

# Your Co-op. Your Community. Your Home.



HOUSING CO-OPS TRACE THEIR ROOTS TO THE SEVEN CO-OP PRINCIPLES, SHARED BY ALL CO-OPS AROUND THE WORLD

## The Co-op Movement



The co-op movement started with a group of weavers in England, the Rochdale Pioneers. They were being cheated by their local shopkeeper so decided to pool their resources and open their own store.

Housing co-ops began in much the same way. There was a need for safe, affordable housing, and groups of people got together to plan, develop and eventually move into the housing.



The need continues today. Co-operatives meet the needs of people. Co-operatives exist in every area of the economy.



Co-ops are rooted in communities. They are accountable to their members and the people who use their services, because these same people own the co-op.

Co-ops around the world are involved in work that reflects the co-op principles. These co-ops create social and economic benefits for their members, workers and the community. As members of your housing co-op, you are tied to this incredible global movement.



### Co-op Principles:

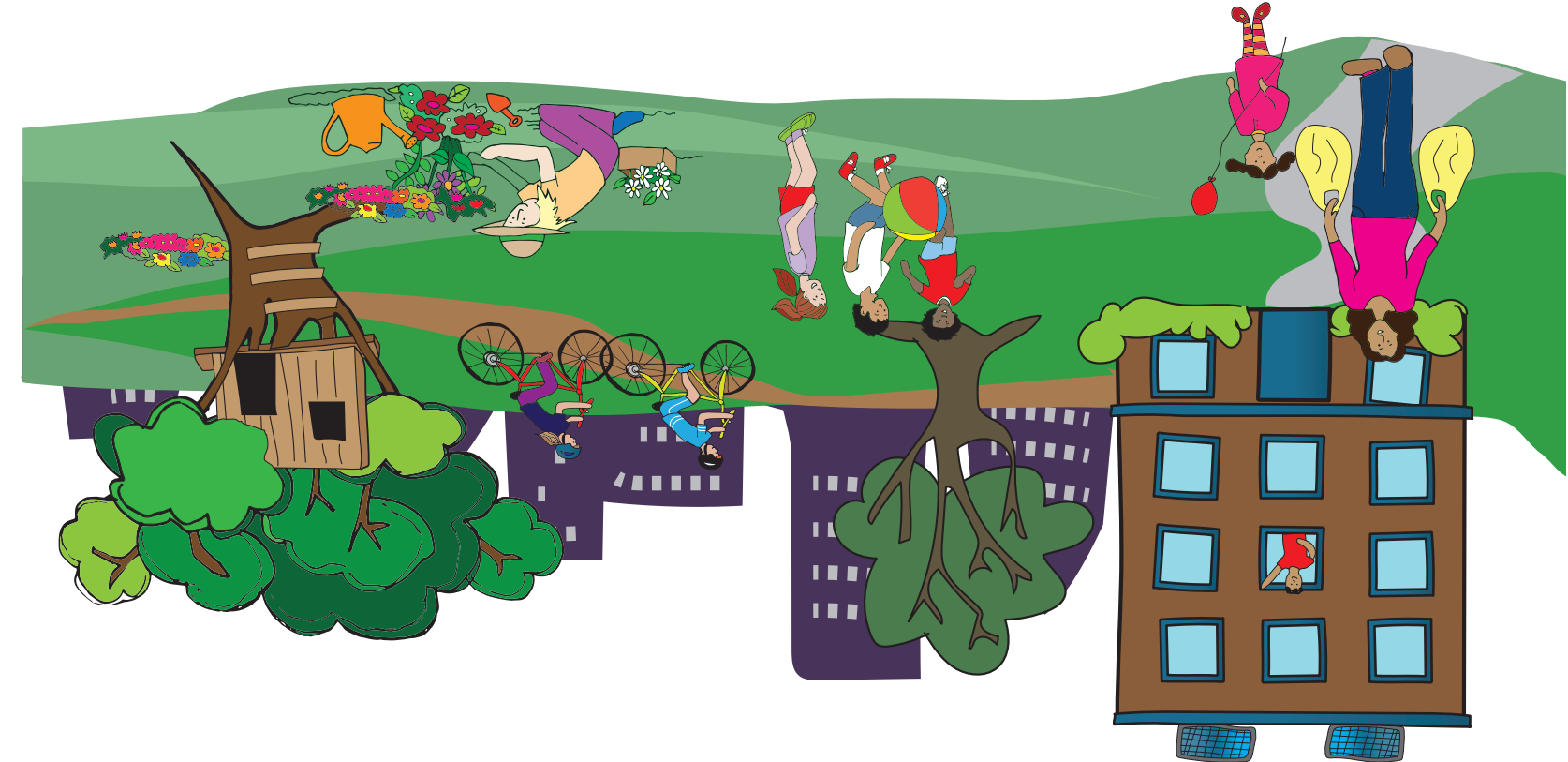
Open membership  
Democratic control

Economic participation  
Independence

Co-operative education  
Co-operation among co-ops

Concern for community

And please feel free to get in touch with CHF Canada staff. You can call or email any of our staff with questions, comments or ideas. We would love to hear from you.



