

Co-operative Enterprise Council

Supporting and Strengthening the Co-operative Movement in New Brunswick



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<http://www.cecnb.ca>

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Fundy Funeral Home Co-op Most Successful in Atlantic Canada

A recent CBC radio show touted [Fundy Funeral Home Co-op](#) in Saint John as the most successful funeral home in Atlantic Canada and the figures reported at their Annual General Meeting in October certainly supported this claim. In 2008 - 2009, Fundy Funeral Home increased the number of families it serves by 22% and saw another hike in prearranged funerals, bringing the total revenue from this product to \$7 million. Six full time and six part time staff served 249 families last year, the largest number since it became established in 1992. Fundy Funeral Home Co-op's healthy surplus made it an easy decision for members at their AGM to vote for the purchase of additional property to accommodate the growing need for parking space and a new reception area.

Hundreds of Local Food Initiatives Springing Up

In response to food security concerns and the challenges farmers are facing in making a living, local food initiatives are springing up across the country and research by the Canadian Co-operative Association has revealed a vibrant local food movement in Canada. Check out [The Lay of the Land](#) for a comprehensive overview of the more than 2300 local food initiatives across the country that are helping to address concerns about local food security, production and distribution.



OceanSpray Moving Forward on \$90 Million Cranberry Farm in Rogersville

Mayor Bertrand LeBlanc admits the more he thinks about what the presence of cranberry giant [Ocean Spray](#) will mean to his community, the more excited he gets. Earlier this year, Ocean Spray announced it had selected Lake Despres, near Rogersville, as the site of a \$90-million project that will become North America's largest cranberry farm with 1,900 acres of cranberry beds planted on an 8,400 acre swath of rich, sandy land. Mike Stamatakos, Ocean Spray's vice-president of agricultural supply and development talks about this development in a recent



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Final interviews are being held for the CEDP program for women in Greater Moncton. If you are a woman interested in starting a business, call us asap at 858-1303, ext 103 or write info@cecnb.ca

DO YOU KNOW....

There are close to 9,000 co-ops and credit unions across Canada, with more than 17 million members?

DO YOU KNOW

The United Nations is considering proclaiming 2011 or 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives? Ask your MP

[Times Transcript article.](#)

Co-operative Enterprise Development Program for Women Hosts Learning Event

A special breakfast and learning event was held at Park House Rodd Inn in Moncton on Nov 16 & 17 to introduce community partners to the *sustainable livelihoods* model. This anti-poverty approach is designed to help low income people build assets in five key areas of their lives and is the foundation upon which the new Co-operative Enterprise Development Program for Women in Greater Moncton has been built.



Special guests Stacia Kean and Cindy Maki from PARO, an award winning women's CED centre in Thunderbay, shared their experiences and successes with the SL model and provided tools and information about best practices in women's economic development with a group of nearly two dozen stakeholders and community partners. A day long special learning session was also held to

explore the SL model further and to become more familiar with Peer Lending Circles, a service to be offered to participants of the Moncton program. Peer Lending Circles help women access the money they need to establish their co-op businesses or help them grow.

Interviews are currently being held for the CED Program which begins in January and a few spaces are still open however interested women need to apply right away. For more info: 506-858-1303, ext 103 or info@cecnb.ca

Atlantic Canadian Wins National Co-op Award

David Daughton, long time advocate, developer and supporter of co-ops in Atlantic Canada, is this year's winner of the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation's *Worker Co-op Merit Award*. Over the past 30 years, David has helped dozens of co-operatives become a reality in fields ranging from natural food to housing, youth, health, sports and the arts. Indeed David was instrumental in the establishment of the Co-operative Enterprise Council of NB as well as the new Co-op Council of PEI. In addition to being a skillful co-op developer, David is a poet, writer, chef and a great guy to have in your co-op's corner. Congratulations David – we can't think of a more worthy recipient!



Fredericton Direct Charge Launches Green Plan

This fall, the Fredericton Direct Charge Co-op (FDCC) launched their Co-op's Green Plan with a BBQ and tree planting ceremony. Balsam Firs, the provincial tree of NB, were planted by members using NB's official "Holmesville" Soil Series to commemorate FDCC's commitment to



to support the resolution!

DO YOU KNOW....

