



Message from the Board Chair

2018-19 was another remarkable year for co-ops in BC! I know that the Board and staff of BCCA draw such inspiration from the individual and collective contributions of our members: thank you all for the work you do. Sincere thanks also to my board colleagues and the staff of BCCA for raising awareness, amplifying the work of our members, and growing the impact of BC's co-op sector as a whole.

I'd like to welcome our seven new members and invite each of you to participate in the numerous events and forums we host or co-host annually. Through your participation, we hope you will find support, connections and insights that will help you strengthen your own co-op.

This year, we were very fortunate to have three additions to our small but mighty team: Lisa Furfaro, Program Manager, Samantha Lee, Marketing and Communications Officer, and Vancity's Andrea Harris as our seconded Executive Director!

This was the second execution year for BCCA's strategic plan. Building on the *Growing the Co-op Sector in BC* policy agenda, and thanks to significant contributions by our Government Relations Committee, there were many positive developments with BC Registries, Ministry of Agriculture, BC Securities Commission, and the Ministry of Education.

It's fantastic to see new co-ops emerging as a direct result of our co-op education and development efforts along with the application of the co-op model to a wider variety of challenges. Indeed, the diversity of projects incubated in our bi-annual Co-operate Now program in participating communities really speaks to a bright future for the sector. Looking forward to the year ahead.

Yours in co-operation,
Ben



BEN HYMAN
Board Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

229 Requests for Cultivating Co-ops Guide

53 newsletters sent out to **1375** subscribers

268.1K Twitter impressions

3132 Twitter followers

917 Facebook Page Likes

36 Co-operate Now Participants

335 Students introduced to the co-op business model

25 Co-op Cafes in **5** regions

322 participants

(Lower Mainland, Kelowna, Nelson, Mid-Vancouver Island, South Vancouver Island)



Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

It's been just over a month since I joined the BCCA: reconnecting with co-operators who I've had the pleasure of working with in the past and meeting a new generation of co-op enthusiasts, all united by a vision of creating a thriving and vibrant co-operative economy in BC. It's been inspiring to hear about how new models of co-operatives are emerging to address an increasingly diverse set of problems. And exciting to learn about the progress that has been made in implementing the second year of the organization's strategic plan and the many accomplishments achieved across BCCA's three strategic focus areas: Co-op Development and Support Services; Co-op Knowledge Mobilization; and Co-op Communications, Promotion and Advocacy. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff team, our Board, and our committed partners. The great things the BCCA achieved this year wouldn't have been possible without the contributions of many co-operators that make up this organization. My sincere thanks to all of you, for inviting me to be part of the journey ahead.



