

2024-2025

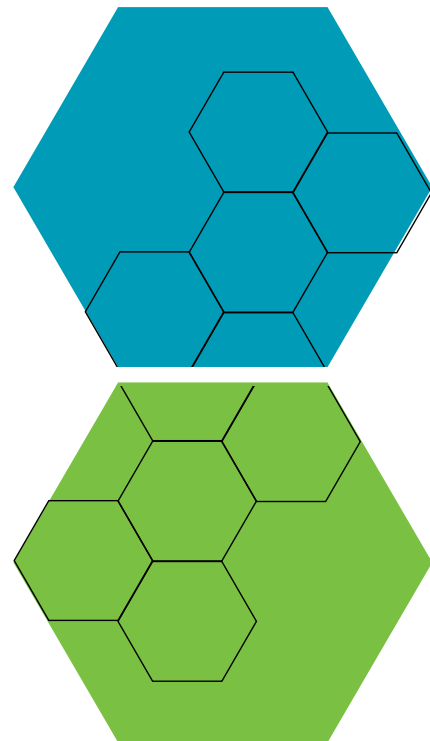
Impact Report



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Message from the Board Chair

Dear Valued Members,

I am pleased to share with you our 2024-2025 Impact Report. In a year of re-imagining what, how, and why BC Co-operative Association (BCCA) exists, we have undergone a lot of work to bring you a new purpose, vision, mission, and values, as well as highlight key work done this year to support members and the larger BC co-operative community. It has also been a year of rebuilding our core staff team under the leadership of Tara Chernoff. The board continues to be inspired by Tara's passion and energy for BCCA's work.

In a year of significant change, I am grateful for the engagement of our members and your willingness to see us through this process of renewal. We have been delighted by the openness of our members, co-ops throughout the province, government officials and partners to build and renew relationships with us. As you read through this report, I hope you see the thoughtful approach to the activities of BCCA, as we define a path forward. We are proud of our staff team's passion for co-ops and their commitment to delivering on the inspiring strategy ahead.

The Board of Directors has also been busy, building on the foundations of the board before and reviewing our governance model. The board is comprised of directors from our membership, bringing professional expertise from their co-ops to our governance. They come from various sized co-ops from different industries, the variety of which has supported a diversity of perspectives that I believe enables good governance.

To our members, thank you for your participation in our strategic discovery sessions, whether you participated in 1:1 conversation, group forums, surveys or otherwise, your voice was critical in us hearing what you need from BCCA. Your engagement through time, feedback, having a representative from your co-op on our board and participating in BCCA events is met with gratitude. It has given us valuable information about where we can deliver value and therefore value for membership. Thank you for your trust and ongoing support.

It has been a pleasure serving BCCA as Chairperson this year. I am continually amazed by the impact our members have on building vibrant communities in BC. In recognition of the United Nations declared International Year of the Co-operatives, we can truly say that BC co-ops are building a better world.



Kirsten Forsch

Board Chair, BCCA



Message from the Executive Director

This past year has been one of transition, growth, and renewed momentum for the BC Co-operative Association. I want to express heartfelt thanks to outgoing co-Executive Directors Zoë Creighton and Elvy Del Bianco for their thoughtful guidance during the leadership transition. I also want to acknowledge former team members Marla Gagnier and Winnie Wang, who concluded their time with BCCA earlier this year. Their contributions helped lay the foundation for many of our successes this year.

To our current team—Madelyn Read and Aaron Rideout—thank you for your commitment, resilience, and exceptional contributions through a period of change. Your work has kept us moving forward and brought new energy and creativity to our communications, engagement, and operations.

I also want to express deep appreciation to our members and Board of Directors. Your time, insights, and unwavering support continue to shape BCCA's direction and impact. The co-operative movement in BC is stronger because of your leadership, collaboration, and belief in what we can build together.

Since stepping into the role of Executive Director in July 2024, I've been inspired by the dedication across our network. Early efforts focused on listening and learning—through member conversations, focus groups, a member survey, and a full organizational needs assessment. These efforts laid the foundation for a new three-year strategic plan, a one-year operational plan, and two major 2025 initiatives: a virtual Co-op Connect Trade Show and the Co-operatives Build a Better World BC Tour.

Though staffing changes brought challenges, they also opened the door to reimagining how we work. We welcomed thirteen new members, launched the Co-ops Solve Problems series, and co-hosted two Co-op Week events. Insights gathered from members are shaping our refined value proposition and guiding our next steps.

We also advanced government relations by strengthening relationships with policy allies and elected officials to raise the sector's profile and champion co-operative solutions.

