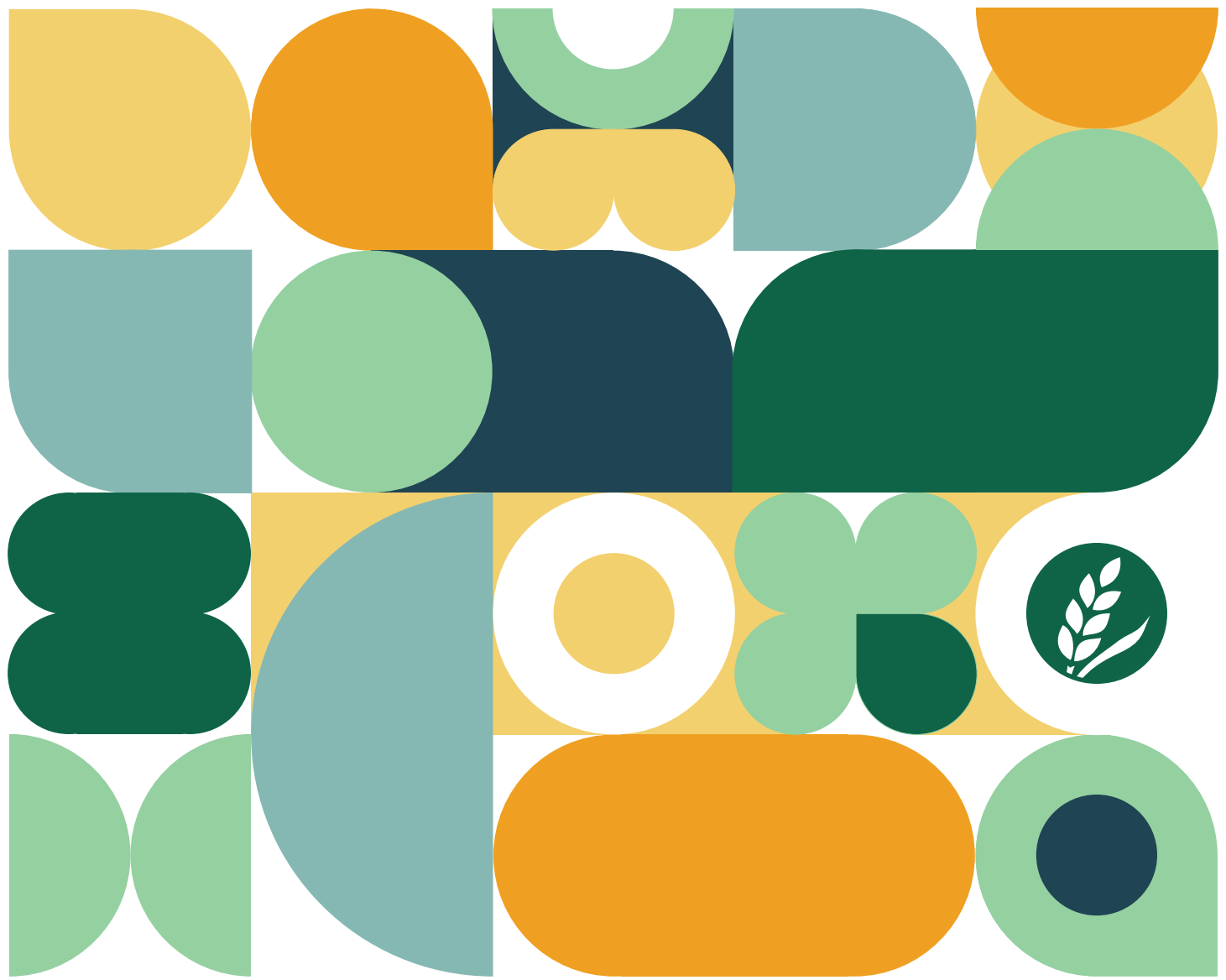




impact report

JUNE 1, 2024 - MAY 31, 2025



a year in review



ashley elliott + sean silversen CO-GENERAL MANAGERS

This year marked a major milestone of our 50th Birthday! Our birthday party was a true celebration of community, with a street party, local vendors, delicious food and heartfelt gratitude for the people who make your Co-op thrive. From our modest beginnings as a buying club in the Slocan Valley to becoming Canada's largest natural and organic food Co-op, this journey has been made possible by our staff, members, and community.

