

Co-operative Internship & Experience Program

Program Objectives:

- i. Help young people who have completed a post-secondary diploma, but who lack work experience to make a successful transition into the workforce.
- ii. Provide human resources, support, and other various skills to complete projects as defined by the host organizations.
- iii. Expose youth to the operations, management, and principles of business – with emphasis on co-operative business - and encourage the exploration of career opportunities in the co-operative sectors.

Benefits to the Interns:

- *Career Options* – The intern has access to discover new and interesting career opportunities available in the co-operative sector.
- *Awareness and Education* – The intern learns about co-operative values and principles and gains exposure to various types of co-op organizations.
- *Skill Enhancement* – This program develops professional skills that are crucial in today's job market and essential for making a difference in a community.
- *Network Development* – Interaction allows the intern to build a valuable network of potential future employers and colleagues involved in the co-operative industry.

Program Activities:

- i. Career-focused internships established within the co-operative and credit union sector

Anticipated Results:

- The internships offer youth a chance to gain real world experience in the co-operative sector
- Internships would present co-operatives as a viable career option for the intern, while enhancing their career skills for acquiring long term employment
- Participants will be able to recognize and apply the acquired transferable skills to new career opportunities

- ii. Life Skills Enhancement Series

Anticipated Results:

- Youth will acquire the knowledge and work experience that will allow them to compete in the competitive, knowledge-based economy and to make a successful transition into the labor force
- Programs and resources available to assist youth in life skills development and enhancement – reflective of their action plan
- Establish industry contacts and expand realm of participants network

Process:

Conduct innovative and creative life skills enhancement series focusing on:

1. Introduction to co-operatives and the co-operative business model
2. Self awareness & goal setting
3. Multi-tasking & time management
4. Leadership & teamwork
5. Change and transition management
6. Communication
7. Conflict Resolution and decision making