

# Cultivating Co-ops

**A resource guide for co-operative development  
in British Columbia**



**BC Co-operative Association**

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## Appendix A — Co-op Self Assessment Tool

1. What need/opportunity will the co-op meet?
2. Are there other organizations or businesses currently filling this need in your community? If so, list them.
3. How was this need met in the past?
4. Why does the opportunity exist now to develop a co-op to meet this need?
5. Who will benefit from the development of this co-op and how will they benefit?
6. Why are you considering the co-op model to meet this need? What is it about co-ops that appeal to you?
7. Will the co-op be for profit or not-for-profit?
8. How many people are working together to start the co-op?
9. What skills and resources do they bring to the group?
10. What other skills and resources will you need?
11. How will you access/develop these skills and resources?
12. Why do you want to start a business together rather than on your own?
13. What experiences have you and/or your group had in working collectively to achieve a goal?
14. What lessons did you learn from those experiences?
15. What is your strategy to build support for the co-op?
16. What steps will be needed to achieve your goal of setting up a co-op?
17. Co-op development requires talent, time and tenacity. Describe the commitment you and the other members of the group are prepared to make in the next 6 months/12 months/2 years.
18. What do you hope to gain from your participation in the co-op?
19. How will you finance the co-op? Consider the costs of both co-op development and the costs of operating the co-op enterprise.
20. Has there been any assessment of the feasibility or market for your product or service?
21. What further research or information do you need to help you make your decision to start a co-op?