As we look ahead, I'm filled with gratitude and optimism. BCCA's strength is—and always will be—its people. Thank you for being part of this journey.



Tara Chernoff
Executive Director, BCCA



Board of Directors 2024-25

Kirsten Forsch

Board Chair

The Co-operators

Susanna Collins

Vice Chair

GIA Consulting Co-operative

Chris Galloway

Treasurer

CoActive Worker Co-operative

Maureen Young

Coast Capital

Jack Nicholson

Otter Co-op

Jane Hope

Modo Co-operative

Jarrett Hagglund

Co-operative Housing
Federation of BC (CHF BC)

Jo Ha

Community Savings
Credit Union

Olivia Champagne

New Roots Co-operative

Samantha Lee

Realize Solutions

Naveed Nadri

Director at Large

Staff 2024-25

Tara Chernoff

Executive Director

Aaron Rideout

Marketing & Membership Manager

Madelyn Read

Community Engagement &
Education Manager

We are grateful for the contributions of these staff members who concluded their time with BCCA in 2024/2025:

Zoë Creighton

Co-Executive Director

Marla Gagnier

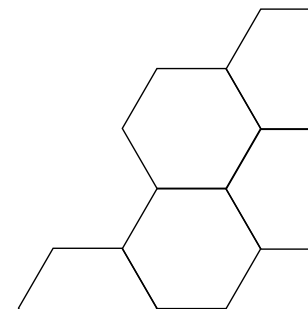
Member Engagement Manager

Elvy Del Bianco

Co-Executive Director

Winnie Wang

Finance Manager



Purpose, Vision & Mission

At the heart of BCCA's work are our purpose, vision, and mission—core principles that define why we exist, what we aim to achieve, and how we will get there. These statements were updated as part of the development of our 2025–2028 strategic plan and are grounded in feedback from our members. They reflect our commitment to the co-operative movement and our dedication to uniting the co-op sector, empowering members, fostering collaboration, and elevating the profile of the co-operative model. Together, they lay the groundwork for our strategic priorities, guiding us toward a future where the co-op model leads the way in building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient communities across British Columbia. See page 14 for more information about the 3-year strategic plan.

Purpose

To unite and empower co-operatives to thrive in British Columbia.

Our purpose reflects our commitment to fostering collaboration, supporting our members, and driving systemic change that benefits communities across British Columbia.

Vision

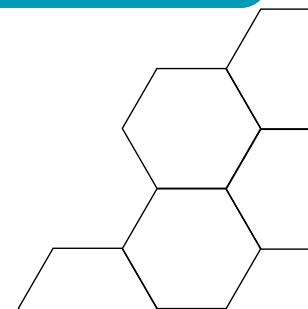
To make co-operatives the first choice for building vibrant communities in British Columbia.

Our vision is an aspirational future where co-operatives are recognized as the leading model for creating inclusive, sustainable, and resilient communities.

Mission

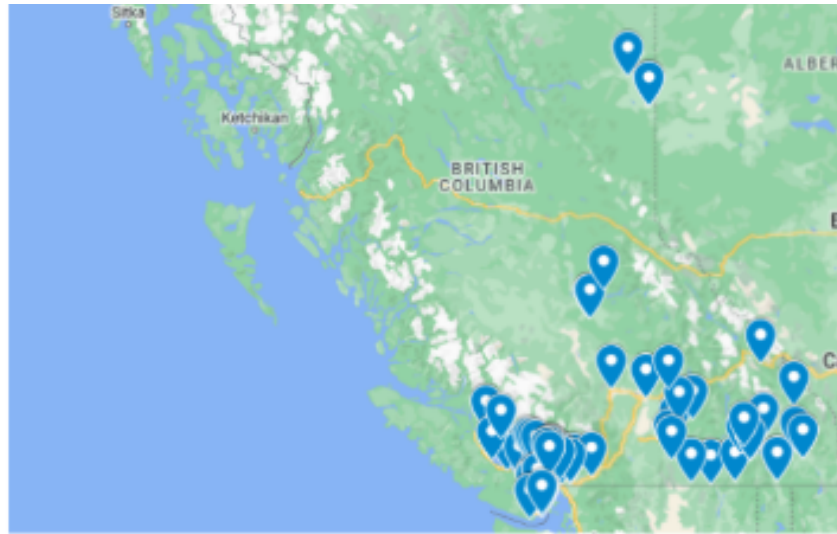
We strengthen British Columbia's co-operative sector by strengthening capacity, fostering partnerships, advocating for supportive policies, and raising awareness of the sector's transformative impact.

