

Candidate Statement: Joseph Bergeron

I've been extremely fortunate over the past six years to have been a member of NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors. This experience has provided me the unique opportunity of working with the many strong and talented cooperative leaders that comprise our organization's volunteer leadership. Without exception, they each represent the best that our cross-sector family of cooperatives has to offer. I thought of myself as fairly well versed in cooperatives prior to volunteer service with NCBA CLUSA, but I was woefully mistaken. In retrospect, I suspect I've gained far more than I've contributed to NCBA CLUSA, and I imagine most fellow board members would say the same.

Remaining relevant and valuable to the broad array of cooperative sectors that NCBA CLUSA represents is certainly very challenging. Those challenges are met by strategy, practicality and innovation. Over the limited time I've been involved with NCBA CLUSA, the organization has made great strides in being relevant and beneficial to growing numbers of cooperatives and their members. The NCBA CLUSA's board and management have worked hard to develop a world-class trade association and international development arm of which its members can be proud.

More importantly, cooperative members—both domestically and in countries worldwide—have benefitted from NCBA CLUSA's efforts and dedication to the advancement of cooperatives of all types. In all cases, people are benefitting, directly or indirectly, from the cooperative approach to self-help. I like to believe that in modest ways I've contributed to the growth and development of the organization that binds the varied sectors of our cooperative family together. And, I hope to build upon those contributions with voter support, enabling me to continue providing volunteer service to NCBA CLUSA as it works toward world-class service to all cooperatives.