



# Impact Report 2025-2026

British Columbia Co-operative Association



[www.bcca.coop](http://www.bcca.coop)



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# Message from the Board Chair

Dear Valued Members,

I am pleased to share our 2025/2026 Impact Report. In this first year of bringing our new strategy to life through the operational plan, the BC Co-operative Association (BCCA) team has worked hard to deliver on our purpose, vision, mission, and values. Tara and the team continue to inspire through their passion and dedication to our co-operative community, and I thank them for their efforts. I hope you will see how BCCAs work is building value for your membership and creating opportunities for you to connect with us and with one another.

The Board of Directors has also been busy this year, re-evaluating processes and policies to align with the revised rules, approved by the membership in the preceding year, and with our purpose, vision, mission, and values. Our directors are members who bring professional expertise from their co-ops, representing co-ops of varying sizes across multiple industries. This breadth of experience supports thoughtful discussion and strong governance.

To our members, thank you for your participation and engagement throughout the year. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Co-op Tour stops across the province. Your feedback on this and other events helps us evolve our programs and identify new ways to bring value to your membership. Thank you for your trust and ongoing support.

It has been a pleasure serving BCCA as Board Chair again this year. I remain inspired by the ways our members impact their communities and come together in support of one another and the broader co-operative community.



**Kirsten Forsch**  
Board Chair, BCCA



# Message from the Executive Director

Dear Valued Members,

This year was about connection. Connection between co-operatives. Connection with the government. Connection with emerging leaders, communities, and partners across British Columbia.

As we moved into the first year of our 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, our focus was on building a strong foundation for the future of BCCA and the broader co-operative movement. Through the Co-ops Build A Better World: BC Tour, events, webinars, and conversations across the province, I heard a consistent message: co-ops are eager for more opportunities to learn from one another, collaborate, and strengthen the ecosystem together.

I'm proud of what our small but dedicated team accomplished this year, alongside a committed Board of Directors that helped guide this important first year of implementation. Together, we expanded learning and networking opportunities, strengthened government relations through Co-ops at the Capital, introduced new membership categories, and launched the Membership Dues Support Fund to help emerging and financially vulnerable co-ops stay connected to the sector.

This report is organized around the strategic priorities guiding our work: fostering co-op connections, advancing the co-op movement, and strengthening membership. Together, these priorities reflect our commitment to building a stronger, more connected co-operative ecosystem in British Columbia.

To our members, partners, sponsors, and supporters: thank you. Your engagement, ideas, and collaboration continue to shape this work, and I'm grateful to be building the future of co-operation in BC alongside all of you.



**Tara Chernoff**  
Executive Director, BCCA



# Board of Directors 2025-26

**Kirsten Forsch**

*Board Chair*

Co-operators

**Olivia Champagne**

*Treasurer*

New Roots Worker Co-operative

**Maureen Young**

Coast Capital

**Jack Nicholson**

Otter Co-op

**Priti Tahilramani**

Vancity

**Susanna Collins**

*Vice Chair*

GIA Consulting Co-operative

**Jarrett Hagglund**

Co-operative Housing

Federation of BC (CHF BC)

**Jane Hope**

Modo Co-operative

**Samantha Lee**

Realize Solutions

**Shawn Bryant**

Yeomen Tree Service

# Staff 2025-26

**Tara Chernoff**

Executive Director

**Aaron Rideout**

Marketing & Membership Manager

**Madelyn Read**

Community Engagement &  
Education Manager



# Purpose, Vision, and 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 reflect our commitment to the cooperative 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.



## Purpose



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

## Vision



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

## 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.

# Fostering Co-op Connections

## *The Co-ops Build A Better World: BC Tour*

Our inaugural Co-ops Build A Better World: BC Tour celebrated the UN International Year of Co-ops and BC's diverse co-operative sector. We set out across the province to strengthen the provincial co-op ecosystem, raise awareness of the co-op model, and engage MLAs through film screenings, networking events, and discussions.

From qathet to Nelson and Vancouver to Prince George, BCCA traveled over 3000 km, hosting seven film screening and networking events across the province.

