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Title of workshop:	Why the Social Economy is a tool for immigrant settlement, with a focus on worker co-operatives
Format :	Presentation workshop
Theme:	Economic and Labour Market Integration
Co-organizer 1:	Paul Chamberlain
Organization:	Canadian Community Economic Development Network
Presenter 1:	Hazel Corcoran
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Organization:	Canadian Workers Co-op Federation
Title:	Workers Co-op and immigrants – best practices / Les cooératives de travail et les immigrants: les meilleures pratiques
Presenter 2:	Paul Chamberlain
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Organization:	Canadian Community Economic Development Network
Title:	Social Enterprises and Immigrants
Presenter 3:	Isabel Faubert Mailloux (ou délégué)
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Organization:	Réseau de la coopération du travail du Québec
Title:	Les coopératives de travail au Québec et le potentiel dans les communautés culturelles
Presenter 4:	Linh Bui
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Organization:	Centre for Newcomers
Title:	EthniCty Catering- story of an Immigrant Social Enterprise

Abstract

The Social Economy has been conceptualized as a third sector, differing from the public and private sectors and is broadly addressed as an array of organizations with a social mission including nonprofits (including voluntary organizations), mutual associations, co-operatives, community economic development corporations and social purpose businesses. This session will explore what the Social Economy is, with a focus on worker co-operatives, and what the benefits are to immigrants, refugees and cultural communities of the Social Economy. Best practices will be profiled including worker co-ops and social enterprises.

Summary

Québec is known across Canada and internationally as a Province where the Social Economy forms an important economic driver. While it is not as well known a model of entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in other parts of Canada, there are a number of models of Social Economy organizations that employ immigrants, refugees and cultural communities. The workshop will showcase how researchers and practitioners are working together in Quebec and across Canada to support innovations to maximize integration of immigrants, refugees and cultural communities.

The Canadian Worker Co-op Federation recently completed a report on strategies for developing immigrant workers co-ops, which highlights the advantages of worker co-ops as a model for entrepreneurship in keeping with values of mutual self-help and support. The Canadian Community Economic Development Network is mapping and developing profiles of immigrant social enterprises across Canada and identifying conditions for their success. In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of this settlement model, there is also a funding program to support six social enterprises to prepare business plans to scale up their enterprises to increase the number of immigrants involved. Le Réseau de la coopération du travail du Québec assists with the start-up of worker co-ops in Montreal, including in cultural communities. Examples of Social Economy organizations will be featured, notably EthniCity Catering, a social enterprise in Calgary.

The session will be bilingual, part in English and part in French.