This mission drives our efforts to empower cooperatives, strengthen the co-operative ecosystem, and champion the impact of the co-operative model across British Columbia.



Member Snapshot

Since 2003, BCCA has united and supported co-operatives of all sizes across more than 10 sectors. Our growing network now includes over 100 co-ops, credit unions, and values-aligned organizations working to advance the co-operative model in B.C.



Welcome to New Members

BCCA welcomed 13 new members in 2024-25:

- Makehouse Sewing Co-operative
- ESSATTA Workers Co-operative
- Sunflower Facilitation Co-operative
- African-Canadian Agricultural Producers Co-operative
- Tau Wellness
- Tapestry Collective
- The Cleaning Co-op
- Yeomen Tree Service Co-operative
- Lohbrunner Community Farm Co-op
- Waterline Co-op
- Nanaimo Forest School Co-op
- BC Eco Seed Co-op
- The Animation Co-op

For a list of all BCCA members, [click here](#).

104

active BCCA
members

10+

sectors
represented in
BCCA's
membership

Member Engagement

In 2024–25, BCCA deepened its commitment to meaningful engagement with members across the province. Through one-on-one meetings with over 30 members and strategic partners, two focus groups with 24 participants, and a member survey with 34 responses, we gathered important insights into the challenges co-ops face and how BCCA can support them.

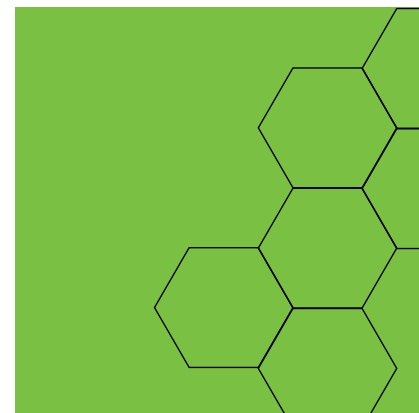
Members identified key challenges: financial constraints, limited capacity, internal engagement struggles, sector-specific barriers, and operational limitations. They also highlighted five priority areas for BCCA: clearer strategic direction, stronger advocacy and government relations, expanded education and training, greater public awareness of co-ops, and more opportunities for connection and collaboration.

Focus group discussions revealed that small co-ops seek foundational support, funding access, and tools to reduce isolation, while medium-sized co-ops need strategic growth support, cross-sector partnerships, and policy advocacy.

To support ongoing connection and sector visibility, BCCA continued to grow its monthly newsletter. With 111 new subscribers—a 7.5% increase—our newsletter helps keep members informed while raising the profile of the co-operative movement across B.C.

88+

members engaged through one-on-one conversations, focus groups and surveys



Strengthening Membership Value

This year, we took a closer look at what BCCA membership means—and how it can deliver more value. Guided by member feedback, we evaluated our member benefits and began refining our value proposition to better reflect what matters most: connection, education, support, and advocacy.

Member input shaped new initiatives like Mentorship Hour, the Co-ops Solve Problems campaign, and the upcoming 2025 Co-op Provincial Tour. We remain committed to a member-driven approach as we strengthen supports, grow our network, and build a more resilient, co-operative economy together.

Member Benefits



DISCOUNTED EDUCATION & TRAINING

- **Workshops** – Build your team’s co-op knowledge, governance skills, and member engagement.
- **On-Demand Learning** – Watch recorded workshops anytime.



PROMOTION

- **Spotlight Your Co-op** – Boost your visibility with member spotlights on our social media channels, newsletter and on our website.



GET CONNECTED

- **Mentorship Hour** – Join member-only webinars to learn from real co-op experiences.
- **Co-op Tour** – Connect through film, workshops, and events across BC.



ADVOCACY

- **Advocacy** – We work to ensure co-ops are supported in policy and legislation.
- **Member Voice** – Help shape our advocacy through input and engagement.



FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- **P6 Deposit Pool** – Support the sector and earn returns.
- **Legal Services** – Access co-op legal help at a discount.
- **Funding Guide** – Discover co-op-specific funding opportunities.



OWNERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

- **Voting & Board Roles** – Help guide BCCA through AGM votes or Board service.
- **Member Input** – Share feedback to shape programs and advocacy.