2025 also brought a changing economic landscape marked by trade tensions and rising tariffs, which have impacted global supply chains and consumer shopping habits. In response, many shoppers are seeking out Canadian-made, BC-grown, and True Local products now more than ever. At your Co-op, we've always prioritized local and regional producers who share our commitment to sustainability, quality, and community resilience. In 2025, this approach proved more important than ever.

“ *we've always prioritized local... producers who share our commitment to sustainability, quality, and community resilience* ”

Thanks to your ongoing support, we saw steady growth in membership and strong financial performance. This allowed us to increase staff wages, offer meaningful bonuses, provide greater member savings, increase member patronage returns and deepen our investment in the local economy. Every dollar spent here helps build a resilient community and supports the people who make your Co-op and community special.

Your continued support makes everything we do possible. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping shape the next 50 years!

Ashley + Sean





kay coburn

BOARD PRESIDENT



This year, our beloved Co-op celebrated its 50th anniversary—a milestone that fills us with gratitude and humility. From our roots as a buying club in 1975, we've grown into a cherished cornerstone of Nelson, thanks to the dedication of our staff and loyalty of our members.

We are excited to announce that Amanda Verigin, our Marketing Director, has stepped into the GM succession role. Amanda's passion and deep understanding of our Co-op make her an inspiring leader. She is working closely with our Interim General Managers, preparing to fully step into the role in the coming months.

“ *together we strengthen our community and
contribute to healthy food systems* ”

I would like to thank my fellow directors—Maggie Jones, Cathy-Ann Glockner, James Hiebert, Leannah Fidler, Paul Cowan, and Kate Miers for their efforts and care. The board is deeply grateful for our diligent and dedicated Interim General Managers, Sean Silverson and Ashley Elliott. We also appreciate the Co-op's enthusiastic, fun-loving staff who work hard every day, often in unseen ways, to serve customers and make our store the wonderful place it is.

Above all, thank you to every member for choosing to shop at your Co-op. Your ongoing support has made our anniversary year a true celebration. Together we strengthen our community and contribute to healthy food systems.

Kay



50



YEARS YOUR CO-OP

In 1975, a small group imagined a different kind of grocery store - one owned by the community it served. Fifty years later, that vision has grown into thousands of members, hundreds of staff, and deep roots with local suppliers. Our story has always been written by the people who worked and shopped here. This summer, we marked the milestone with our 50th Birthday Party and True Local Faire - a celebration of the people who make your Co-op what it is.





“

There's such a rich tapestry - this incredible community of people who contributed one way or another to what this Co-op is and how it will continue to evolve and be responsive to the moment, to the community, but always grounded in a foundational value of believing that we are a community together.

”

Abra Brynne, Food System Advocate,
Former Co-op Staff + Board Member



your co-op difference

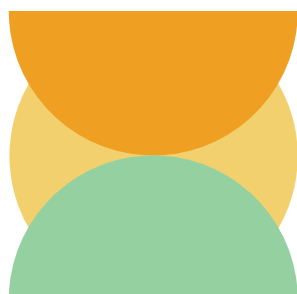


What sets your Co-op apart is simple: we're community-owned, guided by values, and built to keep your dollar close to home.



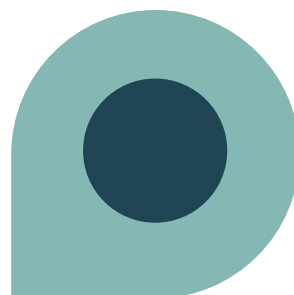
community

Profits are given to organizations in support of events + initiatives that keep our communities thriving.



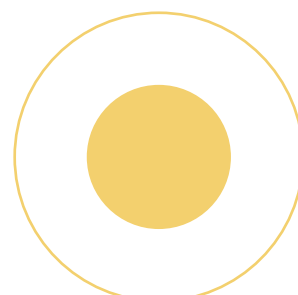
employees

Profits are reinvested in employees through increased wages, benefits, staff discounts + bonuses.



business

Profits go to creating new programs + services that enhance your shopping experience.



members

Profits are shared with you through the patronage return. The more you shop, the more you get back.



economic

\$31m+

in total
sales

“A co-op is not just selling food. It's also an economic incubator — supporting small businesses and sustaining community institutions”

Jon Steinman, Author of *Grocery Story: The Promise of Food Co-ops in the Age of Grocery Giants*

\$2.5m

in member
savings

100k

in
patronage
returns

17k+

current
members

14k

members
shopped this
past year



social



Community-owned and community-driven – your dollar goes further at your Co-op. Every product that passes through the tills helps support local organizations + initiatives, that keep our community strong.

