



Communiqué

Loan Guarantee Program Expands *Big News & Big Growth for Credit Unions*

The Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, in partnership with Credit Union Central of Nova Scotia is very pleased to announce the expansion of our small business lending program from its original \$8 million program to a \$33 million program.

After two short years, the take-up off the program has exceeded everyone's expectations. At a press conference in July, Minister Ernest Fage was quoted as saying that "thanks to strong commercial demand and diligent management by the co-operative sector, we expect the expanded program to be able to finance more than \$90 million in small business loans in the next decade. In only two short years it has created or maintained nearly 900 jobs through loans to 132 businesses. The updated program should more than double that job total at over a thousand businesses, many of which face a long-standing need for more access to capital in order to grow", Mr. Fage explained.

Businesses participating in the program are located in predominately rural areas from Cape Breton to the Annapolis Valley, and cross many sectors from agriculture and forestry to manufacturing and technology.

The program is administered by the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, with loans approved by regional lending committees to ensure decision-making stays local. The province's credit unions will continue to issue the loans and monitor compliance.

"With the increased lending capacity, this program has helped up develop; the co-operative sector is continuing our history and commitment to building Nova Scotia communities", said Co-

operative Council President, Marinus Van de Sande.

"Increased lending capacity is good for the credit unions and good for local companies looking for money to grow their operations at home", said Dave MacLean, Chairman of the Board of Credit Union Central of Nova Scotia. "The expanded scope of the program is more good news that will help small businesses, particularly in rural areas, overcome one of their toughest obstacles, access to capital," he said.

Loans up to \$150,000 are available to small businesses under the program. The province guarantees up to 75 percent of the loan, with the credit unions responsible for the remaining 25 percent.

Co-operatives and/or other small businesses wishing to access the program are encouraged to visit their local credit union or contact Dianne Kelderman, CEO, Nova Scotia Co-operative Council at (902) 893-8966 or via e-mail at diannefk@tru.eastlink.ca.



CEO, Dianne Kelderman Thanks Minister Ernest Fage for his support during press conference at AgriTech Park in July

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Up-Coming Events

- Annual Wine & Cheese Reception with the Premier & Caucus - October 26, 2005
- Heartwood Centre for Community Youth Development Open House - October 14, 2005
- Thanksgiving - October 10, 2005
- Halloween - October 31, 2005

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NSCC Welcomes New Team Member, Shaun Shea

The Nova Scotia Co-operative Council would like everyone to welcome a new member to their Business Development team.

Shaun Shea officially joined NSCC on September 6, 2005 and brings with him a wealth of expertise and experience.

Shaun's background includes a Bachelor of Commerce from St. Mary's University, ten years of experience in commercial lending with the Business Development Bank of Canada, thirteen years experience with business and community economic development with the Province of Nova Scotia, and five years of community economic development experience with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

His main hobby is long distance running, having competed in over twenty marathon races over the years, including the Boston Marathon.

He currently volunteers his time on a weekly basis as a tutor with the Lauback Each One Teach One Program and is also an active member of the Sydney Kiwanis Club.

Shaun is married with four fantastic children. He and his family currently reside in Sydney, Nova Scotia.



Shaun Shea is the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council's Newest Business Development Officer

Shaun will be working out of our Sydney branch office, and we cannot wait to see what a terrific addition to the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council he will be.

Anyone who wishes to get in touch with Shaun can reach him by phone at (902) 564-8821 or by e-mail at shaunshea@eastlink.ca.

Halifax Co-operative World Café

On September 26 the first Halifax Co-operative World Café took place at St. Matthew's Church Hall in Halifax. The event was presented in partnership with MYDAS Worker Co-operative, the Heartwood Centre for Community Development, and the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council.

The purpose was to bring together organizations, and young adults from around Nova Scotia to discuss co-operative growth in the region and the encouragement of youth involvement within the sector. The hope was to create a fun, safe, and open space for the generation of ideas through conversation. The event was very successful and we hope to see more events support our youth in becoming interested in the growth of our community organizations.

For more information on the World Café, contact stu.neatby@gmail.com.

"On September 26 the first Halifax Co-operative World Café took Place at St. Matthew's Church Hall"

New Co-operatives Operating in Nova Scotia

Growth in the co-operative sector is steadily increasing. As such, we are pleased to announce that the following co-operatives have begun operating throughout communities in Nova Scotia

- Guysco Development Co-operative is a community development co-operative for eastern Guysborough, operating out of Canso, and has been instrumental in the start-up of three new businesses within their communities
- Halifax Farmer's Market Day Vendors Co-operative will be working with the Halifax Farmer's Market
- Heatherdale Cemetery Co-operative in Pictou County is the first of its kind in Nova Scotia
- Shean Investment Co-operative Limited is a CEDIF co-operative which will invest \$500,000 in the Shean Co-operative once the offer successfully closes
- Sustainable Living Co-operative is a vacation resort near Framboise



Heatherdale Cemetery Co-operative Limited in Pictou County becomes the first of its kind in Nova Scotia

Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival Wildly Successful

The Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival, lead by the Wild Blueberry Harvest Co-operative, held a month-long series of successful events and gatherings to celebrate the blueberry and its benefits.

