

- **Report to the CoopZone 2016 AGM from the CoopZone Legal Network**

The CoopZone Legal Network, started in 2012, is a network of lawyers and organizations which work with co-ops on legal matters, or who have interest in the legal aspect of co-ops.

Its steering committee is made up of 4 members: three lawyers: Lauren Blumas (Toronto), George Brown (Ottawa), and Mary Childs (Vancouver), plus David Daughton (of the Community Legal Information Association of PEI). Other Legal Network members with interest are invited to apply to join the Steering Committee. Hazel Corcoran provides staff support.

The website has a section for posting of legal resources, which was relaunched in the past year as part of the overall web site revision. CoopZone is always seeking additional legal resources to post on the site.

The members also have a Legal Network listserv which allows them to communicate with each other, and can also participate in the all-member listserv which has more activity.

There have been webinars on legal topics that have been well received. Recent topics offered by Legal Network members have included: “Investment Shares in Co-ops” (Laird Hunter and Brian Iler), and “Questions on Worker Co-op Law” – co-hosted with CWCF (Brian Iler). Notes and/or PowerPoints from these webinars as well as the many prior ones are available on the web site, here: <http://www.coopzone.coop/tag/webinar-reports-from-the-cz-legal-network/>.

In the fall of 2015, we shared with the Legal Network a survey from Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) on the level of satisfaction with the Canada Cooperatives Act.

We shared with the Legal Network information on the 1st International Forum on Co-operative Law, being hosted by the Co-operative Law Committee (CLC) of the International Co-operative Alliance on November 16-18, 2016 in Montevideo, Uruguay. (Interpretation in English and Spanish will be provided.) We understand that at least two and possibly three CZ Legal Network members will attend. More information about these events can be found here: <http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/events/CLC-ForumCoopLaw-Nov16-Call.pdf>. The Forum on co-operative law is being held in the context of the Summit of Co-operatives of the Americas.

The CoopZone Legal Network includes 17 members (organizational or individual) representing 35 individuals. Members include lawyers in private practice, as well as those who work as corporate counsel in co-ops, and one Community Legal Information Association. On the CoopZone site, one can find a brochure about the Legal Network as well as an application form, at this link: <http://www.coopzone.coop/legal-network/>. The resources and the lists of members are available in drop-down menus below this. If you are aware of other lawyers or legal education and information professionals who may have interest in the Legal Network, please encourage them to join. Co-ops seeking a lawyer are encouraged to work with one of the members of the CoopZone Legal Network.