\$180k+

to community
organizations

\$4k

in
scholarships

184

community
organizations
supported

156
employees

from
19
countries

\$6.6m
total wages + benefits



environmental



How a grocery store operates, matters. Together, we work hard to reduce waste, cut down on plastic, and support organic, local food systems. Our choices add up to real impact.



redirect

Preventing waste isn't simple, but it is possible. By donating unsellable food, composting produce + kitchen scraps, and finding creative uses for trimmings, we've kept thousands of kilograms out of local landfills each year.



recycle

We've taken big steps to reduce soft plastic waste. Shrink wrap, shopping bags, and packaging materials are now thoroughly recycled, keeping difficult plastics out of the landfill and ensuring more responsible disposal.



reduce

Thanks to member commitment, paper bag use has dropped dramatically. Out of more than half a million transactions, only **one-in-forty** included a paper bag. Proof that everyday sustainable choices add up.



reuse

Our Bring Your Own Container (BYOC) program rewards reuse. Members filled reusable containers **42,180 times**, preventing the use of thousands of single-use bags while earning 10% off their bulk purchases.

Your Co-op is BC Green Business Certified and the top-ranked grocery store in the province for 2 years in a row. Proof that everyday choices add up, and that our community leads with action.

BC GREEN BUSINESS
**GREEN
CERTIFIED**

BC GREEN BUSINESS
**WATER
FRIENDLY**
SURFRIDER APPROVED

shopping local matters

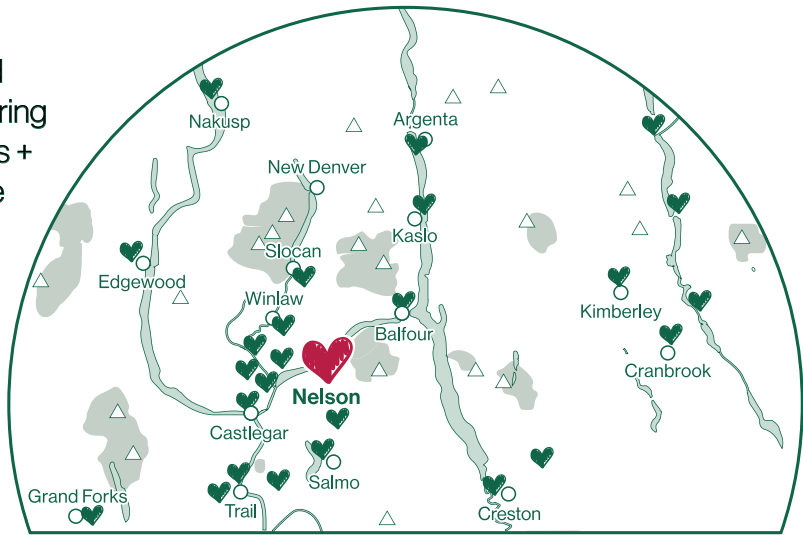


what is true local?

True Local means food + products grown or crafted **within 160km of your Co-op.** It's our way of ensuring that "local" really is local - supporting nearby farmers + artisans, their families + their employees. Every True Local purchase strengthens food security, creates meaningful employment + keeps dollars circulating right here in our community.



Watch our
True Local Spotlight
videos here



Nelson's Chocofellar



Crooked Horn Farm



Bent Plow Farm

126

True Local
suppliers

\$4m+

paid to
True Local
suppliers
this year

33%

of our
suppliers are
True Local

TOP 5
True Local
suppliers:

- 1 Kootenay Bakery Co-op
- 2 Sunshine Valley Organics
- 3 Kootenay Meadows Farms
- 4 Tarzwell Farms
- 5 Oso Negro Coffee

This year we celebrated our True Local suppliers by hosting a farm-to-table dinner made from local ingredients. Members added their voices too, writing postcards filled with gratitude that we displayed for our guests - a reminder of the ties between producers and community.





Kootenay
co-op