

Pre-Budget Consultation Review Committee

Department of Finance

Tel: (709) 729-3166

Fax: (709) 729-2232

budget2021@gov.nl.ca

Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Co-operatives

Tel: (709) 726 9431

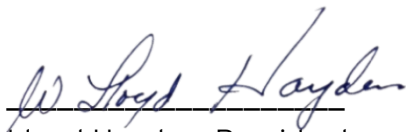
Tel: (709) 726 9434

info@nlfc.coop

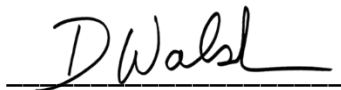
Pre-Budget Consultation Committee,

The Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Co-operatives (NLFC) submits the following pre-budget consultation document on behalf of the co-operative sector of Newfoundland & Labrador. Contained within are recommendations focused on making a positive financial impact on government's deficit situation through minimizing impact on public services and diversifying our economy.

Respectfully yours,



Lloyd Hayden, President, on behalf of the board of directors.



Dave Walsh, Managing Director on behalf of the staff.



Faith Gates, Membership Manager, on behalf of the members.

A partnership between the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador and the NLFC has been formalized in the 3rd iteration of an MOU; a \$100,000 annual grant which enables the NLFC to provide learning sessions on co-operative development to groups throughout the province. Given our limited resources, the partnership's priority is critical to the capacity of this Federation fulfilling its mandate. This agreement commits us to work together in five component areas:

1. Identifying opportunities for co-op development in targeted business sectors.
2. Having departmental staff build strong working relationships with existing co-operatives and credit unions while providing support services to developing co-operatives.
3. Supporting the delivery of the two co-op development modules as well as other relevant modules in the Community Capacity Building (CCB) Program.
4. Maintaining investments and participation in the Co-operative Development Fund Corporation (CDFC).
5. Identifying and implementing promotional opportunities to increase public awareness and support for existing co-ops and credit unions and for the development of new co-operatives.

This partnership is the most significant development in the Federation's recent history, it has been a highly successful and effective collaboration in many respects; we now have two revised co-op development modules in the CCB program, all co-operatives operating in the province have access to other relevant capacity building modules, and we have several Economic Development Officers (EDOs) who understand and support the development of co-operative enterprises who are spread across the province as first points of contact.

The co-operative business model is so flexible that it can be both a strategy and a tool for diversification, if employed properly. Co-operatives already operate in every sector of our economy, from health care to funeral services, and all manner of enterprises in between. Engaging the co-op sector and using it as a model for business development provides a unique opportunity for the provincial government to realize a far greater return on investment than is currently the case. For example, there are significant demands for care services at both ends of the age spectrum, from community day cares to seniors' housing. These demands are satisfied in other jurisdictions by co-operatives, particularly when it comes to seniors' housing.

Regarding community day care, a service in high demand across the entirety of Newfoundland & Labrador, the Growing Our Future Childcare Co-operative (GOFCC) in Port aux Basques has been able to meet demand while exceeding expectations for affordable and high-quality childcare.

GOFCC is not the only example of a successful co-operative navigating the troubled waters of public services, there are many other examples within our fellow maritime provinces that are supported through the efforts of groups such as Co-op Atlantic and are administered without government manpower.

In addition to creating new businesses, the co-operative sector provides new opportunities and alternative approaches for existing or struggling businesses to explore sustainability through cooperation, shared investment, and balanced risk. By providing socio-economic alternatives for everyone, including those marginalized by circumstances, a co-operative business conversion program would support the province's immigrant and youth retention strategies while strengthening the economy. The NLFC aims to expand our social focus to be more inclusive of a wider demographic such as newcomers, marginalized individuals, immigrants (many of which are aware of co-operatives before even coming to our province), youth, indigenous, and francophone minorities, etc. Unfortunately, we lack the reach to achieve this goal on our own, therefore government support for such a program would go a long way.

Another example of a co-operative making a positive impact in our province is Collective Interchange (CI), a non-profit community service co-operative dedicated to meeting community needs through innovative and cost-effective solutions. They have submitted a funding proposal to the Office of Immigration to undertake a feasibility study to look at the sustainability of immigrant-owned food businesses in Newfoundland & Labrador while piloting co-operative models and practices that may increase profitability and reduce risks. Their work is particularly important due to the negative impact COVID19 restrictions have had on food industry businesses which, even before the pandemic, were very high-risk ventures. CI's study will contribute to developing resources for the entire non-profit sector to use so that in future the residents of our province are given accessible information, examples, and contacts to help them make informed business decisions.

It has been stated by the Premier that this government aims to increase immigrant retention while strengthening our provincial economy. To do this, it is the firm belief of the NLFC that investment needs to be made in solutions that are outside of, and in some cases in replacement of, the regularly funded partnerships that sometimes drop the ball on engagement and effective resourcing of certain demographics within our province.

This *ball dropping* ultimately translates into lack of awareness of business/models and best practices, lack of awareness of regulatory compliance requirements and ultimately setting up newcomers, other immigrants, and other underserved groups with a higher likelihood to fail in our economy.

The co-operative sector's agricultural production can also assist the provincial government in reaching its goal of 20% provincial food self-sufficiency by 2022. This can be done by initiating cooperative thinking in existing agricultural practices.



While 20% is a good start, we feel strongly that government should continue to be aggressive with this goal and work with the NLFC to set-up agricultural producer co-operatives across the province to help facilitate local production, storage, and distribution of goods. It is our suggestion that large grocery chains operating in Newfoundland & Labrador (Dominion, Sobeys, Costco, Walmart, Colemans, Foodland, etc.) should be encouraged to purchase a portion of their products from local growers. Supplying land is a start, however supporting research and education while funding the tools to plant and seed is a much wiser long-term investment to sustainability.

