



COCO's Mission

COCO's mission is to promote social justice, active citizenship, democracy, and just socio-economic development by supporting the development of healthy organizations and strong communities.

Toward this end, COCo is a provincial, non-profit organization that works primarily with English-speaking, bilingual, and ethnocultural organizations to develop **organizational health** and promote **community sector development** through: organizational development and leadership training, information dissemination, social analysis, research, and by strengthening links between organizations and sectors.

Model, Approach and Values

The COCo model:

- We are a nonprofit organization (living the same realities as the organizations we work with).
- We have two closely linked focus areas: i) organizational health and development; and ii) community sector development.
- We have a multi-service approach to supporting organizations. (e.g.: training, e-Bulletin, Resource Centre, events, learning circles, etc.) See "Other ways COCo Supports Organizations" section below.
- We engage trainers / facilitators with diverse expertise and experience in the nonprofit sector.
- We work with a knowledgeable and respected Board of Directors and Advisory Committee.
- We provide training on a sliding scale fee structure.

The COCo Approach and Values:

COCO works for social change using a made-to-measure, participatory, popular education approach that focuses on both process and outcomes and that is driven by the following **values**:

- Long-term health of nonprofit organizations and communities
- Accessibility and support that is appropriate to the needs of community groups
- Active involvement of citizens participating in the development of their organizations and communities
- Questioning, reflecting and acting
- Developing relationships built on trust, confidentiality, transparency and mutual respect
- Understanding the context of the world around us
- Creativity, experimentation, and fun
- Co-operation and exchange of skills and experiences

In working with organizations, we strive to live these values.

Our Training Work

Organizations often request the support of COCo's facilitators in areas such as evaluation, conflict management, fundraising, board development, and strategic planning among many others. Since its inception in January 2000, COCo has provided made-to-measure training, facilitation, or coaching to over 150 different organizations in Montreal and throughout the province. Training support can range from one 3-hour session to several sessions over several months depending on the expressed need of the organization.

In particular, COCo supports community organizations that are committed to working toward strong, healthy, and just communities. We encourage the sustainability of organizations and communities through the development of autonomy and collaboration. Participation, reflection, diversity, and creativity are promoted to build appropriately on the assets of participants and their organizations. Fees are based on the organization's ability to contribute to its own development (i.e.: a sliding scale).

COCo also organizes various other events and research initiatives like Community Forums, Coffee with COCo exchanges, learning circles, and the Community Organization Survey. To see a listing of COCo's activities, go to COCo's Programming page.

Other Ways COCo Supports Organizations

- Free phone consultation for information or referral: (514) 849-5599
- A toll-free line for all regions of Quebec: (866)-552-2626
- Free access to our Lanie Melamed Resource Centre's books and videos on community development and organizational development
- Online access to COCo's website and Toolbox
- Free subscription to our email Community e-Bulletin received by over 1 000 community staff, board and volunteers throughout Quebec.
- The possibility to participate in inter-sectoral or inter-regional events.