Education & Training

Members have told us that education and training are essential to their success—and we’ve listened. BCCA delivers customized training that’s practical, accessible, and relevant to co-ops at every stage of development. Whether it’s introducing new staff to the co-operative model, strengthening board governance, or deepening member engagement, our workshops are tailored to meet co-operatives’ unique needs. This past year, we delivered training to a diverse group of organizations including Modo Co-operative, Sunshine Coast Credit Union, and Echen Deni Urban Nation Roots. We also delivered a full day workshop series for the Gabriola Agricultural Co-op where 35 participants engaged in Co-ops 101, governance, and member engagement presentations. Feedback was 100% positive, and the host co-op reported increased interest in board participation, demonstrating the real impact of targeted education. We also created a series of educational videos designed for use by teachers and community educators to help students and parents better understand the co-operative model and its impact.



People participated in a BCCA workshop



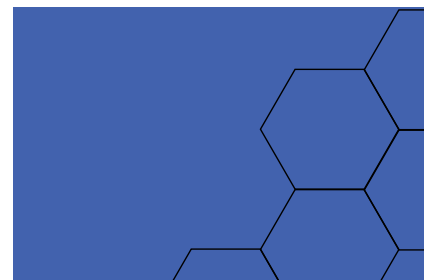
Workshops delivered



Educational videos created



Excellent day! Lots of thoughts about how to apply learnings in my organization. ”



Events

In 2024–25, BCCA hosted and co-hosted a range of events designed to strengthen connections, spark learning, and celebrate the co-operative movement. From webinars to community film screenings, to a virtual tradeshow, these events brought co-operators together to share insights, build relationships, and advance the sector across British Columbia.

25
Attendees

Post-AGM Social

Vancouver: May 2024

Following BCCA's 2024 AGM, members gathered for an in-person social hosted by Union Co-op Initiative in Vancouver. The event offered a chance to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the past year's achievements with fellow co-operators in a relaxed and welcoming space.

29
participants

Building Stronger Networks for a Resilient Economy

Webinar: Oct 2024

As part of Co-op Week, BCCA and ICCM St. Mary's co-hosted a webinar on the Complex Networks for Cooperative Economies report. Co-author Julia Martins Rodrigues shared key findings, and participants explored co-op challenges in breakout discussions.

over
50
attendees

Film Screening & Networking Event: Revolution

Surrey: Oct 2024

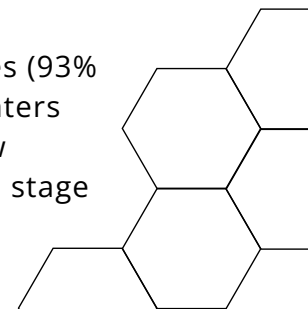
During Co-op Week, BCCA partnered with Solid State and CWCF to host a free film screening and community mixer in Surrey, supported by Co-operators. Over 50 people attended, enjoying a screening of "Revolution", games, prizes, and co-op connections.

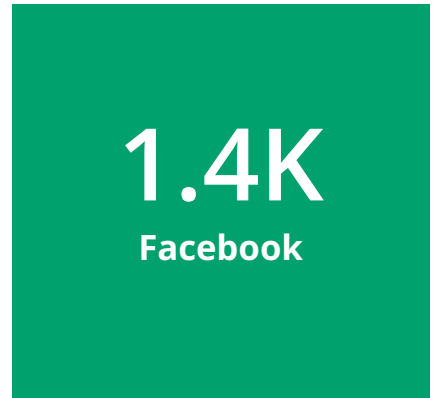
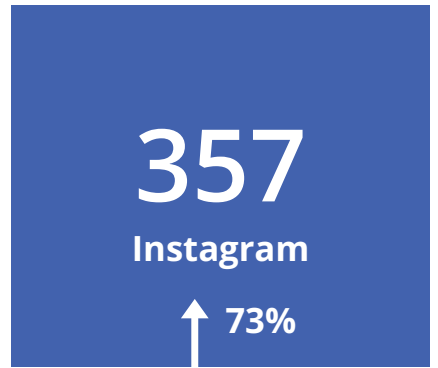
57
attendees

Co-op Connect Tradeshow

Virtual Event: Feb 2025

Held February 13 with 61 registrants and 57 attendees (93% attendance rate). The event featured 11 co-op presenters and a keynote by Mario Cimet of Solid State. This new initiative received very positive feedback—setting the stage for future events..





Communications

This year, we saw strong growth across our communications channels, reflecting increased engagement with our messaging and mission—particularly among younger audiences. Instagram followers grew by 73% (from 206 to 357), LinkedIn followers increased by 39% (from 501 to 695), and our newsletter subscriber base grew by 8% (from 1,519 to 1,635). A key driver of this momentum was the launch of our “Co-ops Solve Problems” social media campaign, which showcased how co-operatives address real-world challenges. The campaign achieved significant reach and generated strong reactions and interaction across platforms, helping to raise awareness of the co-operative model and connect with a new generation of supporters.