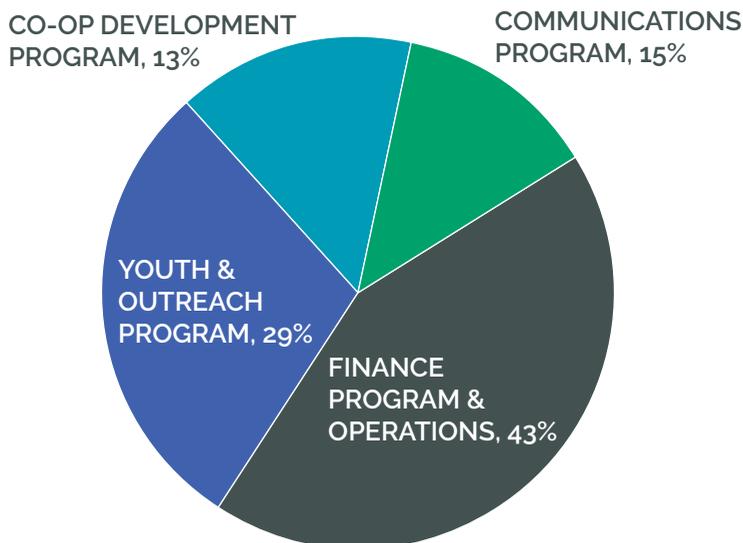
ANDREA HARRIS
Executive Director

Yours in co-operation,
Andrea

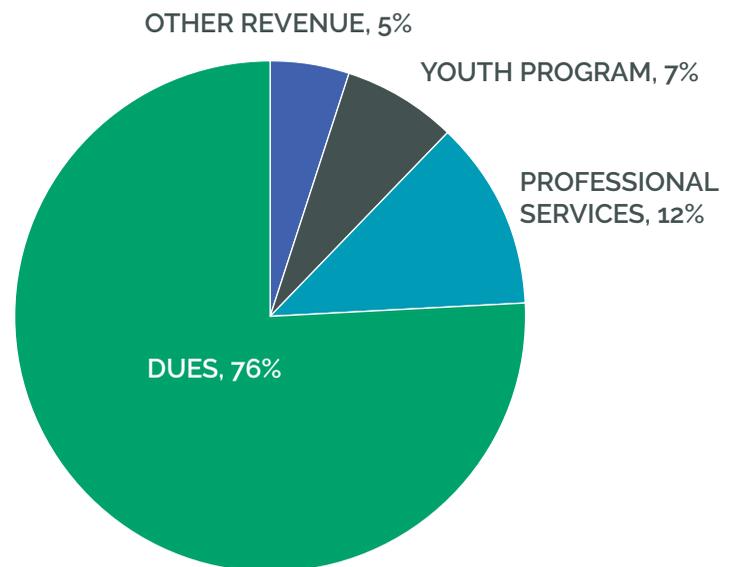


BCCA'S FINANCIAL PICTURE 2018-19

EXPENSES



REVENUE





Co-op Communications, Promotion, and Advocacy

In our communications and advocacy pillar we continue to expand BCCA's reach and engagement with our members and partners through our social media channels and regular communications with members. Over the past year we have sent out 53 newsletters to 1375 subscribers and our tweets have reached over 268,000 people. Our social media following has also grown to 3132 Twitter followers and 917 Facebook Page Likes.

Over the past year, the BCCA Government Relations Committee has built on *Growing the Co-op Sector* (released last year in collaboration with Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Vancity) and engaged with key provincial ministers and staff. We shared how the creation of a tax credit program and changes to BC's restrictive securities rules could strengthen the ability of co-ops to invest in and help grow BC's economy. We engaged with the Ministry of Citizens Services to advocate for improvements to the provincial co-operative registry system. The Ministry of Agriculture provided funding to support a study on the needs of BC's agriculture co-ops and also supported the delivery of workshops on agricultural co-ops in Nelson, Fort St John, and Williams Lake, and co-operative training for Ministry of Agriculture staff.

Co-op Knowledge Mobilization

The Co-op Cafe project continues to expand, with the addition of evening cafes and broader geographic reach through partnerships with local co-operator volunteers to cover five regions including the Lower Mainland, Kelowna, Nelson, as well as both Mid- and South Vancouver Island. Co-op Brews provided additional opportunities for co-operators to network and share knowledge as did BCCAs hosting of three co-op focused film screenings, with 158 attendees in total.

Co-ops in Schools enabled BCCA to offer a broader set of youth training programs designed to meet the needs of our members and education partners across BC. The program delivered engaging co-op education in a variety of ways. Through film screenings, community asset mapping workshops, and connecting student groups to BCCA members, students were challenged to think about the issues they see in their school community and how they can apply co-operative concepts to solving these problems. In addition, the program took on three dedicated students and matched them with co-op and credit union professionals. Mentors helped students foster a deeper understanding of co-operative principles and values while preparing students for the working world through mock interviews, resume reviews, and networking opportunities.

