

# Calling all Co-operators and friends!

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We have an election on May 9<sup>th</sup> and we want everyone in our province to know and understand what amazing contributions our co-ops make to British Columbia.

All of our co-ops – which operate in almost every sector of the BC economy, including finance, agriculture and food, culture, media, social services, renewable energy resource management, housing, retail services and child care – have specific requests and questions of government. But we know that many people do not even know what a co-op is or how much we contribute to the economy and employment in BC, so we're starting here!

With your help, during this election we hope that:

- More British Columbians will have heard about co-ops as a viable business model;
- Election representatives and candidates will include us in their vision of BC, and;
- Co-op members and friends will have more information about BC co-operatives!

To help us get the word out about co-ops ahead of this election, we have a few simple asks of our Cooperators and friends:

1. Do you know your present MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly?) or candidates who are running in the 2017 election?
2. Can you attend any meetings, coffee parties or events and find out who they are/meet them?
3. Will you ask all of them, "What's your vision for co-ops in BC?"

Let's help elevate awareness of co-ops this election and get people to understand how valuable they are to BC's economy and communities!

Thank you for your help in spreading the word about us!



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# CO-OPERATIVES IN B.C.

A co-operative, or co-op, is a business owned by and democratically controlled by its members. Co-ops are inclusive and accountable because all members have a say in how the co-op operates.



The Co-op model provides stable work, keeps money local, and reinvests surplus to help build stronger, more sustainable communities.



Co-ops operate in almost every sector of the B.C. economy, including finance, transportation, housing, renewable energy, agriculture and food, and social services.



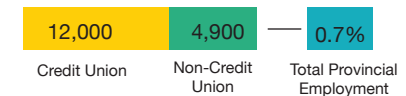
B.C. CREDIT UNIONS AT A GLANCE:



The Co-op model has a proven track record of creating jobs, serving the interests of middle-income people, supporting social innovation, all while meeting the needs of Canadian communities. Co-ops have a lower failure rate than incorporated businesses.

16.9K  
JOBS

There are currently over 700 co-op organizations in B.C., employing **14,550** T4 workers and **2,350** contract staff.



22%  
GROWTH

Employment at co-ops has grown 22% since 2011, and is projected to grow by another **14%** in B.C. by 2019.

\$2.7B  
VALUE-ADD TO  
PROVINCIAL  
ECONOMY

Total aggregate revenues generated by co-ops in B.C. for 2015, or **1.1%** of the provincial economy.



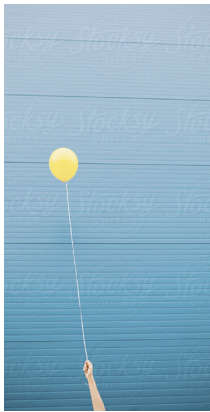
\*Data from BC Co-operative Sector Labour Market Environment Scan, 2016



# B.C. CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in BC operate across a variety of sectors, providing an increasing number of jobs across the province.

## STOCKSY



Based in Victoria, B.C., Stocksy is an artist-owned, multi-stakeholder 'digital cooperative' that provides high-end, hand-picked stock photography and video imagery. Contributing artists receive 50% of a Standard License Purchase and 75% of an Extended License Purchase, another differentiator of Stocksy from other stock photo business models.

The co-op employs 25 people in five countries, has over 900 voting member photographers and boasts some of the world's most prestigious ad agencies amongst its clients.

In 2015, Stocksy earned \$7.9 million in sales (with 4.3 million in royalties to artists) and paid \$200,000 in dividends to member artists.



SSG is a workers co-operative based in Vancouver, BC. Since 2001, SSG has worked with local governments, institutions, design teams and artists to achieve real, on-the-ground social and ecological change.

SSG nurtures and embodies a holistic understanding of sustainability and works with clients and collaborators to meaningfully integrate social, ecological and economic practices in their organizations and work. Their transdisciplinary team provides consulting and management services to address sustainability challenges including climate change, economic and social inequities, human health, ecosystem decline, and sustainable community development.

## KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY FOOD PRODUCERS CO-OP



Established in 2013, the Kootenay & Boundary Food Producer Co-op supports farmers and food processors in the Kootenay region to build a sustainable, local food economy.

The co-op ran a successful distribution and marketing pilot program in 2015, has been awarded a \$10,000 grant and completed a feasibility study to help achieve its longterm vision for creating and supporting infrastructure, distribution, business and marketing services, and workshops that will foster the economic viability of food producers and processors from Creston to Grand Forks, north to Meadow Creek and Nakusp and south to the border.



## What's your vision for co-ops in B.C.?

For more information, please visit <http://bccoop.coop/>