This is not only true for the Newfoundland; in fact, it rings truer for Labrador where year-round fresh food is not always available or affordable. Collectively, we can support the construction of food lockers, especially along the Labrador coast, for storage and distribution of goods. Most northern Labrador communities have community meat lockers for the storage and distribution of meat to the elders, this system could easily be built upon using co-operative thinking and business principles. In addition to produce, the need exists for meat production; historically, our province housed both sheep and goats, which thrived in rural areas. There is once again strong demand within our growing immigrant community for both animals, as well as significant demand within our prominent hospitality industry for local beef and pork.

Establishing manufacturing co-operatives in key areas of the province would create jobs and save money. For example, by manufacturing paper products such as cardboard, toilet paper, and paper towels at the Corner Brook mill as secondary processing, local tree harvesters could sell their by-products locally after clearcutting and we would be supplied with a local product that fills a household need while stimulating our economy. In Roddickton during 2018 a plant was built by Holson Forest Products, with at least \$11 million of funding from the provincial government. This facility never opened. It is our recommendation that it should be reviewed and if the present owner is not opening, or not in a position to open, the plant should be converted into an operational co-operative. The NLFC would lead that endeavor and administer the development program with the government's blessing.




Thinking of secondary processing, fish come to mind as well; the Fogo Island Co-operative could be utilized to develop and produce products using fish caught here rather than shipping raw product off the island for processing and the finished products being shipped back here for sale.

On the topic of fish, it is astounding that Newfoundland & Labrador imports fish food from Norway and New Brunswick for our salmon aquaculture which could easily, and cost effectively, be produced locally; our province has the capacity in land, facility, and raw product. The Fogo Island Co-operative also has enough capacity to be able to handle secondary processing of seal if need be. Seal products should be processed here in Newfoundland & Labrador, with seal meat then being canned and sold locally in addition to being exported. Auxiliary processing plants could be set up in Fleur De Lys where many seal pelts and products come ashore, cutting down on transportation costs and creating needed jobs.



Moving on from food sustainability and production, the health care sector is Newfoundland & Labrador's largest expense and yet approximately 30% of Newfoundlanders & Labradorians are still without adequate coverage for medically necessary medications.

The co-operative sector has recognized and acknowledged this lapse in coverage and the NLFC has begun the process of deploying the Co-Pharm program, an initiative founded by the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council in collaboration with Genrus United, within our ranks and are actively involved in providing a solution to Canada's pharmacare challenge. The plan covers over 130 medications including mental health and chronic illnesses such as diabetes, asthma, blood pressure, and cholesterol. Savings as high as 60-80% of prescription costs have been reported through a network of local and independent pharmacies. Since launching in Nova Scotia in 2021, Co-Pharm has proven it is a viable option to address the pharmacare challenge in Canada. Within the last year, in Nova Scotia alone, Co-Pharm resulted in the following:

-  Member savings of approximately \$700/annually on their prescription medications
-  Average 60% increase in refills for prescriptions from members.
-  Approximately \$1,000,000 spent in local and independent pharmacies, on items other than medications.

After surveying members of co-operatives and credit unions in Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Alberta it was found that an average of 30% of members are without medical benefits. Assuming these numbers translate to the province of Newfoundland & Labrador, it is expected that based on a population of approximately 500,000 people +/- 150,000 individuals across the province would benefit from a Co-Pharm membership.




The NLFC is currently working on launching the Co-Pharm program to its members in the cooperative and credit union sector. We have the infrastructure available to lead a province-wide rollout of Co-Pharm directed to the portion of the population that would benefit from the program most. Based on the assumptions outlined above, we propose an initial pilot program wherein those individuals in the without medical benefits (self-employed, employed part-time, employed full-time at a small business or not for profit which cannot afford medical benefits, etc.) would receive a Co-Pharm membership to allow them to better afford their daily medications for chronic illnesses and mental health. The province may also find it pertinent to consider implementing a co-pay portion as well for all, or a portion, of the pilot population (i.e., those earning less than \$30,000/year).

The provincial government in Nova Scotia is currently considering a bill that would result in the province paying for contraception for those without medical benefits.



Co-Pharm has contraception options and as part of an initiative such as this, it would result in savings for the province to have those individuals receive a Co-Pharm membership due to the savings on the contraceptive medications alone. This would then also allow them to access the other medications covered under the program if they should so need.

Investing in programs that allow individuals to better afford necessary medications helps them:

-  Take the proper amount of medication they require, allowing them to be healthier and as such becoming less of a burden on the health care system.
-  Better afford other medications they require that are not covered under the program.
-  Spend money in local and independent businesses within their communities.

As stated above, the Co-Pharm program is ready to implement across the province and can be done within a much more reasonable timeframe than creating a brand-new program under the banner of Government. By moving forward with this program, it would not only provide an efficient and effective solution to those without medical benefits, but it could also be used as a pilot program for a larger and more comprehensive pharmacare program. Approximate estimate for providing an annual membership to every Newfoundlander & Labradorian without medical coverage, based on a pilot population of 150,000 people, would be approximately \$11.85 million.

Co-operative businesses are a significant form of, and contributor to, community economic development (CED) worldwide. Extensive academic research has been completed by Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) in collaboration with the International Co-operative Association (ICA) on the links between co-operatives and CED. Since joining confederation in 1949, Newfoundland & Labrador has had a bottom-up, community driven regional economic development process and service delivery model; it began with the gradual formation of Regional Development Associations (RDAs) which were replaced by Regional Economic Development Boards (REDBs) in 1998. However, in 2012 both levels of government withdrew funding for REDBs and since then there has been no community/regional CED process in place. In 2016, the Liberal Government went all-in on Social Enterprise development, coming up with a Social Enterprise Action Plan that was heavily supported party wide. Something that was overlooked at that time, however, is the fact that a co-operative is the definition of a successful social enterprise, a business delivering profits while simultaneously driving social impact and environmental sustainability.

