



# Values and Principles

## Our values

We endorse and adopt the values enshrined in the International Co-operative Alliance's Statement on the Co-operative Identity:

- Self-help;
- Self-responsibility;
- Democracy;
- Equality;
- Equity;
- Solidarity;
- Honesty;
- Openness;
- Social responsibility;
- Caring for others.

## Our principles

We endorse and adopt the seven principles enshrined in the International Co-operative Alliance's Statement on the Co-operative Identity, adapting them to our unique situation as follows.

### Voluntary and Open Membership

The Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative is a voluntary organization, open to all persons able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

### Democratic Member Control

The Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative is a democratic organization controlled by its members, who actively participate in setting its policies and making decisions. Elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

### Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative. That capital is our common property. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, we will use all surpluses for further developing the cooperative, for setting up reserves against future needs, and for supporting other community projects as our members see fit.

### Autonomy and Independence

The Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative is an independent self-help organization controlled by its members. If we enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, we will do so on terms that ensure democratic control by our members, maintain our cooperative autonomy, and do not compromise our vision, values, or principles.

## **Education, Training and Information**

The Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative provides education and training for all of its members, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of the cooperative and to the general well-being of the surrounding community. We inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

We believe that shared knowledge and skills are the lifeblood of the local food economy, and we actively create opportunities for people to exchange knowledge and skills. We engage people of all ages and all backgrounds, and we work to preserve traditional knowledge and skills and help pass them from elders to younger members of the community.

## **Cooperation among Cooperatives**

The Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative serves its members most effectively and strengthens the cooperative movement by working together with other cooperatives through local, national, regional and international structures.

## **Concern for Community and Environment**

We work for the sustainable development of our community through policies approved by our members. We work within the framework of the triple bottom line, seeking at all times to produce economic, environmental, and social benefits without sacrificing any one of these.

## **We also adopt the following principles...**

### **Individual Self-empowerment**

The Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative is committed to increasing its members' ability to provide for themselves and for their families, friends, and neighbourhoods. We believe in giving our members opportunities to educate themselves, to mentor and be mentored, to have hands-on experience producing, preserving, and preparing food. We encourage our members to create and manage projects which will give them experience in small business creation. And we actively help our members acquire the skills and confidence to assume positions of responsibility in the cooperative.

### **Community Self-reliance**

The Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative works towards the development of a strong local food economy, by encouraging the production of new crops and value-added processing, by helping to build a network of sharing and mutual trading, by supporting markets for existing goods and services and creating markets for new ones.

### **Fairness and transparency**

We believe that people can and should share power fairly and responsibly. We spread decision-making powers as widely as possible, using term limits and other policies which will give all of our members the opportunity to hold positions of responsibility. We let everyone know what we are doing by freely publishing information on our goals and projects, using plain language.