



Kootenay
co-op

impact report

JUNE 1, 2025 - MAY 31, 2026



a year in review



Sean Silversen + Ashley Elliott CO-GENERAL MANAGERS

This year your Co-op continued to invest in the physical store and in the people who run it. We refinished the floor in the Butcher Shop, expanded the Deli with a service counter, added a new exterior mural, and re-acquired 781 Baker next door, giving staff more room and flexibility.

We also paid \$4.3 million to True Local suppliers this year, up from last year, as we've widened our local supplier base. With tariffs and supply chain pressure affecting the industry, that relationship work has meant steadier pricing and availability than we'd have had otherwise.

The Butcher Shop's smokehouse program keeps growing. Deli's new service counter has added Made Here product, bulk staples, and fresh-sliced meat. The Café is having one of its strongest years for lunch traffic, and Food

Services keeps expanding. Produce continues deepening relationships with existing growers, who are bringing us more as the year goes on. Grocery has managed tariff and distribution disruptions without major service gaps. Wellness has posted some of its highest single-day sales during Member Appreciation Days.

Reflecting on these past four years as Interim GMs, we've been grateful to serve in these roles. That's only been possible because of our dedicated staff and members who keep showing up. That support puts your Co-op in a strong position to keep growing, and as we hand things over to Amanda as your new GM, we're confident her experience and commitment make her the right person to lead it forward.

Sean + Ashley



Board of Directors



Amanda + Kay



Kay Coburn

BOARD PRESIDENT

This has been a year of much to be thankful for. I have never been prouder of our Co-op. In the face of economic and environmental challenges, our staff continued to show what makes us special: exceptional customer service, strong collaboration, and the flexibility to adapt as needs change. Through creativity and teamwork, the Board and staff have remained committed to prioritizing our vision of a healthy, thriving community with resilient food systems. Our store is so much more than just a place to shop.

We are excited to welcome Amanda Verigin as our new General Manager. Amanda has served as both Marketing Director and Operations Director, and over the past year has been preparing thoughtfully for this important role. The Board is looking forward to working

with Amanda on defining and fulfilling the Co-op's renewed Strategic Goals.

I, along with the Board, would like to express sincere appreciation for our outgoing Interim General Managers, Sean Silverson and Ashley Elliott. They have skillfully guided the Co-op for several years. We're pleased that we will not lose their wisdom, as they will remain with us in their ongoing roles of Director of Finance and Director of HR.

Lastly, I am deeply grateful to you, our members. We could not do this work without your dedication and loyalty. Thank you for choosing our Co-op.



our values



Your Co-op stands on over 50 years of intention and growth, evidence of what community ownership can build. It began with a simple idea: people have more power together than alone. The values that your Co-op was founded on are the same ones that guide every decision we make now.



See our
Mission + Vision
statement



We favour local and regional growers, processors, and producers who are committed to sustainable practices



We source organic products when feasible and available



We provide fair compensation and a meaningful, just work experience for all employees



We promote community dialogue and empowerment through education about food, health, the environment and social justice



We are committed to philanthropy, and we support local organizations that enrich our community



We strive to equally balance social justice, environmental stewardship and financial responsibility

ownership

Being a member-owner at your Co-op means more than what's in your shopping cart. It's a real stake in this business, a vote in how it's run, and a share in what it earns. Every purchase is part of something larger, strengthening the community that owns it.



18k+

Total
members

1k+

New
member
sign-ups

14k+

Active
members in
FY26

\$150k

In patronage
returns to
members

4

Member
Appreciation
Days

\$10k

Prizes to
members



economic

Your dollar goes further at your Co-op, circulating within your community through staff wages, patronage returns, new store projects, and True Local suppliers. Being community-owned means profits stay local.

\$33.9M

Total store sales

596k

Transactions this year

\$2.9M

Member savings

15%

increase from last year

popular items this past year

1,035,696 eggs

252,053 organic apples

126,757 organic avocados

86,500 loaves of bread

30,259 bags of coffee

16,591 breakfast sandwiches



true local

True Local spotlights food and products grown or crafted within 160km of your Co-op, keeping dollars, jobs, and connections close to home. Food security starts with relationships built before the times that test them. The closer to home your food is grown, the more resiliency it builds for your community.

120+

True Local
suppliers

\$4.3M

Paid to
True Local
suppliers

top 5 True Local suppliers

- 1 Kootenay Bakery Cafe Co-op
- 2 Sunshine Valley Organics
- 3 Tarzwell Farms
- 4 Kootenay Meadows Farms
- 5 Cutter Ranch

Look for this
logo in-store

TRUE
LOCAL



Watch our
True Local
spotlight videos

Hummingbird Farm



Kootenay Bakery Cafe Co-op



employees

Your Co-op is only as good as the people who give it energy. The ones slicing, stocking, and remembering your member number. They bring more than labour, they bring care and experience that comes from a legacy of growing together.



Coming
from 16
countries!

\$7.4M

Total wages +
benefits

157

Current
employees

\$250k

Staff
Bonuses



sustainability



Sustainability at your Co-op isn't a single initiative, it's a way of doing business built into our systems daily, from how products are produced, packaged, and delivered to what happens with our waste. Every decision is made with sustainability and our planet in mind.



Certified BC Green Business, as both a *Green Leader* and *Water-Friendly*.

behind the scenes

REUSE

With \$33.9 million in annual sales, more than **97% of shoppers** left the store with their groceries in a **reused box or reusable bag**.

REDUCE

Our BYOC program rewards members shopping in bulk with a **10% discount**. Members filled reusable containers 42,242 times, resulting in **\$38,812 of savings**.

RECYCLE

Proper sorting of packaging matters. We **recycle all soft plastics**, and **donate refundables** to Nelson CARES society.

REDIRECT

Food waste is diverted from landfills through our donations and composting programs.



The City of Nelson recognized your Co-op with the **2025 Sustainability Leadership Award**, citing our community fundraising, local supplier partnerships, and BYOC's landfill diversion.



community

Supporting your community has been rooted in our values since the beginning. Shopping at your Co-op supports local grants, scholarships, and organizations that care for the people, land, and wildlife around us. Every grocery run becomes a small, ongoing investment in the place you live.

\$220k+
Given to your
community

\$77k in Produce Donations

\$30k in Gift Cards

\$19k+ in Holiday Giving

\$8.5k in Community Grants

\$3k in Scholarships

Scan for a full list
of organizations



\$10k

Donated by
members to
organizations

180

Community
organizations
supported



outreach

Your Co-op shows up wherever your community gathers. From parades and fundraisers to cooking classes and wellness workshops, connecting with people is at the heart of what we do. Groceries are only one part of what happens here.

classes at your Co-op

21 classes hosted
211 class attendees



Kootenay Co-op Radio Block Party



Coldest Night of the Year



Nelson Earth Days Parade



Nelson Pride Parade



Celebrating Co-ops
in the Kootenays

A SHORT DOCUMENTARY

more than a grocery store

Fifty years of food, friendship,
and local resilience.



For 50 years, the Kootenay Co-op has been more than a grocery store - it began as a small collective of neighbours sourcing natural food together, and became a movement for local resilience and connection. This short film captures that spirit, honouring the hands and hearts that shaped it.

Watch now on
 **YouTube**