Blueprint for a Co-op Decade  
www.chfcanada.coop  
CHF Canada

If you want to begin your own journey to learn more about co-ops, check out these resources:

Want to learn more?

## Meet Nima. She and her family live in Clear Skies Housing Co-op.



Living in a housing co-op was what Nima needed when she started a new chapter in her life.

LIVING IN CLEAR SKIES HAS HELPED MY FAMILY AND ME TO THRIVE. I HAVE MADE SO MANY CLOSE FRIENDS WHO HAVE HELPED ME WITH CHILDCARE WHILE I ATTEND SCHOOL, AND I FEEL LIKE I HAVE GROWN AS A PERSON TOO. GETTING TO ATTEND LOCAL EDUCATION EVENTS AND BEING ON THE BOARD PROVIDED ME WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS. I'M A PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT HAS GIVEN ME SO MUCH OPPORTUNITY.

Nima's mother, Hiba, loves the feeling of knowing her neighbours. She sits on the co-op's Aging in Place committee, and helped to make the case for installing grab bars in every bathroom.

Her kids, Said and Aisha, have spent most of their childhood living in Clear Skies and love that they always have a big group of friends to play with.

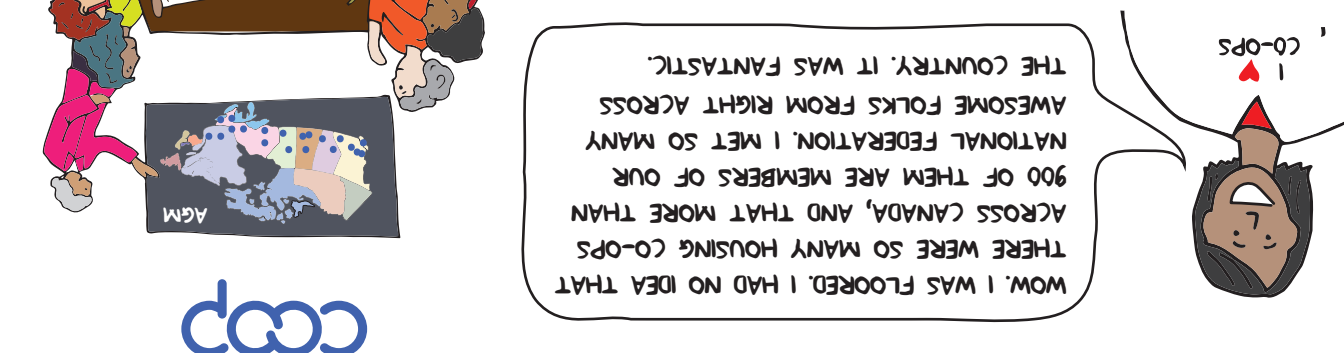


MY FAVOURITE PART ABOUT LIVING HERE IS THAT WE CAN GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY WITH OUR FRIENDS. OUR MOM KNOWS THAT WE ARE CLOSE BY SO SHE DOESN'T WORRY ABOUT US.