### Tour Stops



### Attendees were inspired by:

"How deeply other co-op representatives are involved in their communities."

"[That] co-ops are a huge economic driver in Canada."

Attendees  
**229**

Film Screenings  
**7**

Co-op Panelists  
**28**

MLAs Engaged  
**30**

## Other Events

### Mentorship Hour

BCCA launched Mentorship Hour, a virtual learning series designed exclusively for BCCA members. These one-hour sessions connect co-op leaders, practitioners, and subject matter experts to share practical insights and real-world experience.

6

Mentorship  
Hours Hosted

89

Member  
Attendees

### Co-op Connect Virtual Trade Show

BCCA hosted our second annual, Co-op Connect Virtual Trade Show. The event facilitated co-op business opportunities and networking through sector presentations.



Co-op Connect Virtual Trade Show Participants

978

total number of BCCA event attendees

100%

of event attendees rated events as 'good' or 'excellent'

# Advancing the Co-op Movement

## Co-ops at the Capital

On October 7, 2025, BCCA and representatives from **15 member co-operatives met with more than 25 Members of the Legislative Assembly** – including Premier David Eby – to highlight how co-operatives strengthen BC’s economy and communities.



**40**  
MLAs engaged through meetings and events



**The event aimed to build awareness of co-op movement and its diversity in BC, and to lay the groundwork for continued advocacy.**

Throughout the day, co-op leaders shared stories of community impact and innovation, reinforcing how co-operatives contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable economy.

The event emerged after a meeting with 12 members of the NDP Caucus in April 2025 and a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Niki Sharma in July 2025.

## ***Business Not As Usual***

BCCA supported Business NOT as Usual, a national virtual event organized by ACCA in collaboration with provincial co-op associations in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Manitoba. BCCA contributed a \$1,000 prize and in-kind support, including organizing the speaker panel, promotion, and event planning. **The two-hour event reached approximately 500 participants** across Canada, with 63% of attendees aged 18-35, advancing shared goals to raise youth awareness of the co-op model through national collaboration.

## ***Solid State's Co-op Day***

BCCA participated in Solid State's Co-op Day on February 27, attending alongside approximately 50 participants from across Solid State's network of new and existing co-operatives. The event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with emerging and established co-ops, share information about BCCA's role and the value of membership, and build relationships across the sector.



## **Speaking Engagements**

BCCA staff spoke at a variety of events and were interviewed on multiple radio stations this year, including:

- Co-operators International Year of Co-ops Event
- Royal Roads CULC Cohort
- International Women's Day Panel hosted by Modo and Vancity
- Six radio interviews and one news article promoting the co-op tour and other BCCA events

International Women's Day Panel hosted by Vancity and Modo

# Strengthening Membership

A priority for BCCA this year has been enabling more people to take advantage of our offerings and connect to BC's co-op network. As a result, we implemented two new membership categories and launched the Membership Dues Support Fund.



Co-op Tour Prince George Event Panelists

## ***Membership Dues Support Fund (MSDF)***

In December, BCCA launched the **Membership Dues Support Fund** in partnership with Nelson & District Credit Union (NDCU) and UCCC to support emerging co-ops and co-ops facing temporary financial hardship in the Kootenays. Now with additional support from Vancity, the Fund is open to co-ops across BC; it covers up to two years of BCCA/UCCC membership dues helping co-ops stay connected to learning, advocacy, and peer networks during critical periods.

As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, one co-op has been approved for the MSDF and four more are soon to be approved.

## ***New Membership Categories***

To support broader engagement with the co-operative ecosystem, BCCA introduced two new non-voting membership categories: Associate and Friend.

These new categories create clearer pathways for service providers and allied individuals or organizations to connect with the sector. Initial uptake included two new Associate members and two new Friend members.