More than 150,000 Canadians are employed by co-ops? Around the world, co-operatives employ more people than all multinational corporations put together.

DO YOU KNOW...

where your food comes from? Ask your grocer today!

the environment. The City of Fredericton and Dept. of Natural Resources also provided assistance and donations. Co-op member Barry Lydon won the prize for the day – you guessed it, a Balsam Fir!

Co-operative Development Initiative Now Accepting Applications for Funding

The Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) is accepting applications for *Innovative Co-operative Projects*. The four priorities for funding are:

- agriculture, including farmer-driven projects for value-added agriculture and bio-fuels;
- rural/northern community development;
- innovative goods and services, including innovative uses of technology;
- projects that contribute to capacity building and sustainability of the co-operative sector as a whole.

Examples of activities that could be funded include, but are not limited to:

- Business development and feasibility plans
- Management development (education, advice, support)
- Membership structure
- Member education
- Governance & board training
- Development of by-laws, policies
- Legal structure (e.g. exploration of suitable co-operative models)

The application form and program guide can be downloaded from CDI's new website at <http://cccm.coopscanada.coop/en>. The deadline for submitting your application is December 31, 2009. *Remember to contact the Council at info@cecnb.ca for help with your project proposal.*

How to Build A “Food Secure” Community

At the [Dieppe Farmer's Market](#), radio show host Jon Steinman recently shared his vision of a world of *“food secure communities where all people at all times have access to nutritious, safe, personally appropriate and culturally accessible food produced, procured and distributed in ways that are socially and environmentally responsible.”*

The kind of community John is talking about has become a reality in the town where he lives. The [Kootenay Country Co-operative](#) is a grocery store in downtown Nelson, BC that sells only members' products. Unlike many co-operative grocery stores in Atlantic Canada, the Kootenay Co-op is not part of a chain but is rather an independent store supported entirely by the people who shop there. Surprisingly (or perhaps not), it is the largest store of its kind in the country. There are only 10,000 people in Nelson yet last year it earned \$9 million and employed over 60 people.

“We're speaking about 8,000 members,” John says. “Every year sales go up. Huge sales growth. The store has no debt, which is quite surprising in this day and age. It also maintains a buy local and buy organic policy. So if there's a local producer producing food you can almost be guaranteed that this will be on the shelves of this store. Almost all of the food on the store shelves is organic. We have what we call transition products, so instead of Kraft Dinner, we have Anny's macaroni and cheese.” There's also a deli in the store that

DO YOU KNOW....

The Canadian co-operative sector controls over \$275 billion in assets.

DO YOU KNOW....

The world's 300 largest co-operatives, 9 of which are Canadian, have an aggregate turnover of \$US 1.1 trillion

DO YOU KNOW...

There are more than 2,200 housing co-operatives in Canada with some 92,000 units providing homes to over a quarter of a million residents.

provides packaged foods and salads and take home foods are also all prepared by local producers, which mean the store also acts as an incubator for new co-op development.

John has a passion. *"I believe grocery stores can be the economic engine of a community"* and he has decided to make it his mission to educate people on the subject of food secure communities. Undoubtedly, given the reach of his radio show, [Deconstructing Dinner](#), that is listened to by thousands of people across North America via 37 radio stations and the web, we expect to hear a lot more about John's ideas. For the full Canada East article, see <http://herenb.canadaeast.com/news/article/839483>.

Discover your Abilities to Mobilize Yourselves: Free Workshop Series on Sustainable Communities

Falls Brook Centre, a community-based education centre in New Brunswick, is offering a workshop series for organizations, community leaders and groups of people eager for successful group interactions. *"Through experiential learning, community members can gain from experiences that help them hone the skills they possess for making their communities stronger."* Included are seminars on Facilitation, Conflict Resolution, and Leadership. These workshops will be offered throughout the fall, winter and spring of 2009-2010 free of charge. To accommodate the needs of every group, they can be adapted to fit into a ninety minute session as a part of an existing event, or may be expanded to a half- or full-day stand-alone activity. They are suitable for staff, management and facilitator trainings and may be adapted to all ages and interests, including youth. Contact Sophie at sm@fallsbrookcentre.ca or 506-375-4310 for further information.



Credit Unions Donate a Record \$42.1 million

Exchange Magazine recently reported that Canadian credit unions increased their support of community projects to \$42.1 million in 2008, up 18% from the previous year.