It's easy to see why Nima and her family love living in a housing co-op. And it's easy to see why 250,000 Canadians also call co-op housing home. Housing co-ops provide opportunities for everyone who walks through their doors, and will do so for many more years to come.

## Meet Françoise and Jean. They recently discovered their connections to the wonderful world of co-ops.

Both moved in not knowing much about co-op living, but in a short time they have become co-op champions. They wanted to learn all they could about co-ops and contribute to their community. Françoise ran for the board and Jean as a delegate to the CHF Canada and their regional federation. Attending the annual meeting affected them both and made them feel like they were a part of a big co-op family. Bigger than just their housing co-op...

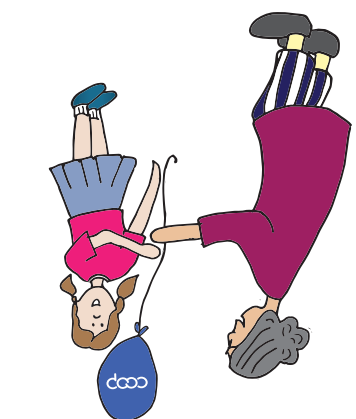


WOW, I WAS FLOORED. I HAD NO IDEA THAT THERE WERE SO MANY HOUSING CO-OPS ACROSS CANADA, AND THAT MORE THAN 900 OF THEM ARE MEMBERS OF OUR NATIONAL FEDERATION. I MET SO MANY AWESOME FOLKS FROM RIGHT ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IT WAS FANTASTIC.

Françoise learned about the co-op marque, the symbol that connects co-ops worldwide. For International Co-op Day in July, they got together with other co-ops in their community and held a picnic to celebrate. Both Françoise and Jean wanted to get to know the other types of co-ops in their community. They started a local co-op network and held a community picnic in July to celebrate International Co-op Day.

Françoise and Jean know one thing for sure: locally, nationally and internationally, co-ops are all about empowering people and communities. They are glad to have found a movement that puts people and communities first!

INTERNATIONAL CO-OP DAY!!



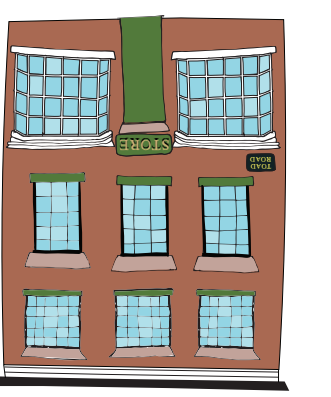
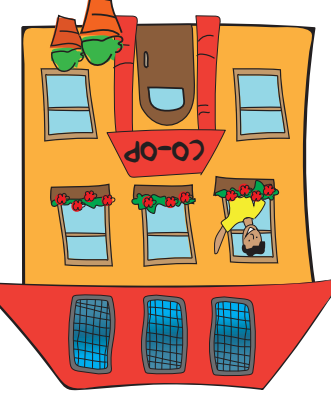
## The International Co-op Movement

Co-operation dates back as far as human beings have been organizing for mutual benefit. Co-operatives today trace their roots to 1844, when the very first co-operative enterprise opened in the small town of Rochdale, England.