Regional Economic Development is a provincial responsibility exercised through the Regional Economic Development Division of the Department of Industry, Energy & Technology (IET). While the Municipalities Act was amended to allow municipalities to spearhead economic development, only the cities and larger towns can afford to take on that mandate.



At present, the NLFC is the only government partner who is enacting CED within the province, most notably in rural Newfoundland & Labrador. It is through the lens of this partnership that we, the board of directors, staff, and members of the NLFC implore you to consider the co-operative model as a viable way to right the burdened and capsized vessel our provincial economy has become.

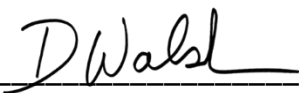
In summary, the NLFC is recommending the provincial government take the following actions:

- 🔄 Expand the provincial daycare program using a co-operative approach, as modelled by GOFCC in Port aux Basques, and creating a network of co-op daycares across the province.
- 🔄 Employ ACOA's Co-operative Business Conversion Program to support the province's immigrant and youth retention strategies, job creation strategies, and small business support efforts.
- 🔄 Entertain Collective Interchange's proposal to the Office of Immigration regarding sustainability of immigrant-owned food businesses in Newfoundland & Labrador.
- 🔄 Engage the NLFC and local producers to set up agricultural producer co-operatives across the province to help facilitate local food production, storage of goods, and distribution of goods.
- 🔄 Explore a partnership with the NLFC to support the construction of food lockers along the Labrador coast, to aid in food availability.
- 🔄 Establish manufacturing co-operatives in key areas of the province to assist with primary and secondary manufacturing of goods such as: household paper products, fish products, seal products, and fish food.
- 🔄 Enact a Co-Pharm Pilot Program to alleviate the health care burden of 30% of citizens without medical coverage, working with the NLFC to rollout the program across the province.

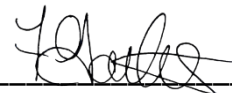
Yours in cooperation,



Lloyd Hayden, President



Dave Walsh, Managing Director



Faith Gates, Membership Manager

Attached Supporting Documents:

1. CoPharm NL Budget Consultation Proposal
2. Submission from Co-op Housing by CHANAL
3. Growing Our Future Childcare Co-operative Data
4. Leading Edge Credit Union Letter for Premier Furey
5. Lettre Cooperatives Prochain Budget – La Fédération des Parents Francophones





Newfoundland & Labrador Provincial Budget Consultation Pilot Proposal



What is Co-Pharm?

Co-Pharm is an initiative founded by the **Nova Scotia Co-operative Council** and in **collaboration with Genrus United** who aim to **solve Canada's pharmacare challenge**. The **Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Cooperatives** leads the program in the province of **Newfoundland & Labrador**. The plan covers over **130 medications including mental health and chronic illnesses** such as diabetes, asthma, blood pressure and cholesterol. Savings have been reported as high as 60–80% off of prescription costs through a network of local and independent pharmacies.

Members have reported saving as much as

60–80%

Co-Pharm
In collaboration with GENRUS UNITED

We believe in the **power of unity and the resources of our communities.**

That is why we partnered with **independent pharmacies** to deliver the program. Subscribers not only access the medication they need at more affordable rates, but they also **empower their local economy.**



Who is Co-Pharm's target member?

We believe **all Newfoundlanders deserve access to more affordable prescription medications.** Co-Pharm is available to all residents of Newfoundland & Labrador **regardless of their annual income, credit score or employment status.** Everyone deserves to obtain the **medication they need at a reasonable price.**

Those who will benefit most from becoming a Co-Pharm member are those who are **'cash payers'** for their prescription medications. This can be a wide demographic **including young people, seniors, employed, underemployed, or unemployed.**

Those who are not 'cash payers' would be anyone who has medical insurance benefits through their place of employment or other associated entity. It is possible some people also pay privately for their own medical insurance. It is **important to note that Co-Pharm cannot be used in conjunction with other medical insurance providers such as Blue Cross.**

How Does Co-Pharm Work?

Co-Pharm members simply present their membership number card once issued to them to a participating Pharmacy Partner and access a reduced copay on qualifying prescription medications.

Examples of Savings!

Diabetes (30 Day Supply)	Cash Payer	Co-Pharm Price*
Atorvastatin	\$22.01	\$5.50
Ramipril	\$18.38	\$5.50
Metformin	\$17.74	\$6.00
Gabapentin	\$31.70	\$9.50
Co-Pharm Membership (Annual cost of \$79)		\$6.59
	\$89.83	\$33.09

SAVINGS OF OVER \$56 PER MONTH! (*Newfoundland Price may vary by \$2-\$3)

Cardiovascular (30 Day Supply)	Cash Payer	Co-Pharm Price*
Metoprolol	\$23.07	\$13.00
Clopidogrel	\$26.54	\$9.50
Furosemide	\$15.00	\$4.50
Amlodipine	\$19.96	\$5.50
Co-Pharm Membership (Annual cost of \$79)		\$6.59
	\$84.57	\$39.09

SAVINGS OF OVER \$45 PER MONTH! (*Newfoundland Price may vary by \$2-\$3)

Together, let's help our communities...

Since launching in Nova Scotia one year ago, Co-Pharm has proven it is a viable option to address the pharmacare challenge in Canada. Within the last year, in Nova Scotia alone, Co-Pharm resulted in the following:

- Members saved an average of \$700/annually on their prescription medications allowing them to better afford their medications.
- Average 60% increase in refills for prescriptions from our members.
- Approximately \$1,000,000 spent in our local and independent pharmacies in our communities (on items other than medications).

Approximately 30% of Canadians are without medical benefits. Our experience is that this number essentially translates across any population. After surveying memberships of cooperatives and credit unions, we find an average of 30% of their members are without medical benefits. Assuming this translates to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, it would be expected that based on a population of approximately 500,000 people, that approximately 150,000 individuals across the province would benefit from a Co-Pharm membership.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Cooperatives is currently working on launching the Co-Pharm program amongst its members in the cooperative and credit union sector. The NLFC has the infrastructure available to lead a province-wide rollout of Co-Pharm to the portion of the population that would benefit from the program.

