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CoopZone Announces New Executive Director

CoopZone, a bilingual national network of co-operative developers, is pleased to announce the selection of Benjamin Prunty as its new Executive Director. Benjamin will be replacing Hazel Corcoran, who has resigned from CoopZone to focus on her continuing role as Executive Director of the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation. The Board has accepted with regret Hazel's resignation. She has provided invaluable leadership to CoopZone since its founding in 2009, and the Board extends heartfelt thanks to her for that leadership.

CoopZone has in place a new, ambitious Strategic Plan which the new Executive Director is tasked with mobilizing.

"We are very pleased to announce this appointment," stated Pascal Billard, CoopZone Board President. "Le dynamisme et la passion de Ben pour les coopératives vont donner un nouvel élan à CoopZone. Il pourra compter sur l'appui de tout le conseil d'administration pour mettre en place le nouveau plan stratégique. Nous lui souhaitons bienvenue et bon succès! // "Ben's dynamism and passion for cooperatives will bring new energy to CoopZone. He will be able to count on the support of the entire board of directors to implement the new strategic plan. We welcome him and wish him all the best!"

Benjamin, who lives in Montreal, has been a member of CoopZone for the past two years along with serving on the CoopZone board for nearly as long. Benjamin's background includes experience in a wide variety of roles both within Co-operatives and working with Co-operatives. His skills include project coordination, board recruitment, fundraising and event/community organizing. Benjamin has an extensive network of contacts in the Quebec social economy which will prove to be invaluable in his work with CoopZone. Past President of the Concordia Student Union, he spearheaded, alongside two collective members, the two highly successful Conferences, "Transform Montreal: Disrupt and Democratize the Economy", and was a leader in the development of various co-operatives including the Hive Café Co-operative.

"This is an exciting time for the Canadian co-operative movement, and with ambitious plans for growth set out in our new Strategic Plans it's an exciting time to be joining the CoopZone Developers' Network!" noted Benjamin. "I am humbled by the board's confidence, and thrilled to work with and for such a talented membership as we continue building the foundations of lasting benefits for our communities, and all Canadian communities for generations to come."

We look forward to growing and strengthening CoopZone under Benjamin's leadership. Note that CWCF and CoopZone will continue to work together as CoopZone grows with its bold new strategic plan.

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