

Manitoba Cooperative Awards 2026 Nomination Instructions

Nominations are invited for the Manitoba Cooperative Awards Program to honour individuals and organizations in Manitoba that have made an outstanding contribution to cooperatives and credit unions. The Awards will be presented during National Co-op Week in October 2026.

Manitoba Cooperative Award Categories

1. Distinguished Cooperator Award
2. Cooperative Merit Award
3. Cooperative Achievement Award
4. Youth Leadership Award

Distinguished Cooperator Award

This award recognizes and honours Manitobans who have made significant contributions to the development and success of the cooperative community through long, varied and meritorious services in volunteer, elected or employed positions within cooperatives and credit unions. ***This individual will have contributed to a variety of co-ops, including co-ops on the local, regional and national level.***

Current, former & retired employees, elected officials, volunteers and members of cooperatives and credit unions are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived in Manitoba and contributed to cooperatives and credit unions.

Cooperative Merit Award

This award recognizes and honours Manitobans who have made significant contributions to the development and success of a cooperative through service in volunteer, elected or employed positions within a single cooperative or credit union. ***The contributions of this individual to their local co-op have been instrumental to enabling their co-op to grow and thrive.***

Current, former & retired employees, members, elected officials, volunteers and others who have supported the cooperative or credit union are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived in Manitoba.

Cooperative Achievement Award

To recognize and honour cooperative organizations in Manitoba that have implemented projects and ventures that embody the cooperative values and principles and that benefit cooperative members and their communities. The achievement must be apparent within the last 10 years and have already demonstrated recognizable benefits to the members and community.

Cooperative and credit unions are eligible for nomination but must be operating in Manitoba.

Youth Leadership Award

The award recognizes significant contribution by young people, aged 35 and under, in cooperative endeavours. This award may also recognize the commitment and achievements of individuals or organizations in mentoring youth and supporting their successes as young cooperative leaders.

Individuals, both youth and adults, and organizations are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived/operated in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Cooperative Awards is a program of the Manitoba Cooperative Association.

Nomination and Selection

Manitoba Cooperative Award winners are selected based on the information provided on the nomination form. Nominations should include clear and comprehensive information and appropriate details according to the nomination category. Applications may be rejected if the nomination process is not followed as outlined in the nomination form.

Award recipients will be selected by a Selections Committee representing the Manitoba Cooperative Association. Nominations of individuals are scored by the selections committee based on the information provided. Please take note of the weighting of the scoring and complete the nomination accordingly. All nominators will be notified by letter when award recipients have been selected. The names of unsuccessful nominations will be kept confidential.

Additional Information

1. Any registered Manitoba cooperative or credit union may submit a nomination for a Manitoba Cooperative Award. An authorized officer of the nominating co-op or credit union must sign the nomination form to affirm support for the nomination and the information contained in the form.
2. The nominee, or an official of a nominated cooperative, must sign the nomination form to give consent and to let their name stand for nomination.
3. **For individual nominations, please submit a high resolution photograph of the nominee with the completed nomination package.** This photograph will be used in the Awards Banquet Program if the nomination is successful. Successful organization nominations will be required to submit a high resolution electronic version of their logo for inclusion in the Awards Banquet Program.
4. It is the responsibility of the nominator to work in association with the nominee to ensure that the information is complete and provides the details needed for a committee of strangers to evaluate the contributions. For example, when completing the nomination form general statements such as “spent many years on the board” or “made many contributions” say little of value. Instead, provide more detailed and measurable information, such as “served on the board of Co-op X for 10 years, 2 as secretary and 6 as president” or “proposed and led the successful negotiations to amalgamate Co-ops X, Y and Z. Within 5 years their combined membership increased from 650 to 1100, and annual sales from \$1.5 million to \$4.6 million.” **As much as possible, please separate events and achievements, and please use bullet points instead of lengthy narrative.**
5. Nominators may forward more than one nomination in any given year, provided that each nomination relates to a different individual or project.
6. To be eligible to receive an award for the current year, a completed nomination form must be submitted during that year. Nominations from previous years are eligible for resubmission on the following years nomination form.

The deadline for receipt of completed nomination forms is May 31, 2026. Mail or email (with scanned signatures) the nomination to:

**Manitoba Cooperative Association
PO Box 244
RPO 971 Corydon Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3M 3S7
info@manitoba.coop**

For further information or to receive additional nomination forms, please contact the Manitoba Cooperative Association at the email address listed above or by phone at (204) 989-5930.