Co-op Development and Support Services

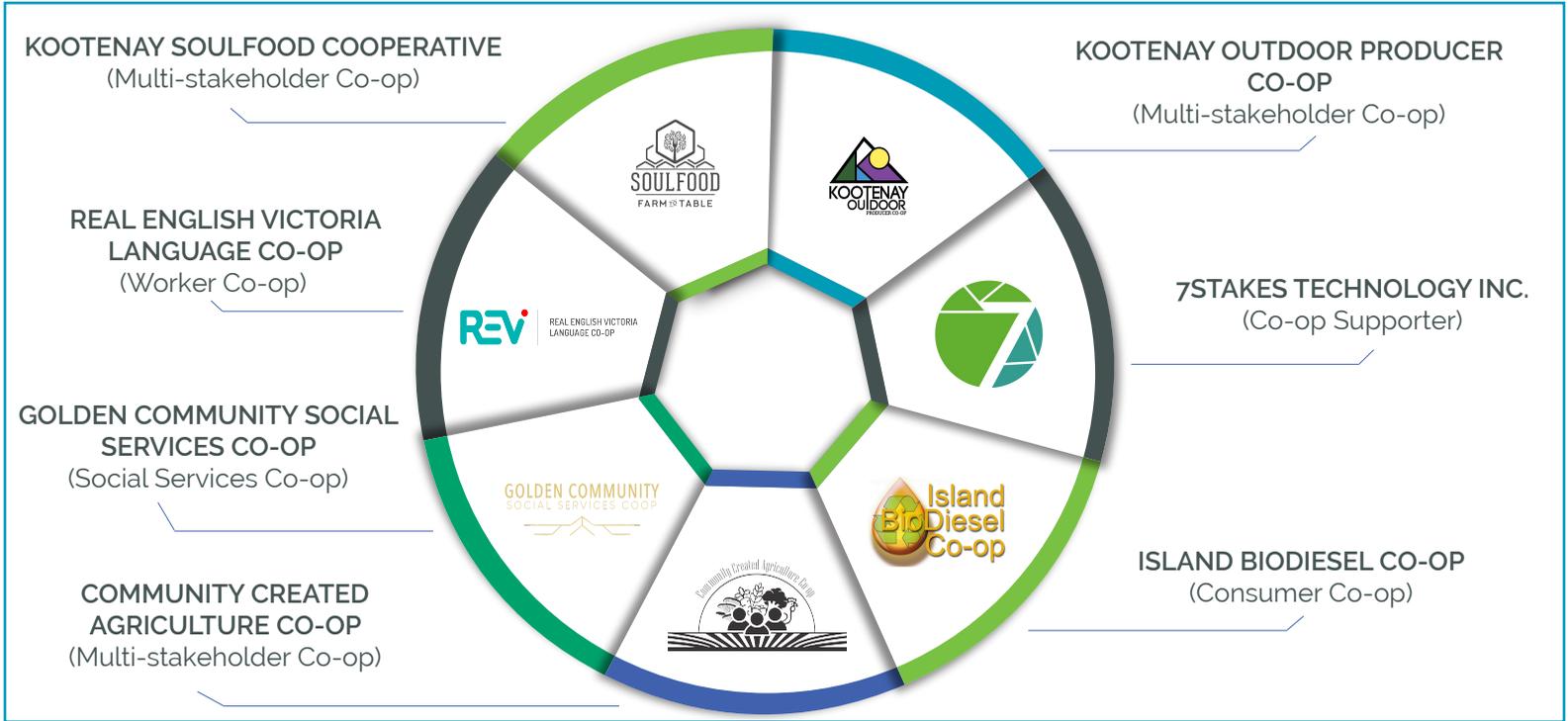
Working in partnership with Vancity, we continued to deliver the Co-operate Now program with two successful sessions in April and November, offering 36 participants a hands on opportunity to work through their co-op projects, ranging from youth leadership, fitness, empowering immigrant women, sustainable food systems, and housing.

With 229 Co-op Guide requests and 58 meetings with people interested in starting a co-op, BCCA continues to see a strong demand for support to develop new co-ops – a testament to the enduring strength of the co-op model. BCCA played an active role in working with a network of co-op developers across BC to refine a process for referring interested people to the resources they need to move along the co-op development path.

We also continued to diversify BCCA's revenues through fee-for-service financial services to members and non-members, with four groups supported with full cycle financial management in 2018-19.



Welcome New BCCA Members!



Welcome our new Executive Director, Andrea Harris!



Andrea took on the role of executive director in April 2019 as a 12-18 month secondment from Vancity. Her focus will be working to advance core components of the BCCA strategic plan, including developing a more sustainable revenue model. A long-time believer in the power of the co-op model, Andrea has completed a graduate degree in economics focused on co-ops; participated in co-op studies in the Philippines, North Dakota, Quebec, and Bologna; published academic papers and 'how to guides' highlighting different co-op models; supported agricultural co-op development; lived in co-op housing; worked for MEC; and a rewarding 15-year career with Vancity.

Welcome our new Program Manager, Lisa Furfaro!



Lisa came on board the BCCA in August 2018 as the new Program Manager. Her work has focused on building partnerships with members and allied organizations to deliver co-op education throughout BC and raise public awareness of the co-op model. Previously the manager of the Ontario Co-operative Young Leaders program, Lisa is passionate about empowering young people to consider co-ops as a career path. Currently working toward her masters in Co-operative and Credit Union Management through Saint Mary's University, Lisa is also a member of Canada's Emerging Co-operators committee through CMC and sits on the board of the East End Food Co-op.

Welcome our new Marketing & Communications Officer, Samantha Lee!



Samantha joined the BCCA team in October 2018 as the new Marketing and Communications Officer. In her role, she is excited to connect with BCCA members to amplify their voices, stories, and impact, raise public awareness of the co-op model, and promote the BC co-operative sector as a whole. With experience in multiple industries including both the tech and non-profit sectors, Samantha looks forward to bringing her skills and knowledge to support and further the outreach and educational efforts of the BCCA in the next year.

Welcome our new Member Outreach Volunteer, Brett Dimond!



A co-op champion with a background in sustainable development, Brett has a keen interest in the mechanisms and institutional arrangements that promote broad-based social, environmental, and economic considerations in decision-making. Since January 2019, Brett has been volunteering his time with the BCCA to create a database of contact information for all co-operatives currently incorporated in BC along with an online map showing the name location, and contact information of BCCA members. This project will fill an important data gap, allowing BCCA to further strengthen its outreach efforts and build the co-operative movement.