



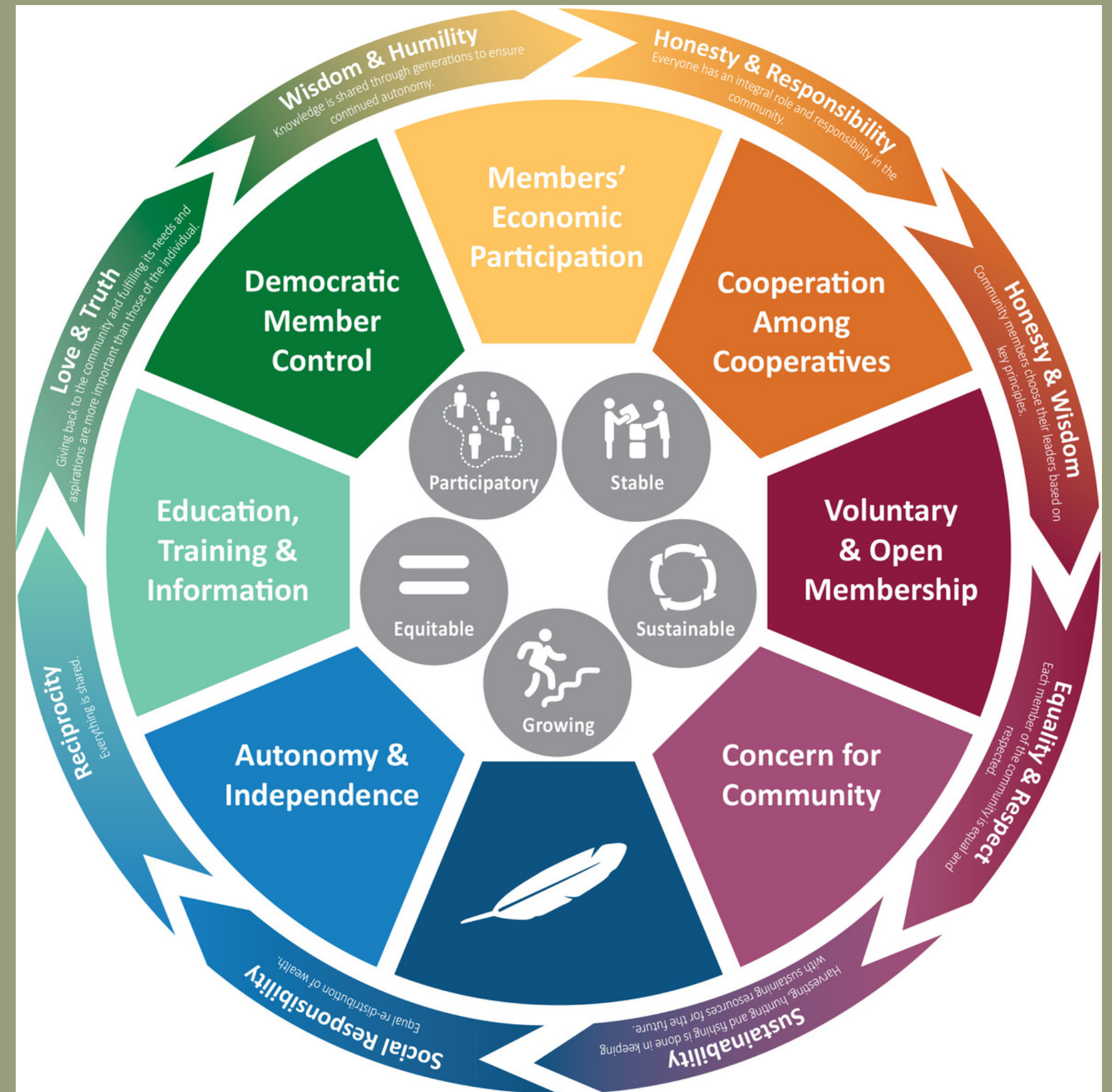
BEGINNING THE COOPERATIVE JOURNEY TOGETHER:

A GUIDE TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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Our cooperative journey became a celebration and recognition of what we carry in our DNA - "the practice of trade and exchange," and how it is engraved in our Indigenous Languages, and in our long history of cooperative and collective ownership that practices shared economic participation.

The cooperative business model is malleable and has the potential to align with the principles, practices, and values among Native and First People communities.



SHARED VALUES: Indigenous Peoples and Cooperatives.
Image adapted from *Cooperatives First* and *NCBA CLUSA*

Woniya icağa kiŋ: Lifeways

To begin a cooperative journey together



Mniyayapi: Water Routes



Wičo Itañčapí: Steering Committee

Odewayatapi: Pre-feasibility Research



 **Tokatakiya: The Future**

Woečunŋ Kağa kiŋ:
Business Development

Očeti Šakonwí: Incorporation

Wo-okiničiyapi:
Cooperative Association



Key Notes

Mniyayapi: Water Routes

Prior to colonization the Dakota people successfully utilized their knowledge of their ancient waterways to commence trade and commerce of their goods and services with other Indigenous nations on Turtle Island and eventually with French and British fur traders.

