

To support the development of cooperatives in the territories of Quebec; The Regional Development Cooperatives (CDR)

CDR Network remains the reference in the creation, development and performance of cooperatives to contribute to local and regional development through cooperation and that, throughout the province. The network consists of 11 regional development cooperatives, regroup more than 1,200 cooperatives and organizations in Quebec and is run over by more than sixty employees.

Unique resource specialized in cooperative development in Quebec, the CDR offer guidance, support and expertise to entrepreneurs who want to make the creation of a cooperative, the consolidation, reorganization or business succession by cooperatives. Their mandates are to promote the establishment of new cooperatives, the maintenance and the creation of sustainable jobs in the region.

ACTORS INVOLVED

Boards members of CDRs consist of volunteer members from cooperatives and organizations in their territories. Directors are elected by the members.

CDR is supported by the Ministry of Finance and Economy, which is the main backer of the Federation of CDR of Quebec, which aims to support and assist the CDR in achieving their mission and the Quebec Council of Cooperation and Mutual (CQCM), which manages the funds.

HOW THEY WERE IMPLEMENTED

The creation of the network of regional development cooperatives began during the seventy years with the establishment of the Cooperative Council of Ottawa and the Regional Council of inter-Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, between 1974 and 1975. Then, still in the seventies, one Cooperative Development Corporation (SDC) was set up with the aim of ensuring greater participation of the population in economic activity. The main mission of the SDC was to promote the establishment and development of cooperatives.

The first CDR under the cooperative form as we know them today, were born in the eighties while SDC began a State corporation. In 1995, the Quebec government consolidates the network of CDR, recognizes it as a tool for economic development in that area and allowed it the accompaniment for starting new cooperative services. Financial assistance from the Quebec government will take the form of a grant based on the performance and achievements of the CDR or community involvement as well as jobs created or maintained.

Knowledge of the dynamics specific to their local area development, explains the success of CDR in their territories.

Characteristics that favored the development of CDR:

- Complexity and diversity of the dynamics of development in terms of territory and region
- Legal, technical and human features related to cooperative form
- Importance of the process of mobilization and education
- Over 60% of cooperatives are in regional areas
- More than 60% of jobs created by cooperatives are in the regions

IMPACT

CDR Network has more than 1,100 members. With revenues of \$ 6 million aggregated and consolidated assets of \$ 5 million, the network of CDR participated in the establishment of more than 1,200 co-operatives in Quebec. Over time, the network has contributed to the creation and maintenance of more than 16,000 jobs.

In their territories, the CDR;

- Work with various regional and local development resources;
- provide training sessions for directors, partners and cooperators;
- organize promotional events and communication activities;
- provide a presence and visibility of the cooperative sector in various areas in their region;
- develop plans and business strategies, represent their region in the provincial cooperative groups;
- offer assistance to the legal establishment of a cooperative;
- are a consultation and inter-cooperation table for their members;
- inform entrepreneurs;
- value their region through the creation of businesses and sustainable jobs;
- and educate on the values and principles of cooperation in schools.

AUTHORS—COLLABORATORS—SOURCES

Centre RELIESS; www.reliess.org

<http://www.fcdrq.coop/>

