Engaging Ideas: Exploring Co-operatives

Tuesday, Nov. 23 | 9-11 a.m. | BN-2015 or attend virtually

Ken Kavanagh, director, N.L. Federation of Co-operatives

*The co-operative way of doing business*

In this presentation, Ken Kavanagh will discuss the nature, structure and attributes of the co-operative model of enterprise. He’ll also talk about the type and number of co-operatives in Newfoundland and Labrador and their economic impact in the Canadian economy.

Dr. Gordon Cooke, professor, Faculty of Business Administration, Memorial University

*Co-operatives: Filling a gap in remote communities*

Put bluntly, location matters. As small, rural communities try to plan for an economically sustainable future, a key challenge is to retain businesses, services and other entities that locals need and visitors value. Using examples from other North Atlantic jurisdictions, Dr. Cook will briefly explore how co-operatives can, and do, play a role by retaining a social purpose, but with an enterprise focus, in communities that are further down the road.

Wendy Reid-Fairhurst, PhD student, Memorial University

*Co-operative or co-operatives: A cohousing journey*

Cohousing and Co-operatives go hand in hand in all ways except money. The ethos of co-operative housing (equal voice, shared ownership, non-market dwellings) are embedded in the participatory, consensus-based, community-led development model of cohousing (imperatively co-operative), yet almost every single cohousing community in Canada, save one, are condominiums with higher-than-market price tags. This, despite an overwhelming vision for inclusion and diversity. Through building an actual cohousing community near St. John’s, that aims to include 30 per cent affordable units, Cohousing NL is currently exploring the barriers to co-operative growth in the province and possible solutions towards innovating the Canadian cohousing movement as a whole.

Daphne Rixon, associate professor, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary’s University

*Measuring SDG performance in co-operatives and credit unions*

The focus of this presentation is on how the Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives is working with co-operatives to develop a set of sustainable development goal (SDG) indicators relevant to the co-operative sector, to create a streamlined process for co-operatives to understand and access SDG impact.

Registration required. Email businessevents@mun.ca.