Based on the assumptions outlined above, we would propose an initial pilot program whereas those individuals in the province without medical benefits (self-employed, employed part-time, employed full-time at a small business or not for profit which cannot afford medical benefits, etc.) would receive a Co-Pharm membership to allow them to better afford their daily medications for chronic illnesses and mental health.

The province may also wish to consider paying for the co-pay portion as well for all or a portion of the pilot population (ie. Those earning less than \$30,000/year, etc.)

The provincial government in Nova Scotia is currently considering a bill that would result in the province paying for contraception for those without medical benefits. Co-Pharm actually has contraception options in our program and on an initiative such as this alone, it would result in savings for the province to have those individuals receive a Co-Pharm membership for the savings on the contraceptive medications alone. This would then also allow them to access the other medications covered under the program.

Investing in allowing individuals to better afford their medication allows them to:

- Take the proper amount of medication they require allowing them to be healthier and becoming less of a burden on the health system.
- Better afford other medications they require that are not covered under the program.
- Spend money on local and independent businesses in their local economies.

The program is ready to implement across the province, and can be done within a reasonable timeframe. Memberships can be distributed to individuals almost instantly once they provide their full name, email address, and physical address. We do not need date of birth, health history, income verification, etc. to issue a membership to our program.

By moving forward with this program it would not only provide an efficient and effective solution to those without medical benefits, it could be used as a pilot program for a larger more comprehensive pharmacare program.

Approximate estimate for providing an annual membership to each individual based on a pilot population of 150,000 would be approximately \$11.85 million.



CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING ASSOCIATION NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

75 Barbour Drive P.O. Box 453 Mount Pearl, NL A1N 2C4
Phone: (709) 747-5615 Toll-Free 877-497-7460 Fax: (709) 747-5606
Email: chanal@nl.rogers.com

Apr. 28, 2021

NLFC
P.O. Box 13369, Station A,
St. John's, NL
A1B 4B7

Attention: Faith Gates,
Membership Manager

Dear Faith:

Thank you for reaching out and inviting CHANAL to contribute ideas on the allocation of provincial funds as set out in the Speech from the Throne on the most effective ways to promote, build and insure longevity of sustainable communities.

In a letter from Premier Abbot to his cabinet on April 15, Premier Abbott notes in pg. 13 his government (copy attached) "will continue to work with other ministers, community stakeholders and individuals experiencing housing insecurity, to develop a comprehensive provincial Housing and Homelessness plan to help address the social systemic barriers to homelessness as well as work closely with community partners to help improve access to affordable housing".

The Co-operative Housing sector in NL currently has a need for affordable housing for our seniors. Our biggest needs are access to available land as well as funding to develop and support seniors who are looking to downsize to smaller units which would then open up the 3 bed-room duplexes that they currently reside in to families in just a much need of decent affordable homes.

Some items that we offer as ideas are:

- ✓ Access to available land to build 2-bedroom units for our seniors; multi-generational housing as well as supportive housing in all its forms.
- ✓ Access to Provincial financial and funding support (Co-op's are being denied access to funding due to their 1st mortgages being paid off).
- ✓ Access to a Rent Supplement Program (some members currently pay more than 30% of their income for housing).
- ✓ The ability to maintain the current Co-op housing stock through Grants, RRAP and other government programs.

CHANAL

Page 2.

We have attached for your information the following items as well:


- ✓ Co-operative Housing in Newfoundland Labrador – A Brief History
- ✓ An Overview of Co-operative Housing Association Newfoundland And Labrador


On a closing note, we would like to point out that all housing co-ops are on-going contributing factors to municipal and provincial tax bases and other services to the tune of approximately \$5,000,000.00 per year and provide support to local businesses, schools, daycares etc. Members want to maintain their affiliation with co-op housing as it provides other supports besides affordable housing. Given its track record Co-operative housing should be given the same considerations for funding; land etc. as any other housing provider in the Province.

We hope this is helpful in NLFC's presentation to the Provincial Government in ways to meaningfully allocate funding.

We look forward to receiving a copy of NLFC's report and would like to be included in any government discussions on Co-operatives and in particular Housing Co-operatives.

Yours truly,


Rosalind Langer,
Property/Project Manager


David Boyde,
Financial Manager

Attachments

Co-operative Housing in Newfoundland Labrador – A Brief History

Housing Co-operatives were developed in Newfoundland Labrador in the late 1970's to early 1980's. There were initially 26 Housing Co-operatives developed – 24 on the Island portion of the Province and 2 in Labrador. Unfortunately, during a huge downturn in the mining industry in the mid to late 1980s the 2 housing Co-operatives in Labrador didn't survive.

In 1997 the Federal Government downloaded the Housing Co-ops to NLHC who administered the Mortgage agreements on behalf of CMHC. During the early days of working with NLHC two more co-ops (island) were lost due to poor governance and even poorer management.

In early 2000 CHANAL began working closely with NLHC on 3 mergers – 2 in Grand Falls-Windsor and 1 in St. John's which prevented the loss of these 3 housing co-ops. The remaining 21 housing co-ops continue to provide decent affordable homes to 394 families.

The 21 remaining housing co-ops are in the following areas of the Province:

- 6 – St. John's – 106 homes
- 11 – Mount Pearl – 194 homes
- 1 – Gander – 19 homes
- 2 – Grand Falls-Windsor – 56 homes
- 1 – Corner Brook – 19 homes

In the beginning of Co-op housing life, support was provided by CHASS (Community Housing and Support Services) the now Community Sector Council to help develop business plans, develop and design of housing co-ops, help with tender process etc. as well as the development of a Co-op Handbook.

