

Values & Principles

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How to start a co-op

There are 10 steps to forming a co-operative.

The 10 steps to forming a co-operative happen in 3 stages: Developing the business idea, assessing interest and viability, and start-up.

Develop the co-operative business idea

Step 1: Assemble a group of interested people

- Identify the need the co-op will aim to meet:
 - unavailability or instability of work
 - unavailability of certain products and services
 - poor quality of certain products and services
 - products and services that are overpriced
 - development or expansion of market
 - improved market access for producers through co-operation
 - better working conditions through collective enterprise.
- Identify what professional help is needed to launch the business:
 - co-operative developer
 - experts advisors on feasibility study and business plan

Programs

Co-op Development

Canadian Co-operative Investment Fund (CCIF)

[How to start a co-op](#)

Incorporating your co-op

Regional Co-operative Development Links

Co-op Development Funds Inventory Report

International Co-operative Development

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- financial consultant
- accounting consultant, legal consultant, marketing consultant, others.

[Find a co-op advisor](#)
[Tools to help you](#)

Step 2: Conduct a pre-feasibility study

Co-ordinate the pre co-operative's activities

Step 3: Hold an organizing meeting

Step 4: Conduct a viability study

Organize and start up the co-operative

Step 5: Organize the association

Step 6: Plan the operation of the enterprise

Step 7: Plan and organize the enterprise's start-up financing

Step 8: Attend to all legal aspects of the enterprise's operations

Step 9: Recruit and train the enterprise's staff

Step 10: Hold the first general meeting

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