





Open Sky Co-operative Ltd.

...providing residential, educational and vocational supports to adults who experience barriers due to social disabilities like autism, and mental health challenges.



We chose the co-operative model so that we could demonstrate:

- ▶ How to be more inclusive of people who don't generally 'fit in' well with Canadian society
 - ▶ How to create an organization that is financially viable, yet also meets interests and values of the community
 - ▶ How to contribute to a less competitive community, and have a better overall local economy
 - ▶ How to live justly with the environment, for long term sustainability and health
 - ▶ How we can support and heal our world, by being in better relationship with the land, the community and with each other.
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As a co-operative of staff, participants, volunteers and community, we all are invited to demonstrate leadership, make decisions and contribute as we are able.



The experience of working together, with plants and animals on an organic farm, builds social connections, healthy lifestyles, and basic skills for resilience, balance and employment.



Animals are non-judgmental – working them builds empathy, self-assurance, and also provides a therapeutic benefit.



Harvesting, cooking and eating the foods that we grow, is empowering, meaningful and also tastes good!



Learning leisure and recreational skills in challenging environments, can be empowering and life-changing.



Living in residence together, builds social connections and independent living skills.



Creating employment and businesses that fit the worker (rather than trying to change the worker to fit the job) is possible with the co-operative business model.



...and people from the community often drop in for a visit!



Also, our participants provide leadership in visioning and governance, as elected members of our Board of Directors.

(this is a picture of everyone at our Annual General Meeting, June 2016)



Daily, we demonstrate co-operative values:
**self-help, self- responsibility, democracy, equality,
equity and solidarity.**



How we see Co-op Principles compare with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Co-op Principles

- ▶ Voluntary membership
- ▶ Democratic member control
- ▶ Member economic participation
- ▶ Autonomy and independence
- ▶ Education, training, information
- ▶ Co-operation among co-operatives
- ▶ Concern for community

UNSDG's

- ▶ 1 – no poverty
- ▶ 3 – good health and wellbeing
- ▶ 4 – quality education
- ▶ 5, 10 – reduced inequalities
- ▶ 8 – decent work
- ▶ 12, 13, 15 – healthy environment
- ▶ 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions
- ▶ 17 – partnerships!!!!