practice. As principled businesses driven by people and not just profit, co-operatives act together to build a better world through cooperation.

## 1. Open and Voluntary Membership

- Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

## 2. Democratic Member Control

- Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner.

## 3. Members' Economic Participation

- Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their co-operative (possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible), benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative, and supporting other activities approved by the membership..

## 4. Autonomy and Independence

- Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

## 5. Education, Training, and Information

- Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees, so they can contribute effectively to the development of their organization. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

## 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

- Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

## 7. Concern for Community

- Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

# Women's Community Co-operative 'A WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE'

## Happy 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Women's Community Co-op!

To a couple of our members September 1988 still feels like yesterday. Thirty seven years ago next month the place we all call home was completed and a group of women moved in and became the original Founding Members. Those 46 women had 'found' themselves a safe haven and refuge that many would come to reside in for the rest of their days.

Those 46 women came from all walks of life and from many corners of the world, but each one had chosen Co-operative living and a healthy, compassionate and caring community was born. These women were led by a Founding Board of which Betty Ann Baker from Niagara Peninsula Homes, was a member.

Today, two of those original founding members are still here at Women's. Both Ruth Fordham and Jenni Wasilewski have lived in their same units since it's inception. Over these past 37 years, they've both been active members, have been Board Members as well as committee members. To this day, Ruth remains not only a wealth of knowledge and history, but also the Board's 'go-to' when it comes to Bylaws and Policies.

We continue to be proud of our past and continue to celebrate the great group of diverse women who make us whole and dictate who we are. We remain the only 'women only' co-op in Ontario and hope that we can hold onto that distinction forever. Others haven't been so fortunate.

Women's Community Co-operative is very much a success story. Each year come the end of September, we celebrate 'our Anniversary' signifying the date that those first 46 women became Members. Our Anniversary is an acknowledgement to the women who first walked through that door. That group of hard working women who had fallen through the cracks and earned their right to be here in a place that was inclusive of safety and peacefulness, and who then began creating and fostering an environment where everyone could feel secure, respected, and valued still 37 years later.

Happy 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Women's! To each and every member here today and to all that have made their home here at Women's over those years. We are who we are because of each and every one of them.

We will be celebrating this beautiful occasion together this year on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> with cake and coffee, tea or other beverages served in the Meeting Room on the main floor. Please join us for conversation about old memories while making new ones. Let's take lots of photos to share for years to come.

Stay tuned!

HAPPY  
*Anniversary*



Would you like a digital copy emailed to you? Contact one of us or send us an email with your request to Diane and Emily at [dianedowney8082@gmail.com](mailto:dianedowney8082@gmail.com), and we'll happily send you a colour copy each month via email!

## Happy Labour Day, everyone!