Wičo Itañčapi: Steering Committee

The guiding voice of leadership in directing what waterway-route to consider that is the most efficient for future economic, trade and business endeavors.

Odewayatapi: Pre-feasibility Research

Actively searching out strengths and weaknesses inherent in the cooperative project such as debt and equity.

Tokatakiya: The Future

We pause here and ask, “Will this decision preserve the inherent cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, social, political, and economic way of life for the generations yet to come?”

Očeti Šakonwí: Incorporation

The Dakota political, social, economic, and spiritual nationhood depended on the creation of Seven Council Fires, that burned in constant reminder of the obligation to one another, with language being the integral connection to the elements that sustained them throughout time, thus inheriting and developing complex business practices.

Bdote: Confluence

Creation and creativity began here with equal amounts of spiritual understanding that gave birth to a nation of water and life cannot exist without it, just as a cooperative idea cannot come to life without first adhering to principles rooted in cultural-based business practices of trade and commerce.

Wowakanj: Dakota Values

Woinina: Listening

Wowičake: Honesty

Woksape: Wisdom

Wowaditake: Courage

Wowauñšida: Compassion

Wowoñbada: Humility

Oğañwašte: Generosity

Creating by-laws with an Indigenous value-based infrastructure as a training component and incentive for members who are in the process of decolonization, with equity being the thought and praxis behind fair business practices, communication and fundraising strategies.

Wiñpiya: Fundraising

In some tribes, a blanket is laid down during a community event, ceremony or pow-wow. This blanket may represent a family in need or travel money for relatives who traveled a long distance to witness an event. Money is placed on the blanket from anyone who wishes to donate. Our elders told us, the more you give, the more blessings you will receive in return. This tradition transcends conventional methods of corporate fundraising, but the teaching of giving is the same. Framing this tradition to fit into a cooperative business structure is essential to culturally restoring our Indigenous tradition and practice of gift giving and fundraising.

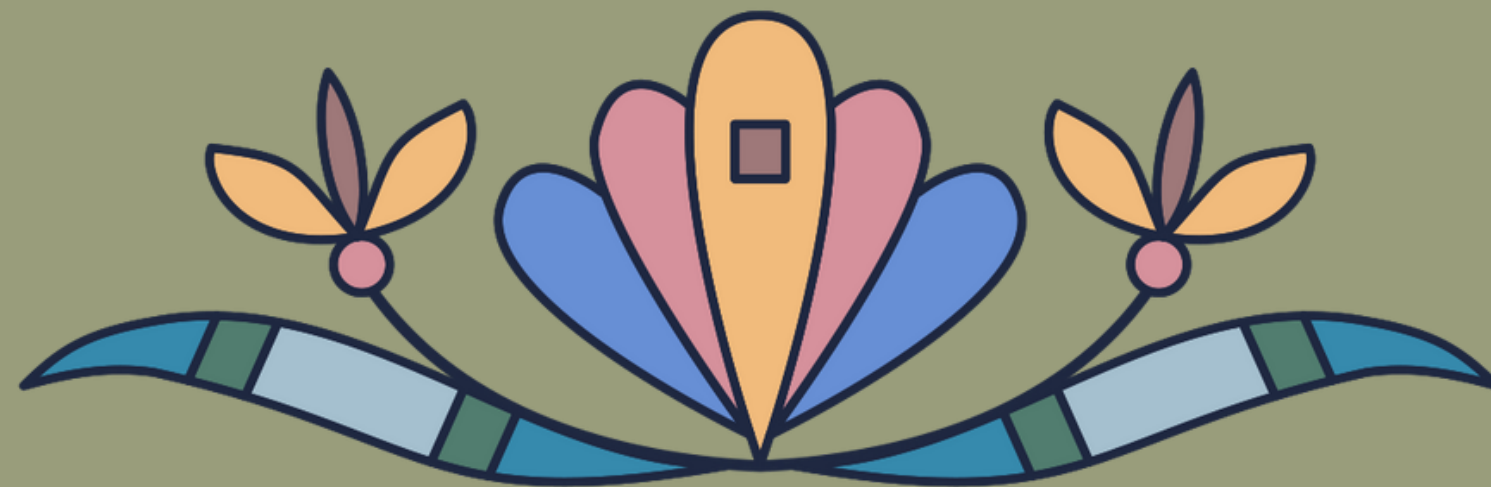
Ohoyeya ihdučapi: Communication

Voices of reasoning was an important virtue among our nations when decisions had to be made for the good of the people. An eloquent orator spoke on behalf of his\her society or clan as others listened to reason objectively. It took clear and precise understanding of the subject matter to make a decision that often wasn't made instantly although times called for it. These cooperative methods are imperative to establishing an Indigenous-led lead cooperative, that adheres to sound economic judgement.

Wayawaya: Education

English is predicated on nouns and is primarily obsessed throughout its colonial linear

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:
Tribal Governments, Tribal Colleges and Foundations





Contact Us

To receive an electronic copy of the Indigenous Guide to Cooperative Development or for any questions or clarifications on our report.



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