The Handbooks provided a brief history of the individual housing co-ops, a set of By-Laws and Policies & Procedures as well as meeting and Parliamentary Procedure.

The current housing co-ops are either out of their first mortgages or at the end of these mortgages. CHANAL is now providing support by helping the housing co-ops develop a plan to present to their lending institutions to allow them to negotiate a 2nd mortgage to update and modernize their homes.

CHANAL also provides a myriad of services to the housing co-ops from Financial & Property Management to minute taking. These services are a "fee for services" and are covered under a contract between the individual housing co-op and CHANAL.

An Overview of Co-operative Housing Association Newfoundland And Labrador

CHANAL

The Co-operative Housing Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (CHANAL) was started in 1986 and incorporated March 9, 1990.

CHANAL officially opened its office at 75 Barbour Drive in Mount Pearl in May of 1990. It was incorporated as a not for profit entity that is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is elected annually from among the members of the housing co-operatives.

Its mandate was to create a Federation that would meet the growing needs and demands of the Provinces Housing Co-ops.

CHANAL's Mission Statement:

- To be a proactive federation committed to non-profit, affordable and sustainable housing.
- To provide a community based environment with affordable support services and education to its member housing co-ops and like minded organizations.
- Liaise with all levels of Government, housing co-ops and like minded housing providers and
- Promote the Co-operative Principles to foster respect and equality within the Co-op Community and the Community at large.

CHANAL's Vision Statement:

"CHANAL will continue to be a pro-active Federation committed to providing affordable housing, education and services to its member housing co-ops."

CHANAL's Objectives:

- Promote the development of continuing non-profit housing co-ops;
- Promote the healthy operation of the housing co-ops through the provision of education and other services;
- Act as a representative to government, community agencies and the general public;
- Promote co-op housing as an affordable option;
- Facilitate, liaise, communicate and share skills among its members and with other associations, societies, co-operatives and non-profit organizations with similar objectives;
- Acquire and/or maintain memberships in or association with other provincial and national organizations with similar objectives;
- Engage in all other such legal activities consistent with the co-operative principles that may assist in the attainment of these objectives.

An Overview of CHANAL (cont'd)

Page 2

In the early years with the help of Government funding CHANAL was able to hire part-time staff to run the office and develop a program of services that would meet the growing needs of the individual housing co-ops. In 1992 CHANAL hired its first full time staff person. The duties of this staff person were to provide Bookkeeping and Financial Management Services to its member housing co-ops. CHANAL currently has two full time staff persons.

With increased revenues from Dues, Shared Revenue from CHF Canada and the buy-in of bookkeeping and financial management packages from the local housing co-ops and in recognition of the need to assist the co-ops, particularly the smaller ones, with a wider range of services, CHANAL, in 1994 expanded its Bookkeeping and Financial Management Services to include Audit Services and Arrears Collection.

Since 1999, besides the services listed above, CHANAL now offers a full range of services including:

- Property/Project Management
- Contract Management
- Contract Awarding and Inspections
- Maintenance
- Marketing

There are currently 21 Housing Co-operatives in the Province providing homes for 396 families, with the majority of homes in Mount Pearl (191) and St. John's (108). All 21 Housing Co-ops are members of CHANAL and CHF Canada. Fourteen co-ops are currently availing of one or more of the services offered by CHANAL.

Some of the benefits of membership include:

- ✓ Commercial Insurance Program
- ✓ Auto & Home Insurance & Housing Charge Life Insurance
- ✓ Advise and help for co-op's in difficulty
- ✓ Central waiting list
- ✓ Toll free line
- ✓ Education events
- ✓ Bulk buying
- ✓ Referrals to legal, financial experts and trades people and mediation
- ✓ Resource Library

CHANAL & CHF CANADA:

CHANAL enjoys a close working relationship with the national federation – Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada).

An Overview of CHANAL (cont'd)

Page 3

CHANAL is an accredited resource federation and member of CHF Canada and works closely with CHF Canada to promote the objectives of both federations to its members, government and the public at large.

CHANAL takes part in the lobbying activities organized nationally by CHF Canada and is represented at the CHF Canada Board table by a Regional Director representing Newfoundland Labrador.

CHANAL also benefits from financial support offered by CHF Canada through its Shared Revenue Program as well as other financial help throughout the year for various projects such as the Annual General Meeting.

CHANAL promotes through CHF Canada a commercial and group insurance program to its members through The Co-operators.

CHANAL & NLHC:

In 1997 the Co-operative Housing portfolio was downloaded from the Federal Government to the Province. Since then CHANAL has developed a close working relationship with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing (NLHC) that is mutually beneficial to both parties.

In 1999, with financial support from NLHC, CHANAL further expanded its range of services, as above. CHANAL also works closely with NLHC on funding requirements for capital, emergency and life safety repairs for the housing co-ops.

Financial support was offered by NLHC after NLHC recognized the need for a liaison person between their organization and the individual housing co-ops. The financial support was in the form of fees for services.

FINANCIAL:

CHANAL has an annual income as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| ➤ Shared Revenue | 4.7% |
| ➤ Dues | 9.2% |
| ➤ Fees for Services | 86.1% |
| ➤ | |

OTHER:

CHANAL has developed a good relationship with all levels of Government - Municipal, Provincial and Federal to discuss and work together on housing co-op issues.



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
The Premier

April 15, 2021

The Honourable John Abbott
Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development
Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities
Minister Responsible for the Community Sector
Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation

Dear Minister Abbott:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Minister Responsible for the Community Sector, and Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation. As part of this Cabinet, you are working on behalf of, and alongside, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to face the challenges confronting our province while preparing for the great opportunities ahead. I have confidence in our Government and in this province. This is the right team at the right time.

Together, we will deliver on our promises to the people of this province. Together, we will promote a healthy Newfoundland and Labrador, drive meaningful economic opportunities, foster inclusive population growth, modernize education and childcare, and build strong partnerships. We will realize our vision of a prosperous and fiscally responsible province that is inclusive and welcoming to people from all over the world.

