



## Lisa Furfaro, Youth Program Co-ordinator

Lisa Furfaro is a co-operative young leader! Having worked in the sector since 2014, she stumbled upon the Co-operative Young Leaders (CYL) program and participated as a facilitator in 2016, effectively changing her life. If you have met Lisa it is evident that her passion for co-ops is palpable, as she is drawn to the principles and values, which at their very foundation, offer a world full of hope, equity, equality and compassion for all living things. She is excited to be a part of OCA where she can contribute to the world-changing mission of growing the co-operative sector.

Lisa joined OCA in 2017 when she came on board to co-ordinate all aspects of the CYL program in its 50th year! In 2017, CYL lead over 100 high school aged youth, from as North as Thunder Bay and as South as Kingsville, to develop their leadership style and learn about the co-operative principles through experiential learning and team building activities. In addition to CYL, Lisa helped develop and deliver our newest youth program, Base Camp, which introduces 12 and 13-year-old youth to co-operatives, leadership, and the CYL program. In late 2017, she was successful in obtaining the Libro Prosperity Grant for 2017-2018, which will allow her and OCA to develop CYL Start-up, a co-op incubator program that will mentor and guide youth, ages 16-25 to research and develop a co-operative business plan. In addition, she is contracted with OCA as an All 4 Each trainer to deliver the award-winning program which connects co-ops and credit unions with classrooms. As a trainer, Lisa will be sharing the co-operative movement with classrooms all over the province to continue to develop “word of mouth” marketers and raise awareness of the co-operative alternative.

Lisa doesn't stop there. She fell in love with the co-op model and committed to making the sector home. She is currently a student at Saint Mary's University in the Masters of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions program, where she works with like-minded co-operative leaders toward building a co-operative economy. In her spare time, she plays ultimate frisbee, is a very amateur rock climber, and likes to write children's books. She had a homemade pasta business once upon a time, but learnt that capitalism can burn you out and there is a better way.

Ontario Co-operative Association  
30 Douglas Street Guelph, ON N1H 2S9  
519.763.8271 ext. 25  
lfurfaro@ontario.coop