CO-OPS SOLVE PROBLEMS

BCCOOP MEMBER 100% Canadian Owned

WATERLINE CONSULTING
 VANCOUVER

“ We are a worker-owned co-op that helps leaders and teams transform conflict into opportunities for learning, creativity, and resilience. We believe that healthy, equitable teams are built on the foundation of transformative leadership. —>

CO-OPS SOLVE PROBLEMS

BCCOOP MEMBER 100% Canadian Owned

NANAIMO FOREST SCHOOL CO-OP
 NANAIMO

“ Nanaimo Forest School Coop is an all-outdoor, all-weather nature education program based on the belief that self-directed play and time in nature are the foundations of environmental learning. —>

CO-OPS SOLVE PROBLEMS

BCCOOP MEMBER

LOHBRUNNER COMMUNITY FARM CO-OPERATIVE
 LANGFORD

“ Our mission is to grow food and community. We are committed to supporting local agriculture, promoting biodiversity, and providing opportunities for education and active community involvement. —>

Advocacy & Government Relations

Over the past year, BCCA has advanced its advocacy and government relations work with a renewed focus on relationship-building, sector alignment, and long-term strategic planning. Strengthening connections with alliance partners remains a core priority, enabling us to amplify our collective voice and build a stronger case for sustained provincial support.

Guided by member and partner input, BCCA's Government Relations (GR) Committee has identified key advocacy priorities, including increased funding for co-operative business conversions, support for scaling co-ops, and advocating for the establishment of a co-op secretariat within the provincial civil service to better respond to the needs of co-ops and the communities they serve. In support of these goals, a three-year advocacy plan has been developed. In 2025/26, the plan focuses on commissioning a report to quantify the economic impact of co-operatives in BC and building relationships with MLAs through the BC Co-op Tour.

Momentum continues through targeted engagement with elected officials. A recent meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits provided an opportunity to propose a Co-op Roundtable to explore how co-ops can help address public policy challenges. BCCA also continues to advocate for a more efficient process for obtaining a business number from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), a known barrier for new co-operatives.

Most recently, we began the 2025/26 year with a highly successful meeting with twelve members of the NDP Caucus. The strong turnout and enthusiastic engagement from MLAs—several of whom serve on key legislative committees—highlight strong interest in the co-operative model and opened the door to deeper collaboration moving forward.



12
MLAs, one
powerful
conversation
on co-ops.



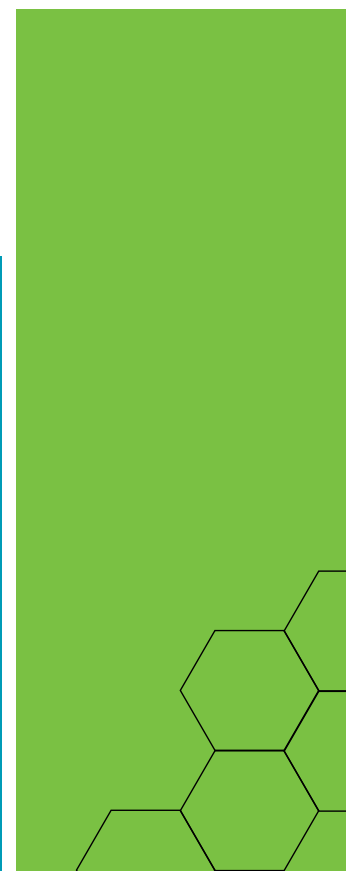
Charting the Future: BCCA's New 3-Year Strategic Plan

In recent years, BCCA has navigated a period of significant change—prompting a thoughtful reassessment of how the organization can best support its members and advance the sector as a whole. In response, the Board of Directors and staff undertook a comprehensive planning process throughout 2024 and 2025 to shape a new 3-year strategic plan.

This work was deeply informed by member engagement. Through a series of focus groups, one-on-one conversations, and a sector-wide survey, BCCA gathered insights from co-operatives of all sizes and sectors. These perspectives were brought into a two-day strategic planning session with the Board of Directors to ensure the final plan reflects the priorities, challenges, and aspirations of the broader co-operative community.

The resulting strategic plan will guide BCCA's work from 2025 to 2028, with a focus on strengthening co-operative connections, enhancing member value, leading the sector forward, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

To see a copy of the three-year plan, [click here](#).





Thank You

Your voice shapes our future. Join a working group, host a workshop, or reach out with your ideas—member engagement is at the heart of everything we do.

 604.662.3906

 www.bcca.coop

   @bc.cooperative