As Minister, you will take a lead in building a prosperous future for this province. You will foster strong relationships with Indigenous governments and organizations and with relevant stakeholder groups. Each relationship must be founded upon respect and mutual understanding.

Now is the time to take meaningful steps on the path to prosperity, and decisive action to build a solid foundation for future generations. I am asking you to work with your Cabinet colleagues and with all Members of the House of Assembly to advance the following priorities.

As Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, you will lead a review of existing government measures to address poverty, including measures to address housing and food insecurity, and lead the development of a renewed poverty reduction strategy in consultation with stakeholders, experts and community leaders. To address food security, you will work with the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to meet the goal of increasing food security to 20 percent by 2022.

You will also work toward the development of an action plan that will coordinate government efforts, focus on community partnerships, and identify opportunities to improve outcomes for all children and youth so they can develop to their full potential. This will include supporting vulnerable families to help prevent the need for involvement in the child protection system, and reviewing the system of children in care. In this role, you will also oversee the continued implementation of the new Children, Youth and Families Act. I task you to address issues important to the health and well-being of children and youth in our province and, in particular, as identified by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

You will collaborate with your Cabinet colleagues, including the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, the Nunatsiavut Government, and other community partners to address the recommendations of the Independent Review of Child Protection Services to Inuit Children in Newfoundland and Labrador to improve outcomes for Inuit children, youth and their families. In keeping with the memorandum of understanding signed between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Innu leadership, you will participate in the forthcoming inquiry into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system. This work will be done in collaboration with the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and the Government of Canada.

To support seniors across the province, you will work with your Cabinet colleagues, care providers, community groups and educational institutions, and lead the development of an intergenerational program guide to aid increased interaction between youth and older adults across Newfoundland and Labrador. I task you to address issues important to seniors throughout the province and, in particular, as identified by the Seniors' Advocate. In addition, you will finalize the review of the Adult Protection Act to consider areas that may require amendment and continue to promote the Age Friendly Communities Program to assist communities planning for population aging.

Your new portfolio will include the provision of income support and basic benefits to those in need. I ask you to enhance program integrity measures under the income support program, including increased frequency of client file reviews. Provide opportunities for income support clients with moderate barriers to employment to transition into the workforce and achieve full attachment or re-attachment. Please review program and service delivery models for income support to ensure continuous improvement.

I ask that you support the Minister of Health and Community Services to reinvest identified savings from value-based healthcare into areas that will improve the social determinants of health and wellness of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. This will involve consultation with Health Accord NL, community stakeholders, healthcare providers, and patients with lived experience.

As Minister Responsible for the Community Sector, you will work with your Cabinet colleagues to support volunteer and non-profit organizations. In collaboration with the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, the community sector, stakeholders and leading incubators across Canada you will lead the establishment of an incubator and accelerator. This will help create the social infrastructure that will allow our community organizations to grow and to maximize the sector's social and economic impacts across the province.

As Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities, you will work in partnership with your Cabinet colleagues, the Minister of Digital Government and ServiceNL, and stakeholders to lead the development of provincial accessibility legislation to help ensure inclusion and equity for all persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. Please continue to engage, support, and partner with the Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities NL, and work with stakeholders to ensure equitable access to services and opportunities for people with disabilities. Ensure that all policy and legislative work is grounded in the principle of "nothing about us without us". Please continue work to establish an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

As Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, continue working with other ministers, community stakeholders and individuals experiencing housing insecurity, to develop a comprehensive provincial Housing and Homelessness Plan to help address the social systemic barriers related to homelessness. You will also continue working closely with our community partners to help improve access to affordable housing, including investments in modernizing or renovating public housing units, and delivering the Home Energy Savings Program in collaboration with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to help make homes more energy efficient and fight climate change.

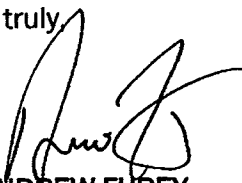
We will always remain focused on a robust economy where there is a place for all workers, and an economy that embraces renewable energy while maximizing our oil and gas advantage. We will foster a business environment that supports new and growing technology and we will reimagine and reinvigorate our fishing and mining sectors to meet global demand for our abundant resources.

As we work to build a strong economy, we must also work to create a prosperous society. We envision a province with healthy, active residents who not only have access to the means to treat illness but also to achieve wellness. We envision a province with vibrant, engaged communities in which nobody is left behind. We must ensure that in our quest to build economic wealth we also build social and cultural wealth.

Our Government must always be mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and must ensure that quality social services are available and accessible to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. To ensure our Government is meeting this need, a Gender-Based Plus Analysis must be integrated into all policies and proposals.

I call on you and every other Newfoundlander and Labradorian to join me in my commitment to make a difference for our province. Together, we will harness our collective strengths and build a better and brighter future for this province.

Yours truly,



DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier

Growing Our Future Childcare Co-operative

The GOFCC initiative was a significant undertaking for LECU. With the help of the volunteer committee, LECU led the development and execution of a multi-year plan involving the coordination of many funding partners and community stakeholders. The table below outlines the major contributors to the project and shows the total investment in the construction of the centre.

Updated October 2020

Organization	Capital Approved	Notes
Leading Edge Credit Union	\$400,000	Non-interest bearing mortgage (Forfeited interest revenue = \$130,000)
Department of Education	\$302,000	\$190,000 in building materials \$112,000 in equipment, supplies, and staffing
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operatives – Co-op Development Fund	\$30,000	Repayable Grant
The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation – Regional Development Fund	\$40,000	
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	\$159,195	Innovative Communities Fund
Town of Port aux Basques	\$16,000	Land donation, water/sewer tie ins
Marine Atlantic Inc.	\$30,000	MAI donated \$30,000 to complete two outdoor play spaces – largest single community donation to date
Total	\$977,195	

The economic benefits of increasing the childcare capacity in a rural community extend well beyond the construction stage. The information below highlights some of the measurable economic benefits to the Port aux Basques region.





