

## Board Election and Candidate Statements, Sept. 2016

There are three three-year seats up for election at the upcoming AGM on the CoopZone Board of Directors: for BC, Atlantic and At-large, plus one two-year position for the Prairies. The Prairies position is available because the incumbent, Erwan Bouchaud, has announced his resignation. Nominations are open until just prior to the vote at the AGM. If you or your organization is a CoopZone member and you are interested in running, or would like to nominate another person, please contact Nominating Committee members Erwan Bouchaud <[erwan@manitoba.coop](mailto:erwan@manitoba.coop)>, Peter Cameron <[pcameron@ontario.coop](mailto:pcameron@ontario.coop)>, Ethel Côté <[ethelcote@bell.net](mailto:ethelcote@bell.net)> and/or Hazel Corcoran <[hazel@canadianworker.coop](mailto:hazel@canadianworker.coop)>.

Candidate statements are enclosed:

- 1) BC: Jill Kelly
- 2) Atlantic: Peter Hough
- 3) Prairies (2-year position): Billy Granger
- 4) At-large: Ted Hyland and Ben Prunty

### **1) BC: Jill Kelly (Vancouver, BC)**

I am currently Treasurer of CoopZone. I have served three years on the board, and my membership category in CoopZone is “Professional Service Provider”. I am currently the only accountant among the membership, but I hope that category will grow.

In retirement, I work part-time for The Agency for Co-op Housing. Prior to that, I was General Manager of CCEC Credit Union for 24 years.

My co-operative experience includes the credit union sector, as well as with a food co-op, a worker co-op, and housing co-ops (as both a member and a developer). I have prepared incorporation documents for various co-ops and the initial charter for CCEC Credit Union, and I am particularly interested in co-operative governance. In the past, I was a certified instructor with the Co-op Housing Federation of Canada.

Over my career, I have served on a number of boards, both in British Columbia and nationally.

I am passionate about co-ops, and I look forward to continuing to contribute to Co-op Zone.

### **2) Atlantic: Peter Hough (Kentville, NS)**

Summary: I have 30 years of experience as a member, manager, and/or director of worker and consumer co-operatives. In addition I have assisted with many co-operative start-ups, developing bylaws, conducting training programs, completing feasibility studies and business plans as well as providing post start-up mentoring. I am a director of the Canadian Co-operative Investment Fund which will invest in co-operative in all regions of Canada and a director of Sustainability Solutions Group Worker Co-op. I was the Co-Director (community partner 2011-15) for the Atlantic Cluster – Measuring the Co-

operative Difference Research Network, a Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada led CURA. I was the lead developer and founding Course Director of the CoopZone Co-op Development online training programs, the Financial Officer of the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation, and the Fund Manager of “Tenacity Works” the CWCF’s revolving loan fund. The Fund invests in new start-ups, expansions of existing co-ops and in conversions/successions.

#### Skills and Experience

- Financial management
- Communications skills - written, oral, presentations, proposal development
- Strategic analysis and planning
- Supervisory skills
- Research and report/paper writing
- Teaching/training experience
- Management of primary and second tier co-operatives
- Co-operative governance skill and experience
- Networking locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- Fund raising with co-operatives and government
- Promotion of the co-operative option to diverse audiences
- Technical Co-operant for CCA in Mongolia and China

#### **3) Prairies: Billy Granger (Winnipeg, MB)**

Billy Granger is a business consultant and co-op developer with Supporting Employment and Economic Development (SEED) Winnipeg Inc. Billy has assisted entrepreneurs from a wide variety of ownership structures through every stage of business development, including (but not limited to): training, business planning, accessing financing, planning for expansion, improving business systems and troubleshooting. Billy is the past president and co-founder of Vasa Co-op, which was a worker-owned company that provided above-scale wages for unemployed or underemployed newcomers to manufacture high-quality, environmentally-friendly clothing and textile products. Billy has completed the Advanced Co-operative Development training through Co-op Zone as well as additional training from Devco. Billy is also an active member of the Manitoba Cooperative Promotions Board and has provided guest lectures on cooperatives at the University of Winnipeg. Billy attended the University of Winnipeg.

#### **4) A) At-large: Ted Hyland (Toronto, ON)**

Ted Hyland is a lawyer practicing in Toronto at the firm of Iler Campbell LLP. His main areas of practice include advising non-profits and charities on governance and regulatory matters, preparing and reviewing contracts, commercial leasing and commercial real estate transactions, employment-related matters and condominium development.

Prior to studying law, he completed graduate studies in philosophy and theology in Toronto, Chicago and Paris. In addition to currently serving on the board of CoopZone, he is a member of the Investment Committee of the Catherine Donnelly Foundation, a member of the advisory board of the Canadian Alternative Investment Co-operative

(CAIC) and participates in the Regulatory Affairs Committee of the Ontario Co-operative Association.

**4) B) At-large: Ben Prunty (Montreal, QC)**

Thank you for taking the time to consider my candidacy. CoopZone is an important network for the democratisation of the Canadian economy. For context, I have co-founded multiple new economy organisations (a nonprofit, cooperatives, and a mobilisation collective called Transform Montreal) and I have experience on multiple levels of decision-making and movement building, from being a governor and senator for Concordia University for two years, a student union president and executive for over two years, and grass roots organiser for many years. My work is predominantly in mobilising communities around concrete, realisable, ambitious projects. The projects I work on are strategic in nature, and are intended to have wider reaching political consequences that help nudge decision-makers to provide additional resources towards the democratisation of the economy. My latest project is one geared towards mobilising the Montreal communities towards creating new Park Slope Food Cooperatives (local equivalents) in every borough (if you do not know the Park Slope model, I highly encourage you to research it). The idea is to think extremely ambitiously to bring in as many people as possible, because, simply put, we can do it if we persist, focus, and continue to work together. However, without a mass movement approach we won't gain ground on unfettered capitalism (see: UBER, AirBnB, WeWork, etc. for examples). My theory is that we have an opportunity right now, in the burgeoning information and mass communication age, to redirect the labour of large swaths of new generations towards cooperative models of work and exchange, but only if we work to provide and communicate opportunities. This requires new approaches, within a collaborative mindset, and a high degree of focus and organisation. These are the experiences, and the mentality, that I would bring to the CoopZone board, if elected. Again, thank you for taking the time to consider my candidacy, it would be a pleasure to work with the CoopZone board to help build a Canadian cooperative movement that will both learn from, and inspire the world.