Key Factors in Success of NS Co-op Development System

- Devolution of co-op development to NSCC
- Well designed financial tools
- Supportive political environment
- Social entrepreneur as ED
- Evaluation & indicators
- Contextual factors – strong co-op history, small geography & population
Main Features of NS System

1. Development Finance
2. Human Resource Development
3. Planning, Advocacy & Research
4. Policy & Governance
5. Community Economic Development
6. Accountability & Evaluation
Research Questions

1. To what extent are the success factors in the 6 main areas of Nova Scotia's cooperative development system either present, easily replicated or desired in BC & Alberta?

2. Where do gaps & opportunities exist for co-op development in each of the two provinces?
Process

- 6-month project
- 9 key respondent interviews in each province
- 3 focus group sessions (15 participants in BC & 14 in AB)
- Key themes developed
- Final report produced
Findings

- Co-op sector is under-funded & unknown
- Key to sector development is building alliances
- Provincial association and credit unions to provide leadership
- Need both a central and a regional focus in BC
Recommendations - AB

- Conduct analysis of size & scope of co-op movement in AB
- Develop case studies of existing AB co-ops
- Develop broad sector-specific strategies for co-ops.
- Develop & deliver a “Co-op Road Show” to build awareness of the co-op movement
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<th>Recommendations - AB, cont'd</th>
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<td>- Enhance relationships between co-ops &amp; credit unions</td>
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<td>- Research feasibility of developing a co-op development fund</td>
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<td>- Continue development of strategic relationships between ACCA, co-op developers &amp; Community Futures</td>
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<td>- Develop an alumni engagement strategy for the Co-op Youth Program movement</td>
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<td>- Revise membership structure to engage small &amp; non-profit co-ops</td>
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Recommendations - BC

- Develop a co-op development fund to be seeded by sector
- BCCA to facilitate between provincial and regional strategies
- Develop a promotional campaign to build awareness among key actors in province
- Compile BC co-op sector statistics
Discussion Question – BC Strategic Planning Session

What do you consider to be the best strategic actions, with the most likelihood of success in BC for the following areas?

- funding and capitalization
- research and sector development
- relations with gov't. and stakeholders
- marketing and education
C7 Project Follow Up

- Stakeholders Special Session - Oct. 16
- BCCA Board Strategic Planning Session
- BC Co-op Development Strategy
  - Financing
  - Sector development
  - Public policy
  - Public awareness
  - Role of BCCA
- Member engagement and mobilization