"During the recent tough economic times credit unions have increased their support for local community projects," said David Phillips, president and CEO of Credit Union Central of Canada. *"Every day credit unions help their communities by providing time, money and expertise. These actions flow from the co-operative principles that are at the core of the credit union difference."*

The annual survey done for Credit Union Central of Canada has shown a steady increase in donations over the past eight years. In keeping with the credit union philosophy, more than 80 % of the donations supported charitable efforts in the local communities where credit unions operate.

See [Social Responsibility and Canada's Credit Unions 2009 Report](#) for more information about the contributions credit unions made to the community.

DO YOU KNOW...

Some of Canada's best-known businesses, including Mountain Equipment Co-op, Federated Co-opS, UFA Co-op, Co-op Atlantic, Gay Lea Foods, The Co-operators, Vancity and Desjardins are co-ops?

DO YOU KNOW...

ACYL is an exciting, creative and interactive leadership program that offers seminars to youth 14 - 18 years throughout the Atlantic Provinces to foster leadership skills and co-operative attitudes.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

7 Year Old Co-operator Wins Contest to Name Housing Co-op Facility



At Cornerstone Housing Co-op's Annual BBQ and Family Day, seven year old Sumer Cavanaugh was the proud winner of an all-day pass for two to Crystal Palace for her submission of the winning entry in a contest to name a new building acquired by her housing co-op. Cornerstone had been leasing the building out for the past nine years however members recently decided to keep it for their own activities. Judges from Golden Terraces Seniors Housing Co-op chose Sumer's entry of *Cornerstone Events Hall* from a number of submissions. Congratulations Sumer!

Desjardins Group is Changing the World

In October 2007, Desjardins Group, in collaboration with Équiterre, launched its "*Change the world, one step at a time*" institutional campaign. Part of this campaign was a commitment to actively adopt [twelve corporate actions](#) aimed at contributing to a more environmentally sustainable and equitable world.

Desjardins recently released its list of [accomplishments for 2009](#) and they include concrete initiatives aimed at reducing fuel consumption, encouraging the use of alternative means of transportation, responsible purchasing and local agriculture through its promotion of Équiterre's Community Supported Agriculture network.

Is it possible to have an economy for people rather than profit?

In a recession that has left many in the dust, researchers at the British Columbia Institute for Cooperative Studies (BCICS) are trying to answer that question. The research center, located at UVic, has been serving the community for eight years now: educating, researching and providing resources for cooperatives.

"Especially because of the crisis we need an economy that works for the people," says BCICS Director Ana Maria Peredo. *"What's needed is a community-based economy with the goal of providing for the needs of the group without profit getting in the way. This is a way of "remaking the economy," instead of allowing people to get caught up in "a false sense of prosperity," which causes people to lose everything. What people need instead is a sense of community where the economy isn't just about the money, but about the socialization.*

[Learn more](#) about research on community-based economies being conducted by BCICS.

Check Out ACYL's E-Newsletter

<http://www.acyl.coop/english/newsletter.htm>

HOW THE COUNCIL CAN
HELP YOU:

Phone: 506-227-9607

Email: info@cecnb.ca

Web: <http://www.cecnb.ca>

The Know: 1st seminar of 2010

Fast Co-op Facts: Creating co-op schools

The Wall: High School leadership conferences, Costa Rica Volunteers, flash mob, other

The Good Stuff: Tatamagouche Free School

Featured Co-op: Surfer Co-op, Housing Coop

*Co-operatives and Credit Unions can post their **youth** events, activities, scholarships, bursaries on ACYL's [website](#). Call ACYL today at (506) 862-0737 to find out more.*

How the Co-operative Enterprise Council Can Help You

Whether you're a new or existing co-operative, or just interested in finding out more about how to start a co-op, the Council has something for you.

Our services include:

Technical Advice and Support

- Planning and starting a co-op
- Incorporation and bylaws
- Financing and credit
- Business plan development
- Strategic planning
- Assistance accessing resources
- Research and development
- Evaluation
- Conflict resolution
- Mentoring

Training and Workshops

- Leadership and management
- Governance
- Policy development
- Business planning
- Marketing and promotion
- Collaborative Decision-making

Innovation and Special Projects

- If you have an idea for an innovative or special project, we may be able to help!

