

Co-op development: Questions for co-op developers

1. What is your title and responsibilities, and how long have you been with the _____? What led you to this position?
2. Why do you think that people start co-ops?
3. If I say the phrase 'co-operative development,' what does that mean to you?
4. What are the characteristics of those people who become leaders in creating co-ops?
5. What are the characteristics of a community that is trying to start a co-op? (Can you tell if a group has what it takes to get a co-op off the ground, when you meet them? What do you look for?)
6. Why do some co-ops thrive, and some don't? What are the characteristics of a co-op that stays in operation over the long term?
7. To what degree is there a political aspect to co-op development? (Are there any political challenges that need to be overcome in order for a coop to develop? What are some major ones and how are they overcome? What makes it difficult for a group to overcome these political challenges?)
8. Tell me about your model and approach to co-op development. (probing questions: what does a typical week or month look like for you? How do you develop co-op leads? Where and how do you spend your energy, and what kinds of activities do you think effects the most result?)
9. Is there a difference in how co-op development looks or works in rural communities versus Aboriginal communities? What advice do you have? What tactics or approaches have worked better, and what would you like to see done differently?
10. Who do you look to for advice around co-op development tactics or ideas? (Have you had the opportunity to explore alternative methods of co-op development, or study co-op development practices from around the world? Would such a thing be useful to you?)
11. What changes have you noticed over the last few years in co-op development?
12. What do you think the future holds? What will co-op development look like in the coming years? Why?