

## 2. Cooperatives

# Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers 1844





# Rochdale Principles As Stated 1936

1. Every one is a consumer; hence each and every person is a potential member of coöperatives, regardless of race, religious belief, occupation, or nationality.

2. Sales are made at market price, the profits to be returned to the member-purchaser in proportion to his purchases, in form of rebate. This is figured after cost of upkeep, education, advertising, and a certain amount of money put back into the business for its development are deducted.

3. No one member is allowed to accumulate great numbers of shares of stock. A maximum number to be allowed to each member is agreed upon by members of the coöperative under organization.

4. Each member is entitled to only one vote regardless of how many shares of stock he owns. This places the control equally in the hands of each and every member of the group.

# Yale Cooperative Society 1885





# Better together: The benefit of cooperative businesses

By Erica Quin-Easter, Microenterprise Coordinator in Aroostook County for Women, Work, and Community

Posted Nov. 29, 2012, at 7:23 p.m.

What is a cooperative? Cooperatives are jointly owned enterprises controlled by consumers, producers or workers who create a collaborative business that meets their common needs.

Seven principles guide the cooperative movement: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

Cooperatives are an integral part of the community and a driving force in the local economy.

So what do cooperatives do for Maine, and how can you get started in your own community?

In Aroostook County, Julie Trudel and Stacy Martin had buyer's clubs that they coordinated separately for many years. Both were passionate about seeing a member-owned storefront cooperative in Fort Kent, so they decided to merge their customer base and have deliveries in a central place in town with more visibility — a place they



Courtesy of Erica Quin-Easter  
Julie Trudel (left) and Stacy Martin, co-founders of the Black Bear Buying Club in Fort Kent.