# New BCCA Members

This year, BCCA welcomed 14 new members:

### Class A

- Debrief Communications Co-op
- Homefront Heroes
- Quarry Collective Co-op
- Slate Bookkeeping Co-operative
- Freshet News
- Ablaze Services Workers Co-operative
- Four Rivers Co-operative
- Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union

### Class B

- Virtual Reality Builders Co-op (VRBC)
- Haddock & Company Lawyers
- Mission Community Skills Centre
- Pace Accounting
- 2 Friend Memberships

[See all BCCA members](#)

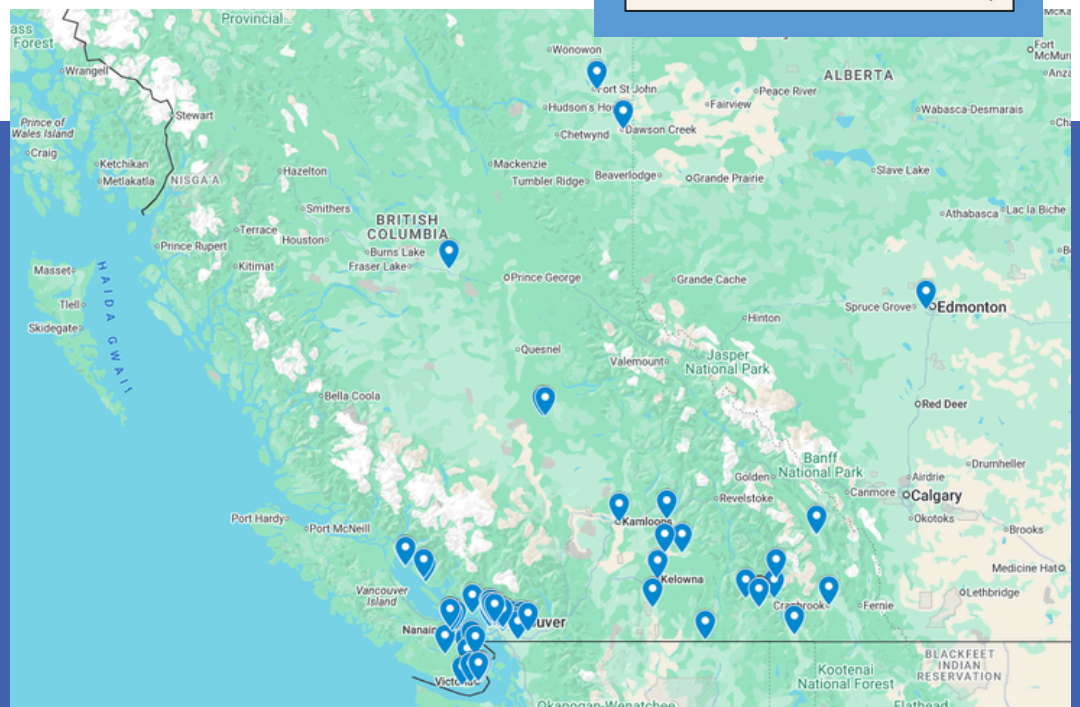
## Highlighting Members: Co-ops Solve Problems

BCCA has worked hard to highlight members and uplift co-op stories, primarily through our social media series “Co-ops Solve Problems”. This series showcased 11 BCCA members and the remarkable things they achieve through co-operation.



## Map of BCCA's Members

BCCA's members reach from the south tip of Vancouver Island all the way to the Kootenays, Edmonton, and the Peace Region.



# BCCA Performance Scorecard



## Annual Goals – for year 1/3 of our 2025–28 Strategic Plan

**150**

participants engaged in knowledge-sharing initiatives

**5** annual networking events

**90%**

satisfaction rate on annual member survey

**1** new member service

launched each year

**10%**

of annual revenue from fees-based services

**20**

new members onboarded

## How did we do?

**978**

participants engaged in knowledge-sharing initiatives

**15** annual networking events

**75%**

satisfaction rate on annual member survey

**3** new member services

launched this year

**2%**

of annual revenue from fees-based services

**14**

new members onboarded

You'll notice we greatly exceeded some goals and didn't quite reach others. Our staff team realized through the year that there was some necessary foundational work to do before we could tackle increasing revenue from fee-for-service programs and growing BCCA's membership. After spending the year building that foundation, we are excited to dive head first into these goals in the coming months.

# Thank You to Our Members