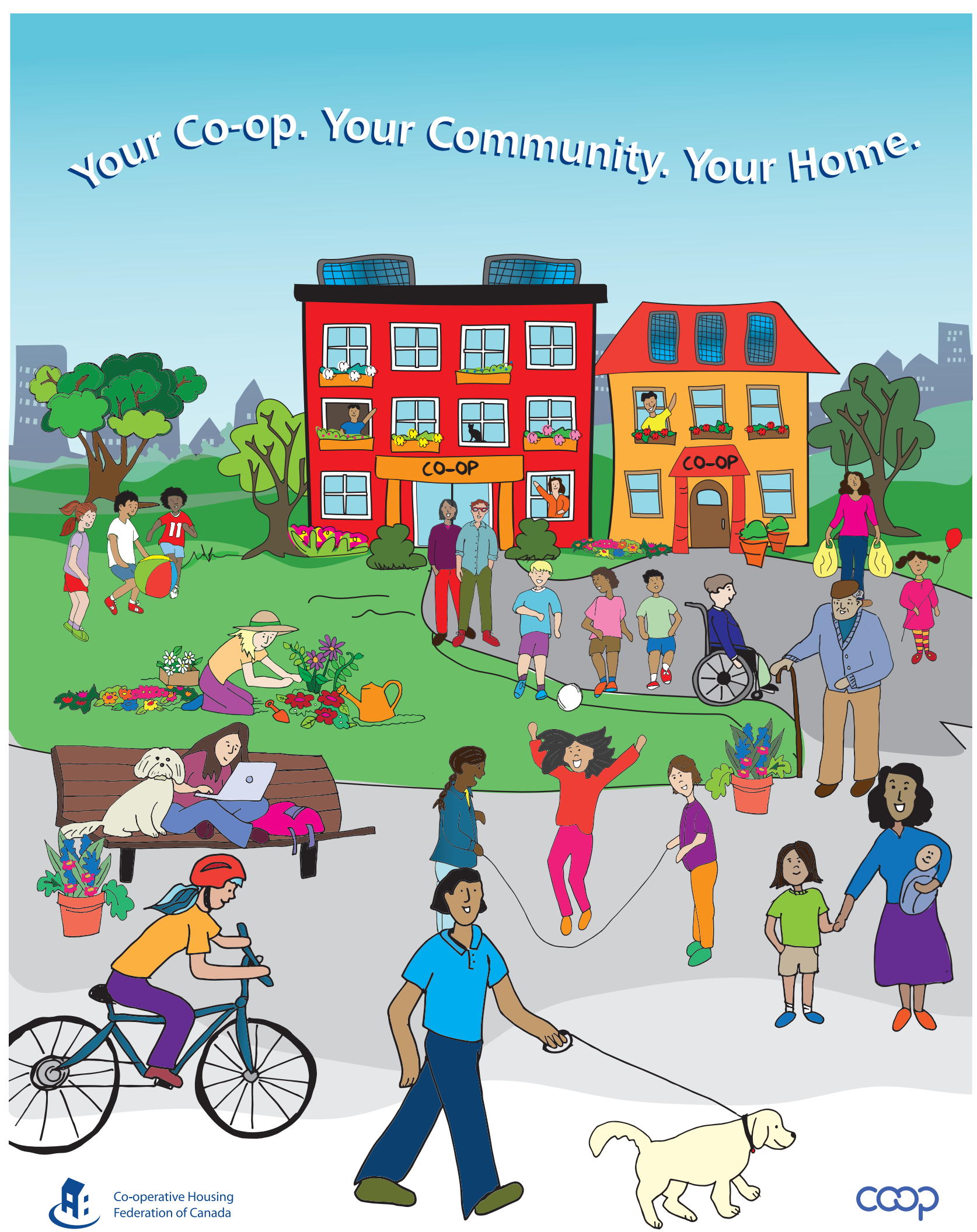
OPEN MEMBERSHIP  
DEMOCRATIC CONTROL  
ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION  
INDEPENDENCE  
CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION  
CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPS  
COMMUNITY

Each housing co-op has a unique story. Just as the people in Rochdale joined forces, groups of people came together in Canada because they saw a need for safe, affordable housing. The early housing co-op developers were mostly young people who were excited by the idea of using the co-op model to meet people's housing needs. With the help of CHF Canada, housing co-ops got off the ground in cities and towns all across the country.

If we think about the reasons why co-ops began – to meet people's needs – it's easy to see why they are needed now more than ever. Co-operatives prove that there is a way of doing business that balances the needs of people and the planet with economic success. As a member of your housing co-op, you can be proud to be connected to this remarkable movement.



The Rochdale Pioneers, as they were known, were being cheated by their local shopkeeper. They decided to pool their resources and open their own shop, providing quality goods at a fair price. To make sure their business didn't fail, they wrote down some key points. These points became the International Co-op Principles, and they set the stage for the co-op movement to really take off.



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