10 FULL-TIME POSITIONS

CAPACITY FOR 34 SPACES IN THE BUILDING

OUT OF THE 37 CHILDREN ENROLLED:

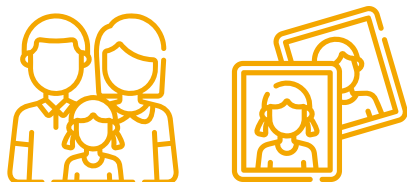
27 ARE FULL-TIME

10 SHARE SPACES



CURRENTLY, THE CENTRE IS AT CAPACITY WITH A WAITING LIST OF MORE THAN

15 FAMILIES

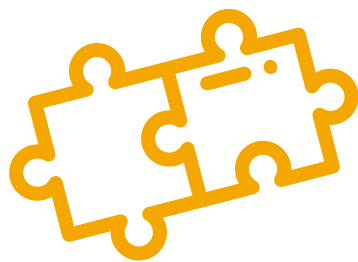


WE CURRENTLY HAVE 11 FAMILIES

availing of the provincial subsidy program for low-wage earners. Since opening, 20 families have availed of services at the centre through the childcare subsidy program.

These 20 families would be unable to participate in the job market were it not for this access to subsidizable childcare services.

We have had **four single-parent families** using the program to allow the parent to pursue post-secondary education.



WE CURRENTLY HAVE 5 CHILDREN WITH DIAGNOSED SPECIAL NEEDS

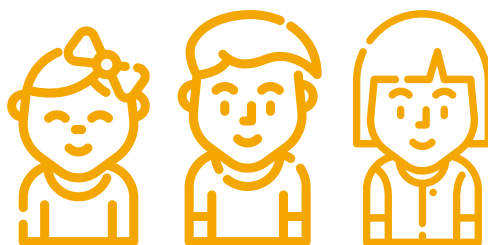
ALL OF THESE CHILDREN HAVE ISSP PLANS AND OUR STAFF ATTEND REGULAR MEETINGS.



OUT OF THESE

FIVE CHILDREN, FOUR OF THEM

share two inclusion workers. The outcomes for these children are exponentially better when it comes to their eventual integration into the school system.



37 CHILDREN ENROLLED



INFANT ROOM: 6

TODDLER/PRESCHOOL ROOM #1: 14

TODDLER/PRESCHOOL ROOM #2: 16

Since opening in April 2018, there have been **97 children** attend the centre.

The true impact of the GOFCC goes well beyond that which is measurable. The families that avail of the services of the Growing Our Future Childcare Co-operative have a safe, nurturing, inclusive, education-based centre to call their own. LECU is proud of the role we played in the success of this important project. Click [here](#) to learn more about what this centre means to the community of Port aux Basques.

We feel this model of service delivery can be replicated and scaled to serve similar needs in other communities in our province.

October 16, 2020

Hon. Andrew Furey

Premier, Newfoundland and Labrador

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

premier@gov.nl.ca

Dear Premier Furey,

Congratulations on your successful bid to lead the Liberal Party of this province. Like you, Leading Edge Credit Union (LECU) strives to help build a stronger, more sustainable economic future for our members and their communities. As we approach the House of Assembly's fall session, I would like to discuss our views on collaboration, opportunities to strengthen the province's social service sector, and the role that credit unions, co-operatives and social enterprises must play in economic recovery for Newfoundland and Labrador.

As you have highlighted on your [website](#), our great province is facing a number of daunting challenges: an aging population, outmigration of skilled young people, and an unsustainable fiscal outlook. I was uplifted by your address to the citizens of our province on September 24th when you recognized that you "see recovery as a group effort" and that you "will seek the best advice from the top experts to deal with these issues."

I agree that we need to surround ourselves with knowledgeable people to make the right recommendations moving forward. I have spent 25 years in the financial sector and the last 20 years leading a financial co-operative in this province. I have visited many co-operatives all over the world and it has become clear to me that the best path forward for our society is in co-operative partnerships. We need not have government work alone to resolve our problems; as citizens of this province, we must recognize our role as stakeholders in advancing real, tangible solutions to our common challenges.

Our province has an opportunity to learn from real co-op economies that are flourishing. The Mondragon region of Spain, for example, boasts an economy where 75% of the commerce taking place is with co-ops. In Mondragon, the co-op model is so successful, in fact, that the co-ops work together to manage their own social programs, such as unemployment and health insurance

.../2

Website: www.lecu.ca

Corporate Office
Grand Bay Mall, 2nd Level
P.O. Box 70
Grand Bay East, NL A0N 1K0

(T) 709-695-7065
(F) 709-695-7078

services. They do this with both financial and policy support from government, thus eliminating an expensive government-delivered program. This is just one example from the global co-operative community to demonstrate the potential success of investing in the co-op model.

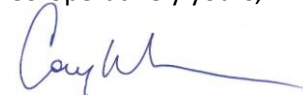
Here in our own province, we feel that now is the time to start to rethink the role of Government in supporting the social-economic well-being of our communities and to look at alternative models of service delivery. As Shaun Loney states in his book *The Beautiful Bailout*, "the financial beneficiary of the work that non-profits do is nearly always government." The problem, however, lies in governments' failure to place adequate valuation on these financial benefits. I invite you to take a few minutes to [listen](#) to Shaun Loney explains this concept in more detail.

Five years ago, a group of concerned citizens in Port aux Basques united to address the need to increase regulated childcare capacity in our community. We all agree that the lack of access to affordable, regulated childcare is a significant provincial issue, one that was even addressed in your recent budget announcement. According to a special [report](#) by TD Economics, a "large number of studies estimate that the benefits of early learning far outweigh the costs. Indeed, the analysis shows that for every dollar invested, the return ranges from roughly 1.5 to almost 3 dollars, with the benefit ratio for disadvantaged children being in the double digits¹."