Established on September 28, 2004, this new co-operative, partnered together with local businesses and key organizations, such as the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia, Colchester Regional Development Agency, and the Central Nova Tourism Association, introduced the first provincial festival involving the promotion and coordination of both new and existing events sharing the wild blueberry theme. This volunteer organization has achieved their goal, and

the launch of the first ever Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival took place from August 19 to September 2, 2005. Events took place in a variety of communities from Stewiacke to Amherst; and there was something for everyone.

Congratulations to the Wild Blueberry Harvest Co-operative and their many volunteers for a fantastic start to this annual festival. We look forward to many more successful festivals in the coming years! For more information about the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival and the Wild Blueberry Harvest Co-operative, you can visit their website at www.wildblueberryfest.com.



Wild blueberries grown in abundance in the central region of Nova Scotia

The Co-operative Business Development Unit

We Can Help to Improve Your Co-operative

Submitted by
Bob Williams, Director of Operations

Organizations, whether they be profit or non-profit, corporation or co-operative, are complex beasts at the best of times. That's because they are made up of a variety of individuals, each with varying skill sets and behavioral traits. As such, they require constant attention and adjustment to ensure their effectiveness and vitality.

"Some Co-operatives are getting stronger, while others could be but are not. Which group does your co-op belong with?"

Co-operatives bring with them their own complexities, since, by definition, their concern is not only financial vi-

ability, but goals related to social and community perspectives.

The Nova Scotia Co-operative Council maintains a Co-operative Business Development Unit made up of Business Development Officers residing across the entire province. These capable individuals not only understand business, they understand business from a co-operative standpoint. They are experi-

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Patrick Fougere, Advocate & Leader, Remembered

On Sunday, August 14, 2005, Patrick Fougere suddenly passed away.

Mr. Fougere was a well-known advocate for Canso fishermen, a community leader, a husband, and a father.

Patrick was a founding member of the Canso Trawlermen's Co-operative, which was a member of the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, a former union leader with the UFCW, a volunteer for numerous Boards and committees, and a tireless supporter of fishermen within his community of



Well-Known Advocate for Canso Fishermen, Patrick Fougere

Canso and throughout Nova Scotia.

The funeral for his passing was held on Friday, August 19, 2005, at the Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, with burial following immediately afterward. Donations were made in memory of Patrick to the Friends of Canso organization.

He will be remembered with warm memories as both a friend and an activist.

Sunrise Trail Community Development Co-op

The Sunrise Trail Community Development Co-operative has launched new and exciting community initiatives, including the Lets Dollars initiative, which is gathering a lot of interest from other communities along the Sunrise Trail.

Their successes, which have earned the co-operative organization financial support from the National Co-operative Development Initiative, as well as our own Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, is experiencing interest from other rural areas in Nova Scotia which are also experiencing eroding economies and leakage of dollars from their communities.

Rob Assels, President of the co-operative, will be contributing his time and efforts to promote these new concepts to other groups of people throughout Nova Scotia. He is enthusiastic about sharing their Movie Night Program, film festival, Lets Program, and community development ideas that are in the works!



The Sunrise Trail has long been a scenic and beautiful destination within Nova Scotia, but it has been experiencing an eroding economy over the years



We're On The Web!
www.ncoopcouncil.ca

Co-operative Business Development Unit Cont'd...

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enced in dealing with a variety of issues, such as Board governance, insurance, management and staffing, financial viability, general operations, and growth and expansion.

Currently, we are working on a variety of projects including the following:

- Working with a co-operative to update their by-laws to allow for effective Board performance
- Development work for a CEDIF for investment into the community co-op store
- Developing a business plan for a community co-op funeral home
- Expansion of a fisheries co-operative

Our goal is to help to grow your co-operative into a stronger

and more effective organization. Take a close look at your own co-op. What challenges does it currently face? Is there satisfaction with the performance of the Board and management? Is it meeting its goals from a financial, social, and community aspect? Is expansion a consideration? Could you be co-operating with another co-operative for the advantage of both? Some co-ops are getting stronger, while others could be but are not. Which group does your co-operative belong with?

We are here to help our members and the co-operative sector. There is a Business Development Officer in your region. In Sydney, contact Shaun Shea at (902) 564-8821, in Central Nova Scotia, contact Fred Pierce at (902) 896-7289, in Southwestern Nova Scotia, contact Terry Thibodeau at (902) 742-0555, or give us a call at the main office. We can be reached at (902) 893-8966 or via e-mail at ncoopcouncil@eastlink.ca.



Nova Scotia Co-operative Council

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The Nova Scotia Co-operative Council wants to hear your voice! This is a newsletter designed to keep everyone in touch with what's happening within the NSCC as well as the co-operative sector. If you have news or events you would like included in our publication, please contact us at (902) 893-8966 or e-mail us at ncoopcouncil@eastlink.ca. We would love to hear from you!