Having worked with my fellow co-op members to build, launch and manage the Growing Our Future Childcare Co-operative (GOFCC), I am strongly compelled to reach out to you to have a dialogue about what the process taught us and how we can work together to identify and remove barriers for future development in this area. I am confident that this model of service delivery can be replicated and scaled to serve similar needs in other communities in our province. Attached you will find a fact sheet that illustrates the contributions of the GOFCC over the past five years, including the total economic impact of this Co-op to the Port aux Basques region.

I look forward to further discussions with you on the ways in which we can work collectively to advance co-operative and social enterprise development in our province. I will contact your office to determine a time when we can connect to begin this conversation.

Co-operatively yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Munden".

Cory Munden, MMCCU
CEO

cc: **Hon. Andrew Parsons, Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology**
Hon. Tom Osborne, Minister of Education
Hon. Siobhan Coady, Minister of Finance

¹ Special Report, TD Economics. Early Childhood Education Has Widespread and Long Lasting Benefits. November, 2012.



et ses membres,

Le comité de parents de Cap-Saint-Georges
Le comité de parents de la Grand'Terre
Le comité de parents de l'Anse-au-Clair
Le comité de parents de l'Ouest du Labrador
Le comité de parents d'Happy Valley - Goose Bay
Le comité de parents des Grands-Vents

St. John's, le 28 avril 2021

À l'attention de Monsieur Lloyd Hayden, Président
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operatives

Objet : propositions de la FPFTNL concernant la prochaine allocation du budget provincial

Monsieur Hayden,

La FPFTNL a pour mission d'outiller les comités de parents francophones et de les épauler dans la conduite de projets d'envergure pour le développement du fait français et l'amélioration des services aux familles qu'elles soient francophones, exogames ou anglophones ayants droit.

Notre organisme offre chaque jour plus de 16 services directs à plus de 300 familles francophones de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador et notamment celles situées au sein de régions rurales, isolées et nordiques. Ces familles rencontrent des défis sans précédent, notre organisme les épaula au quotidien.

La Fédération des **parents** francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador (FPFTNL), appuyée de ses membres, les comités de parents francophones, souhaite devenir membre de votre organisation.

Faire partie de votre organisation nous permettra de mettre en place de nouvelles garderies sous forme de coopératives plus facilement et de gagner en expertise. D'ores et déjà, vous trouverez ci-après notre contribution pour la consultation organisée par le bureau du Premier ministre pour l'élaboration du prochain budget :

Continuer à appuyer l'essor de coopératives lors de la phase de démarrage (analyse de marché) mais également en phase de mise en œuvre opérationnelle.

- D'après notre expérience récente, il est aisé de trouver des financements fédéraux et provinciaux pour réaliser des études de faisabilité et des consultations ou sondages. Il est plus ardu de trouver des fonds pour la phase de développement et la concrétisation des projets sur le terrain qui pourtant sont porteurs de valeurs communautaires telles que la solidarité et l'entraide en plus de promouvoir la vitalité et l'essor économique des communautés.

Apporter des fonds supplémentaires pour les coopératives de certains secteurs tels que la petite enfance, les services de restauration scolaire ou encore l'agriculture urbaine.

- Garderies coopératives. Nous manquons cruellement de places de garderie, qu'elles soient francophones ou anglophones, et les coopératives pourraient être un levier de développement pour en créer davantage.
- Coopératives d'alimentation. Il est également difficile de cuisiner des boîtes à lunch bonnes pour la santé pour un prix raisonnable. Le format coopératif pourrait certainement être bénéfique afin de garantir la sécurité alimentaire et favoriser une plus grande équité dans l'accès à des aliments de qualité pour certaines communautés isolées. Une saine alimentation est un facteur de réussite scolaire en aidant l'enfant à atteindre son plein potentiel.
- Coopératives agricoles (en milieu urbain). Encourager l'éclosion de coopératives agricoles permettrait de revaloriser certains espaces verts vacants dans les centres villes. Une telle initiative renforcerait le sens de la solidarité dans certains quartiers, notamment les plus défavorisés, et serait bénéfique pour la création d'emplois sur le long terme.

Force d'achat : faciliter l'essor de coopératives d'achats groupés notamment dans le secteur de l'éducation et de la petite enfance.

- Notre organisme est le plus grand employeur de la francophonie dans la province après le Conseil scolaire francophone provincial (CSFP). Néanmoins, la FPFTNL demeure un client de petite taille pour nombre de commerces spécialisés en ressources et matériels pour les services en petite enfance et préscolaire. Devenir membre d'une coopérative d'achats multilingues (regroupant différents services en petite enfance francophones et anglophones) pourrait nous permettre d'optimiser nos achats. L'ensemble des services à la petite enfance de la province pourrait alors bénéficier d'économies substantielles.

Si vous jugez qu'une ou l'ensemble de ces suggestions sont pertinentes et réalisables, il nous fera plaisir de discuter et développer avec votre équipe.

Nous sommes présents aux quatre coins de la province : à Cap-Saint-Georges, la Grand Terre, l'Anse-au-Clair, Labrador City, Happy Valley- Goose Bay, et St John's.

N'hésitez pas à me contacter par téléphone ou courriel pour toute question complémentaire.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de ma haute considération.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Luc Larouche'.

Luc Larouche - Président

Cellulaire : (709) 685-8449

FPFTNL - 120 LeMarchant Rd, St. John's, TNL (A1B 4P5) - Téléphone : (709)-722-7669 ou +1 (888) 749-7669 - Télécopieur : (709) 722-7696
Facebook : @fpftnl - Site web : www.fpftnl.ca - Courriels : info@fpftnl.ca